

Good Afternoon, and Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Mary Beth Crosby Carroll and I reside at 243 East 4th Street in Kensington, Brooklyn.

I was stunned when I saw the 44th Assembly District Lines as proposed by the Independent Redistricting Commission. You have separated Assembly Districts based on arbitrary boundaries not cohesive neighborhoods. Although, the Prospect Expressway runs through Windsor Terrace it does not divide the neighborhood. The neighborhoods of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace and Kensington are connected by the same school district, houses of worship, mass transit, parks and elected officials. I actually moved from an apartment in Park Slope to a house in Kensington because of this sameness. Having the same Assemblymember in these neighborhoods makes them strong. When you divide neighborhoods by political districts you weaken them.

The Commission's goal is to prevent gerrymandering and keep neighborhoods intact. The proposed 44th Assembly District, as you have drawn it, does just the opposite. You are marginalizing the citizens and weakening their

political voice by chopping up the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington.

The natural boundary for Windsor Terrace and Kensington is Greenwood Cemetery, on the West along 20th Street and McDonald Avenue and out to 39th Street on the Northern boundary.

Although I am still in the 44th Assembly District, as you have drawn it, my neighbors on East 4th Street and the north side of Caton Avenue are no longer in the 44th Assembly District. They live one half block away from me. My church, Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is 1 and a half blocks away is no longer in the district, nor is PS 130 my elementary school which is 2 blocks away. It is unwarranted to put these institutions and neighbors in the 51st Assembly District, which represents Sunset Park and Red Hook, and is separated from Windsor Terrace and Kensington by Greenwood Cemetery. The few blocks of Windsor Terrace and Kensington that are now attached to Sunset Park will undoubtedly be under served by this plan. Please do not make this mistake and divide the neighborhoods of Windsor Terrace and Kensington into two different Assembly Districts. The ramifications are vast.

Thank you for your time and attention.