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**Statement to Independent Redistricting Commission regarding proposed lines for the 81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District**

I generally support the proposed lines proposed by the IRC for the 81<sup>st</sup> assembly district. The lines are very similar to those currently in effect and even more similar to the district lines that were in effect from 2012 to 2022. It makes sense to restore Lehman College (from which I graduated) and the other schools in "education mile" to the 81<sup>st</sup> assembly district, where they were for many years. The areas around the Jerome Park Reservoir forms one community of interest and should all be in the 81<sup>st</sup>.

The proposed lines maintain the neighborhoods of Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Van Cortlandt Village and Woodlawn in the 81<sup>st</sup> and maintain the current lines in the Wakefield community. That makes sense, and I support that.

I would like to strongly recommend two minor changes. The proposal adds two blocks in the Norwood section to the 81<sup>st</sup> from the 80<sup>th</sup> A.D. in and around Hull Avenue. I propose that those blocks be returned to the 80<sup>th</sup> to avoid any unnecessary confusion to the voters. I assume they were added to even out the population of the two districts, but it is not necessary.

The second change I propose involves Kingsbridge Heights. The plan restores to the 81<sup>st</sup> all the blocks in Kingsbridge Heights that were moved from the 81<sup>st</sup> to the 78<sup>th</sup> AD last year. I propose keeping those blocks in the 78<sup>th</sup> AD, or at least the area below Kingsbridge Road. Adding the area below Kingsbridge Road back to the 81<sup>st</sup> AD unnecessarily makes the district jut down for several blocks into a different neighborhood below Kingsbridge Road bringing it close to Fordham Road. That makes no sense. You could add a small amount of people back to the 81<sup>st</sup> by restoring the block that was added to the 81<sup>st</sup> last year bounded by Webb Avenue, West 197<sup>th</sup> Street, Reservoir Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue. Although I enjoy representing Kingsbridge Heights, it's hard to counter the argument that those blocks, mainly below Kingsbridge Road, are part of the same community as the 78<sup>th</sup> AD, not the 81<sup>st</sup>.

I'm not happy about losing my four buildings in the Marble Hill Houses to the 72<sup>nd</sup> AD, but I recognize the important of uniting the entire development and its 11 buildings into one district.

These suggestions keep neighborhoods together and keep communities of interest together. Thank you for your work and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Assemblyman