



VILLAGE OF PORT CHESTER

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Luis A. Marino
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November 5, 2021

David Imamura, Chair
Jack Martins, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the New York State
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Honorable Commissioners:

We have learned that the Commission proposes to remove the Village of Rye Brook from the current Sound Shore Assembly District (91st Assembly District) and place it in a new assembly district with other municipalities as far north as Mt. Kisco and Bedford. On behalf of the Village of Port Chester Board of Trustees, thank you for the opportunity to participate in your process of obtaining public input and I ask that this correspondence be made part of the official record.

The Village of Port Chester joins with the Town of Rye and the Village of Rye Brook in opposition to this proposal.

The redistricting plan would have a significant impact on the relationship between the Village of Rye Brook and Port Chester which have a long history of sharing municipal services such as EMS, fire protection, library, capital improvements and equipment. The two villages have closely worked with legislative representatives to secure special state legislation and support in many of these areas. Such legislative success would not likely have been possible if the two villages were divided into two different assembly districts.

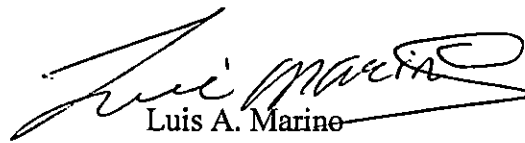
Since Rye Brook is within the Long Island watershed, all of its stormwater flows into Long Island Sound, and its sanitary sewers flow into either the Westchester County's Blind Brook or Port Chester's treatment plants. Separating Rye Brook from Port Chester and other Shore communities would undercut potential regional solutions and inter-municipal cooperative agreements to comprehensively address stormwater and sanitary sewer issues. *The* litigation by Save the Sound against the County and the Sound Shore communities reflects their common interest and the need to work together to address shared environmental matters that impact the Long Island Sound. To be successful, all such joint efforts necessarily involve state grants and common legislative representation.

Like the other Sound Shore communities, Rye Brook is served by Suez, a private water company. These communities have often required state representation on issues involving the State Public Service Commission that affect their residents, such as setting water rates, mergers, acquisitions and other environmental and inter-state impacts. Given their mutual interest, Rye Brook, Port Chester and the City of Rye have historically retained joint counsel to represent them in proceedings before the Commission.

In summation, the proposal disregards the common goals, shared identity and long-standing collaborative efforts in many areas of mutual concern among the municipalities currently located in the Sound Shore District, which includes the villages of Rye Brook, Port Chester, Mamaroneck and Larchmont and the towns of Rye and Mamaroneck and City of Rye and part of the City of New Rochelle. All of the Sound Shore communities deserve to have a single voice to represent their collective, unique and mutual interests.

The Village of Port Chester therefore strongly opposes the proposed change in the boundaries of the 91st Assembly District and urges the Commission to reconsider such proposal.

Sincerely,



Luis A. Marino
Mayor

LAM:mtv

cc: Village of Port Chester Board of Trustees
New York State Assemblyman Steve Otis
New York State Senator Shelley Mayer
Villages of Rye Brook and Mamaroneck and Town of Rye