My name is Stephen Forte and I am the President of the Woodhaven Residents Block Association. The Woodhaven community, as defined by zip code 11421 in Queens, is a stable and growing community with a highly diverse population where the residents work closely with each other to keep Woodhaven an exemplary place to raise families. In viewing the proposed drafts of the new 38th Assembly District, we see that a significant portion of our community is being cut off north of Jamaica Avenue between 85th and 98th Streets. This area represents 50% of our commercial district. We cannot afford to have this split between two different Assembly districts. This would most likely result in a lack of full representation for the entire area. We have seen this in the current Senate configuration, where we have three State Senators, but rarely see or get support from two of them.

In addition, the southern border of the current 38th Assembly District ends in Ozone Park, a community similar to Woodhaven. Under the proposed draft, this district would extend southerly to the end of the Rockaway Peninsula. The Rockaways have a totally different set of needs than those of Woodhaven and Ozone Park, in some ways, conflicting. To have both areas being represented by the same Assembly person would most definitely raise a conflict of interests for the legislator. We feel that our representatives should serve a district where the needs of all its residents are similar, thus allowing the representative to focus his/her efforts for the community as a whole.

We urge you reconsider your draft proposal, keeping these points in mind, and make the best decision for everyone concerned. Thank you.