**Lennin Reyes’s Redistricting Comments – Part 2**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Lennin Reyes. I am a resident of the Morrisania section of The Bronx. I am here to submit more of my comments in regards to the Assembly redistricting draft.

For starters, I have revised part of my plan for The Bronx in order to create more opportunities for minority representation in the Assembly. The biggest change is in the northwestern part of the borough. The 81st Assembly District has gone from 60 percent white in the 1990’s to more than 40 percent Hispanic today. However, the plan does not fully maximize the voting strength of the largely working-class Dominican population found in Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights and parts of Riverdale. Thus, I propose to remove Norwood, Woodlawn and Wakefield from the 81st AD and have it travel south to pick up all of Kingsbridge Heights (previously split into three Assembly Districts), with the southern boundary located at West Fordham Road. Thus, the 81st AD becomes majority-Hispanic (at 51 percent voting age population).

As a domino effect, Norwood moves into my proposed 88th Assembly District, which would also include Bedford Park, Fordham and Belmont, communities Norwood has more in common with. Connected by Mosholu Parkway, Norwood and Bedford Park are both working-class, largely minority communities with similar interests. Residents of both communities attend schools such as DeWitt Clinton High School, Junior High School 80, Public Schools 8 and 20, the Academy of Mount St. Ursula and Lehman College. Hence, they should be in the same Assembly District.

On another note, I feel that Manhattan (New York County) should have a 13th Assembly District within its county. In recent months, the New York City Council has held its own redistricting meetings. A plethora of residents opposed an early proposal to place parts of Queens and Manhattan in one district. If that was pulled after the opposition emerged, why do the same thing twice?

To add, LATFOR underpopulated districts in Queens and Brooklyn back in 2012 to add more Assembly Districts in those counties. With Manhattan’s population (as of the 2020 U.S. Census) at 1,694,251, divided by 13, each district can have 130,327 people, which is still below the 5 percent deviation rate established by the Governor.

Speaking of Manhattan, I feel that the minority communities found in Chinatown and the Lower East Side have diminished enough to the point that they should be in the same Assembly District, my proposed 65th AD. The Latinos on the Lower East Side and the Asians in Chinatown have been split into two different districts since the 1990’s to avoid political conflict between them. But gentrification in Lower Manhattan has caused many Latinos and Asians to leave the borough. Thus, I feel that the 65th should lose affluent and heavily-white communities such as Battery Park City and the Financial District in favor of maximizing the voting strength of the remaining Latinos and Asians south of East 14th Street.

Speaking of voting strength, the Bangladeshi community found in the Parkchester/Westchester Square area remains split into two districts. While I’m glad the recent proposal set forth by the Redistricting Commission placed more of Westchester Square into the 87th Assembly District, it does not include the entire community, thus cracking a nascient voting bloc. The boundaries would be the ConRail ROW to the north, Eastchester Road, Waters Place and the Hutchinson River Parkway to the east, the Cross Bronx Expressway to the south and Zerega Avenue to the west. Elected officials such as Assemblywoman Karines Reyes and Councilwoman Amanda Farías have strong relationships with the Bangladeshi community found here. Having the Bangladeshis in Parkchester and Westchester Square in one assembly district would make it easier for them to access resources.

The link to my proposal is the same as the last testimony. But I updated it to reflect my recent thoughts. Thank you for listening.

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/c5e6fd8e-3b6f-456b-9968-f292c627f4eb>