

Oral testimony on Redistricting, Feb. 7, 2023

Kaye Playhouse, Hunter College

695 Park Avenue

Christine Gorman

West 55th Street Block Association

no part of the
76th should
be pushed into
Queens
East side
of Manhattan
+ Roosevelt
Island
should
remain
intact

Good afternoon. My name is Christine Gorman. I live at 345 West 55th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. I have lived in Hell's Kitchen for more than 30 years. I am the president of the West 55th Street Block Association and a founding member of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition.

The draft map for Assembly District 75 inadvertently splits off northern Hell's Kitchen from the rest of our historical neighborhood. Since the 1880s, Hell's Kitchen has run from West 59th street in the north along Eighth Avenue to the east and across West 34th to the Hudson River. Residents and community leaders have worked for years to keep Hell's Kitchen whole at the state level, just as we have with City government.

Our members ask that you adjust the borders of Assembly District 75 so that they run from Broadway to the Hudson River across West 57th Street in the north, down Broadway and Sixth Avenues on the east and across 14th Street in the south. These extra wide avenues and cross streets are more natural boundaries—recognized by residents, tourists and map-makers alike—that keep the three main neighborhoods of Hell's Kitchen, the Garment District and Chelsea whole and allow its residents to work together to make our voices heard on issues that affect us all. It also makes more sense to run a boundary along an extra-wide commercial street like West 57th than a narrow residential street like West 53rd.

the
natural
borders
should
be
57th

The current map splits the northern blocks of Hell's Kitchen away from the rest of the neighborhood and makes us a part of the Upper West Side. Nothing against the Upper West Side, but the West 50s are not the Upper West Side. The Upper West Side is Levain Bakery and Fairway's. We are Amy's Bread and the Amish Market. We are drag shows at the Rise Bar and the Spot. They are brunch at Sarabeth's. We straightforwardly call our avenues Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh. That's not fancy enough for the Upper West Side, where those same roads are called, respectively, Central Park West, Columbus, Amsterdam and West End Avenues.

Running the northern boundary of AD 75 along West 57th also follows the northern boundary of Community Board 4, the Clinton Special zoning District and the Hudson

River Park. We need to keep all these political entities in the same Assembly District so that their common interests are not lost in the cracks between ADs.

In addition, the natural center of gravity for the West 50s is the Port Authority at West 42nd Street and the Lincoln Tunnel—and we have the traffic jams to prove it. As part of Assembly District 75, we will have a stronger voice and representation negotiating with New York State over common issues that affect all of Hell's Kitchen—such as a proposed casino at Hudson Yards, renovations at the Port Authority or Lincoln Tunnel.

Thank you for your time.

Christine Gorman

President

West 55th Street Block Association

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RAUL CARMONA LENDINEZ

De: magdalena msz <m.carmonaszafranska@gmail.com>
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Para: RAUL CARMONA LENDINEZ
Asunto: [EXTERNAL]

Este mensaje proviene de un remitente externo (m.carmonaszafranska@gmail.com): tenga cuidado, especialmente, con enlaces y archivos adjuntos.

Aleks= yellow

Rocio= blue

Both=green

Thank you commissioners,

I'm Aleks Carmona, I'm 10 years old and I'm in the fourth grade at ps267.
I live on Roosevelt island.
I'm here with my sister.

I'm Rocio Carmona. I'm 13 years old .I'm in the 7th grade at Eastside middle school.

Like many Roosevelt Island kids, both of our schools are in the 76th Assembly District.

Please don't separate our Roosevelt Island friends at ps/is 217 from the rest of our assembly district.

All of our Roosevelt Island kids are one big community of interest.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ROOSEVELT ISLAND IS A MANHATTAN COMMUNITY NOT A POLITICAL FOOTBALL!