Zina Zimmerman Testimony

Re: New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
Public Hearing, February 16, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. My name is Zina Zimmerman, and I have lived in Briarwood, New York for more than 30 years. I am a civic leader and activist, having served as Past President and Founder of Friends of the Briarwood Library, past board member of Briarwood Action Network, member of Neighborhood Advisory Board 8 of Queens, and as a member of the Briarwood Community Association. I also independently advocate for my home community of Briarwood through such means as testifying at government hearings, public meetings, and the like.

Briarwood is roughly located east of the Van Wyck Expressway, west of Parsons Boulevard, south of Union Turnpike, and north of Hillside Avenue. Throughout my years, I have worked very hard alongside our "best of the best" elected officials to further the interests of the Briarwood community. I directly attribute our successful working relationships to Briarwood maintaining one clear set of elected officials. Although this concept sounds like a logical "no brainer," last year, I witnessed the tearing of this neighborhood into multiple Assembly districts because of redistricting.

What has been done with the recent redistricting is ridiculous! I cannot emphasize enough the absurdity of living on the intersection of Manton Street and Main Street, being represented by one set of electeds, and across the street lies another separate district and Assemblyperson. This cannot stand. If Briarwood continues working with two distinct sets of politicians, we will struggle to obtain equitable opportunities and funding- our voice is split and diluted.

We need a UNITED front to best position my home of Briarwood with fair representation. That is why I ask you to please reunite Briarwood back into one cohesive district, falling within the purview of Assembly District 25.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

Best,
Zina Zimmerman