

November 3, 2021

Independent Redistricting Commission  
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Redistricting Maps

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

I am writing to you as a West 55th St. Block Association member, Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition member, Manhattan Community Board 4 executive member and long-time Hell's Kitchen resident.

I understand the Commission's wish to keep neighborhood areas intact within single districts when new district lines are drawn. According to the latest redistricting maps, our Hell's Kitchen community is, once again, split between Assembly districts. I request for the community of Hell's Kitchen kept whole to easily coordinate with city agencies and our representatives on the provision of services within our boundaries.

It is preferred that the northern edge of the Assembly district be pushed to 60<sup>th</sup> Street, both to track the community district border and to keep the entirety of Hell's Kitchen neighborhood (including the Coliseum Apartments) intact, instead of dividing the northern edge of Hell's Kitchen between Assembly districts. One other aspect of this map that is helpful is that the entirety of Hudson River Park north of 14<sup>th</sup> Street is contained in a single Assembly district.

It seems the Democratic version of the Assembly map comes closest to achieving our needs and we hope these small adjustments will be made. Conversely, the Republican version of the Assembly map divides Hell's Kitchen between Assembly districts and includes portions of unrelated neighborhoods to the east within the district, including a large portion of the Midtown business district. The failure to include the northwest portion of Hell's Kitchen within the district is a fatal flaw for this plan.

The Democratic version of the Senate map suffers from a similar flaw, dividing Chelsea in half and including Hell's Kitchen and the rest of Chelsea in an Upper West Side district, where our voices will be blunted. This must be corrected.

The Republican Senatorial map is better, in that it keeps our community district together, although the inclusion of the district with the Upper West Side causes the same concerns that the Democratic plan does.

This request coincides with Manhattan Community Board 4's identical request. We hope you see the value and necessity in keeping our neighborhood lines cohesive and recognize Hell's Kitchen as a longstanding Community of Interest.

Thank you,

Leslie Boghosian Murphy