

ROBERT R. D'AMELIO
MAYOR
VILLAGE OF WEST HAVERSTRAW

February 3, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Village of West Haverstraw, I'm writing to express my concerns of changes to the boundary lines of State Assembly District 96. As you are aware, this district is comprised of the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown of which we've shared representation of an Assembly member.

As the Mayor in a Village of nearly 11,000 constituents I'm disheartened and frankly perplexed at the notion of a redistricting map which would not only divide the two towns but even divide areas of the Town of Haverstraw. A redistricting such as the one proposed would be detrimental to the Community of Interest.

The Town of Haverstraw with the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw, share in a common citizenship that spans generations. The 2020 Census shows the diversity of our community. And despite this diversity, the Town and two Villages have a town-wide identity. The Town and Villages co-sponsor dozens of community events that promote unity and celebrate our cultures and backgrounds. The municipalities host a United Latin Festival, Juneteenth Celebration in conjunction with the Haverstraw African American Connection, multiple Dancing Under the Stars, Dominican Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony in conjunction with the Quisqueya Sports Club of Haverstraw, LGBTQ+ Flag Raising Ceremony, Badges for Baseball, Fourth of July Fireworks and Celebration to name a few. The municipalities continually work with local organizations to provide free meals for those in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas. All of these events, celebrations and happenings are attended by the entire Town.

The two Villages and the Town share one police department, school district, waste water treatment system, recreational facilities, paramedics and ambulance corps. The municipalities work together to provide these services to all of its constituents. Together our voice and representation of our shared Assemblymember has brought much needed grants and programs to our residents.

The Town of Haverstraw has an identity within Rockland County. Rockland is the smallest geographical County in NY outside the five boroughs. Haverstraw should be kept within a Rockland Assembly district that is substantially similar the core of the existing district.

The current map completely ignores the core of the existing district. Haverstraw has not only been unified but has been with Clarkstown in an Assembly district for many decades. The two towns have become a broader community of interest. Just as the above services are shared in Haverstraw, the Town of Clarkstown and Town of Haverstraw share municipal services as well. Such services include segments of Police, Highway, Ambulance and Fire Departments. It is important that the commission preserve the core of the existing district. It has led to efficient representation for the residents of these towns and it creates a compact district. Breaking up the Town of Haverstraw and Town of Clarkstown from an Assembly district would be detrimental to decades of precedent and hurt representation for the constituents.

I urge the Commission to consider the Communities of Interest for the Village of West Haverstraw and leave Assembly District 96 boundary lines intact.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.R. D'Amelio". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Robert R. D'Amelio
Mayor