

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the proposed redistricting. My name is Andrew Danylchuk. I reside in Windsor Terrace and am writing on behalf of myself, my family and my community.

My comments will focus on your plan for the 44th Assembly District and specifically your decision to place portions of our neighborhood of Windsor Terrace into two different Assembly Districts, the 44th and the 51st. We believe Windsor Terrace should be wholly within the 44th AD as it has been historically.

We ask that you make Greenwood Cemetery along 20th Street the western border of the 44th AD not the Prospect Expressway as in the draft plan, and Greenwood Cemetery along McDonald Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway out to 39th Street the Northern boundary between the 44th and 51st ADs. This is a shift of only a few blocks but makes complete sense. Without this change the portion of Windsor Terrace cut out of the 44th AD will be a small after thought in the 51st AD divided from that district by the hundreds of acres of Greenwood Cemetery. The 51st AD contains the entirety of Sunset Park and that neighborhood historically dominates that district. The inevitable result of the draft plan is that the few blocks of Windsor Terrace attached to Sunset Park will be underserved. The proposed plan dilutes the ability of vital neighborhood institutions to advocate on behalf of their respective constituents.

We share multiple local schools, several local places of worship, a subway station, an expressway that borders both sides of our neighborhood and shopping centers. We are wholly with in our police precinct, our community board and our congressional district.

In the 1950's Robert Moses built the Prospect Expressway that left a terrible scar on Windsor Terrace. Families were displaced, and houses of worship were torn down. The great scar could have left a neighborhood divided, but the people of Windsor Terrace banded together and became a stronger community. We petitioned to have more pedestrian bridges built across the expressway to re-unite our neighborhood. We have since fought many plans that were ill conceived such as rezoning proposals, DOT expressway projects, and numerous other concerns in our neighborhood, and we were successful, because despite our diversity, we are united within our community.

We ask that you not reopen the wound Robert Moses inflicted. Please make Greenwood Cemetery, not the Prospect Expressway the boundary between the 44th AD and the 51st AD. Please keep Windsor Terrace and Kensington intact.

To put it simply, the plan is contrary to many of the bedrock principles which should guide fair redistricting and good government.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Andrew Danylchuk  
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