



Written Testimony of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner  
Submitted to the New York State Independent Redistricting Cor  
January 31, 2023

Dear Co-Executive Directors Blatt and Breakell:

I am taking this opportunity to submit this written testimony in response to changes to the boundaries of the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District that have been proposed under the most recent map released by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (NYSIRC), and urge that the Commission develop a map that does not divide the communities of interest in my legislative district.

Of greatest concern are the changes that the NYSIRC is proposing to three communities located in the current 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District – changes that dramatically fracture each of those communities. The specific concerns are as follows:

✓ **The fracturing of the Concourse community –**

The Concourse is a community that has its own special energy. The relationships that residents have built with local businesses are priceless and it should be kept as united as possible. The removal of a large portion of the Grand Concourse running from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 166<sup>th</sup> Street negatively impacts the character of the district. The removal of many businesses that are the backbone of our community would leave residents and community organizations separated from businesses that they have established relationships with. It divides and fractures our existing shared community of interest. Removing seven blocks of this vital area from the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District ignores the community of interest that exists there.

✓ **The fracturing of the Claremont community –**

The proposed map divides the Claremont community by removing the southern portion from the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. This important and historically cohesive neighborhood is comprised of residents with shared interests should be kept together in its current district. The arbitrary redrawing of the southeastern portion of the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District uses 169<sup>th</sup> Street as a dividing line to split the residential sections of Clay, Findlay and Teller avenues as well as other streets. The families living along those streets have a shared and common interest in the public policy issues impacting their quality of life and those areas should be kept united in a single district. Further south the new map uses 166<sup>th</sup> Street as an arbitrary dividing line, splitting Grant Avenue residents and fracturing a cohesive residential community in a way that will make it more difficult for residents to work cooperatively to improve the quality of life they share.

✓ **The fracturing of the Mount Hope community -**

The changes proposed for the northeastern section of the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District further divide our community by removing much of the Mount Hope community from a legislative district that it has been part of for decades. The dividing of the Mount Hope community will dilute the ability of residents to access vital resources and make it more difficult for residents to work cooperatively to improve the quality of life they share.

The redrawing of district lines is a complex task that requires the balancing of multiple interests but the map proposed for the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District fractures and divides the Concourse, Claremont and Mount Hope

communities with proposed boundaries that will make it more difficult for local residents to effectively advocate for the public services they need to maintain and improve the quality of life shared by local residents.

I urge rejection of the proposed map and urge the that the Commission develop a map that does not divide the communities of interest that are so important to the residents of the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.