#### March 6, 2023

Re: New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

#### To Whom It May Concern:

As a longtime resident of the East Buffalo/West Cheektowaga community, I write to you today to urge the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission not to divide our neighborhood into separate Assembly Districts. I'm acutely aware of the close-knit ties binding our community, having grown up attending the Cheektowaga-Sloan school district and residing in the Lovejoy neighborhood for the past 8 years. In fact, I was attracted to reside in this neighborhood not because it is similar or close to the community that I grew up in, but because it *is* the community I grew up in.

Residents of Sloan, Lovejoy, and neighboring areas of Cheektowaga and Buffalo share much more than a border. My neighbors utilize the same community centers, shopping plazas, churches, parks, and small businesses, regardless of which side of the city line they are on. Most longtime residents are intimately familiar with institutions like Camillo's Sloan Super Market and the Broadway Market, with public amenities like Hennepin Senior Center and Sloan Community Center, and with parks like Griffith Park and the Lincoln Field House. Though we are separated by a municipal border on a map, in reality we are physically separated from other parts of Cheektowaga and Buffalo by infrastructure, including a rail yard, thruways, and railroad tracks in every direction. That is why we have gotten the nickname Iron Island. This geographic isolation gives our neighborhood a unique and cohesive character, which is notably different from other areas of Buffalo or Cheektowaga. It simply makes no sense to split a continuous, closeknit community like Sloan-Lovejoy into separate and vastly different Assembly districts.

Furthermore, I'm concerned about the IRC's proposal to split our community and enjoin Sloan with rural and exurban areas that have very different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic demographics. Sloan-Lovejoy is a working class neighborhood, where many residents struggle with poverty, whereas eastern Lancaster is far more wealthy. Sloan-Lovejoy is an urban neighborhood that features a mix of homeowners and renters, motorists and public transit riders; eastern Lancaster mainly features single-family zoning and has almost no public transit service. Sloan-Lovejoy is a multi-racial neighborhood populated by white, Black, and Asian residents, including a significant immigrant population. As a result, our neighborhood has unique institutions to serve these groups, including Catholic churches and Slavic eateries that cater to our large Polish population, as well as mosques and halal grocers/restaurants that serve our growing Muslim community. By contrast, eastern Lancaster is predominantly white and lacks sizable communities of ethnic, racial, or religious minorities.

Sloan and Lovejoy are clearly one continuous community — a working-class, multi-ethnic neighborhood with a shared history, and brought closer by our geographic isolation from other areas. Should the IRC split this community into separate Assembly Districts, you will make it more likely that many of our neighbors will be represented by an Assembly member who will not prioritize our community's unique needs and interests. For all these reasons, I urge you to keep our community whole in the new Assembly maps.

Thank you.

Jeremy Sa'siadek

Resident of Lovejoy in Assembly District 143

David A. Gaeddert 606 Longmeadow Road Amherst, NY 14226-2426 ph: 716-447-9206 cell: 716-587-2648 <u>dgaedd@gmail.com</u> March 09, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear People:

I vehemently object to the NYIRC's new Map for the NYS Assembly which diviaed the Town of Amherst into two with each part of another Assembly District. The NYIRC's map dilutes and eliminates any role for the Town in NYS government because the two districts are gerrymandered solely to shift power away from the current Democratic majority town to be a minority Democratic faction in two Republican-leaning districts. The NYIRC's Map is purely political and disgraceful.

Amherst is large enough to have its own Assembly member representing its interests in Albany. Under the Constitutional standards, Amherst consists of contiguous territory and is as compact in form as practicable. Having the Town represented by one Assembly member means that the 146th Assembly District Member can advocate for the Town of Amherst residents.

The NYIRC's new map violates the prohibition on drawing lines to discourage competition and for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties. The NYIRC's change is purely political: Dividing Amhers' takes the Town of Amherst, which voted for Biden 60% in the 2020 vote to a District work by Trump. This leaves the Amherst sections of the two new Districts with no commonality as seen in recent election cycles.

Amherst has eight communities within it with common interests (Village of Williamsville and multiple hamlets or neighborhoods). The current lines for the 146th Assembly District keep those neighborhoods together. Similar to the Assembly-drawn map, the current 146th Assembly District conforms to the allowable population deviation. But the NYIRC's new map ignores the core of the existing district and the pre-existing political subdivision.

The NYIRC's map targets Amherst's Asian community that I believe make up about 13% of the population and the NYIRC's splitting Amherst into two new Assembly districts dilutes the Asian community's vote to around 9 % and 7 %.

Leave the 146th Assembly District with Assembly lines coterminous with the Town of Amherst's boundary lines!

## HOWARD PHILLIPS SUPERVISOR TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

February 2, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you to express my deep-seated concerns regarding any changes to the current boundary lines of Assembly District 96. This district has always been comprised of the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown, where we have enjoyed the representation of 1 Assembly person together. On behalf of the people of Haverstraw, who I have represented in different capacities for over 40 years, we are urging you not to divide our Towns in the new redistricting map. We understand that there was even one plan that would have divided the Town of Haverstraw. This would be completely contrary to the Community of Interest.

The Town of Haverstraw, with the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw, share in a common citizenship since our inception. We have enjoyed being the gateway to every immigrant group coming to America. We are a true melting pot throughout our Town. The Town of Haverstraw's services are intertwined with the Villages of Haverstraw, West Haverstraw and parts of the Village of Pomona. We share the same school district, police department, wastewater treatment system, recreation facilities and activities, paramedics and ambulance corps. Together, the Town and Villages host many events with the school district such as the Latin Festival, Latin Night, Black History Month, Juneteenth, Dancing Under the Stars, North Rockland Family Charity Sports Day and North Rockland Community 5K Fun Run (where we have raised over \$350,000 for families in need in the Haverstraw community), the North Rockland Youth Police Academy, Badges for Baseball, Fourth of July Fireworks and Celebration, Dominican Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony, free meals for those in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas hosted by the Town and two Villages

and our Annual Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Corps Recognition Evening.

We have taken great pains to ensure our Police Department represents our Haverstraw community. We have one of the most diverse Police Departments in the State of New York. We have sponsored Drug Court which has been extremely successful, which gives youth a second chance, Youth Explorer's where Officers meet with the youth of our community and volunteer for different events and two School Resource Officers who on a daily basis interact with the students of all nationalities in our schools. Our Youth Officer works with students and families on different challenges that they are having in our community. Unlike other communities, Haverstraw's Town and Villages have provided affordable housing for young couples, senior citizens and families, more than any other Town in Rockland County. We are the only Town that passed the Tenant Protection Act in three major apartment complexes.

We have always had an excellent working relationship with the Town of Clarkstown. We have shared many municipal services together. Some of these services are Police, Highway, recreation, paramedics, ambulance corps. and fire departments. Together our voice and representation of our shared Assembly person has brought much needed grants and programs to our residents. To undo this would significantly impact our minority population which depends upon these services that have been provided by our Assembly person. If the Commission cares about the representation of a community that is one of the most diverse in the State of New York, you will leave our Assembly District boundary lines intact.

Sincerely,

HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR. Supervisor

February 2, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

As a lifelong resident in the Town of Haverstraw and a twenty-five year elected official to the Haverstraw Town Board, I am writing this letter regarding any possible changes to the current lines of Assembly District 96. We share boundaries with the Town of Clarkstown. Our Assemblyman has done an excellent job representing and advocating for the needs of our residents in Albany.

The Town of Haverstraw is made up of the Village of Haverstraw, West Haverstraw, and the Village of Pomona. The Town of Haverstraw has always been a welcoming town throughout its history to immigrants seeking a better life in the United States and the State of New York. Our most recent immigrants are from Latin America. My parents and family came to New York from Puerto Rico in 1950. We have a community with great resources, good schools, and an excellent police department that reflexes the makeup of the citizens in the community. Our ambulance and fire departments provide twenty-four seven services to our residents on a voluntary basis.

The elected officials have always been responsive to the needs of our community. Our Assemblyman is well known to our residents and they are aware of all the help and aid he has provided to our town and villages. He continues to work to secure more school aid for our districts which helps the community with school taxes. Throughout the Town of Haverstraw our roads, sidewalks and parks, volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps all benefitted from grants obtained by Our Assemblyman. It is so important to our town that we continue this tremendous working relationship with our Assemblyman and maintain Assembly 96 boundary lines intact.

Our diverse community shares many events throughout the year to celebrate their heritage and accomplishments. These events bring people together to form a strong commitment to community. Our Assembly District 96 must continue to remain it its current boundary lines so that the residents of the Town and Villages will continue to enjoy all the government has to offer to them and their families, so they can live productive lives in our Town and state. Let's keep our district 96 in its present format to benefit all the people who live there. As the saying goes, "if it's not broke, don't fix it".

Sincerely 60

Isidro Cancel Deputy Supervisor

WHITEMAN OSTERMAN & HANNA LLP

Michael G. Sterthous Partner 518.487.7620 msterthous@woh.com

One Commerce Plaza Albany, New York 12260 518.487.7600 phone 518.487.7777 fax

Robert S. Rosborough IV Partner 518.487.7608 phone rrosborough@woh.com

January 23, 2023

### VIA Electronic Submission and FEDEX

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

#### New York Independent Redistricting Commission Proposed State Assembly Map Re:

Dear Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

Our firm represents the Town of Palm Tree and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and their government officials, who are also resident voters. The Town and Village are a coterminous municipalities located in Orange County, New York, which includes a majority of language minority voters. The Town of Palm Tree was established in 2020 from the division of the Town of Monroe and encompasses the entirety of the Village of Kirvas Joel.

We write to express our clients' grave concerns regarding the ongoing process to draw new redistricting maps for the State Assembly, following the litigation that invalidated the first Assembly map, and respectfully ask that you protect the constitutional rights of the minority language community that resides in and around the Town and Village when preparing revised maps.

It is important for the Commission to consider in this process that the redistricting maps that were previously adopted drew unconstitutional lines that not only violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibition in the New York Constitution, but also abridged language minority voting rights in southern Orange County. In particular, New York Constitution Article III, abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights." Indeed, as the Constitution provides, political districts must be drawn to ensure that "minority language groups

do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice." *Id.* 

In the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove in southern Orange County, over the past ten years, a significant minority language community has grown that speaks English as a second language. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 residents who speak Yiddish as a first language who now live in these four municipalities. The Orthodox Jewish community in southern Orange County, nevertheless, has been either ignored or purposefully dispersed in the redistricting process that has resulted in splitting the Yiddishspeaking community in two and drastically reducing the opportunity of these residents to vote for representatives of their choice who will understand the unique issues that the community faces. Indeed, since the Orthodox Jewish community began to grow in southern Orange County in the 1970s and 1980s, Yiddish-speaking families, business people, and governmental officials have faced discrimination in almost every facet of their lives, including opposition to Orthodox Jewish religious practices, exclusionary zoning, and hindrances to the community's access to reliable water sources and sewage treatment infrastructure, among many other issues.

In the face of this overt discrimination, many, if not most, local political leaders turned a blind eye to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. The recent redistricting maps have split the Orthodox Jewish community in half by placing the Towns of Palm Tree and Monroe in a different election district than the neighboring adjacent Towns of Woodbury and Blooming Grove. Aside from the establishment of the new town, nothing else has changed to warrant the new drastically different election district dividing line.

This specific and seemingly intentional division of the Yiddish-speaking community has drastically impaired these minority language voters' rights. The Commission must rectify this wrong, keeping the language minority population in the Orthodox Jewish community in the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a single district to ensure that they have the same opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Indeed, if the Orthodox Jewish community were to remain in divided election districts, election material, including political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, among others, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns, making it much more difficult to reach the voters, resulting in further potential impairment of voting rights.

Most importantly, the same proposed division of the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County was rejected earlier this year by the Special Master tasked with drawing the new State Senate and Congress maps after the New York Court of Appeals' decision in *Harkenrider v Hochul*. As we explained during that process, and the Special Master recognized, dividing the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County would once again contravene the substantive dictates of the New York Constitution, and would drastically impair the voting rights of that community. A copy of our prior comments regarding the State Senate and Congressional maps are enclosed for your convenience. Indeed, currently elected leaders have begun to use the proposed division of the Yiddish-speaking community in the Assembly map as a basis for an attempt to control land use and annexation of land between municipalities in the area and to foreclose the residents of Palm Tree from having any say in these decisions, the outcome of which could drastically affect their State-protected real property rights. One

Senator, for example, has even made the legally untenable claim that the division of the Yiddishspeaking community in the Assembly map would prevent any future annexations of land from or to the divided communities. Plainly, the proposed Assembly map division of the Yiddishspeaking community in southern Orange County promotes, rather than discourages, these discriminatory efforts, and should again be rejected.

Given that the Special Master specifically rejected a proposed division of Yiddishspeaking voters in the State Senate and Congress redistricting maps, we would respectfully request that the Commission likewise place the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in the State Assembly district where they have finally, after years of ineffective representation by the minority party, successfully elected a representative in the Assembly majority, in an extremely close race that had almost 40,000 voters, who can effectively represent the Yiddish-speaking voters' needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Sterthous Robert S. Rosborough IV

Enclosure

WHITEMAN OSTERMAN Attorneys at Law & HANNA LLP

Michael G. Sterthous Partner 518.487.7620 msterthous@woh.com

One Commerce Plaza Albany, New York 12260 518.487.7600 phone 518.487.7777 fax

Robert S. Rosborough IV Partner 518.487.7608 phone rrosborough@woh.com

April 29, 2022

## VIA NYSCEF

Honorable Patrick F. McAllister Supreme Court, Steuben County 3 East Pulteney Square Bath, New York 14810

> Re: Harkenrider, et al. v. Hochul, et al. Index No. E2022-0116CV

Dear Judge McAllister and Dr. Jonathan Cervas,

Our firm represents the Town of Palm Tree and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and their government officials. The Town and Village is a coterminous municipality located in Orange County, New York, which includes a majority of language minority voters. The Town of Palm Tree was established in 2020 from the division of the Town of Monroe and encompasses the entirety of the Village of Kirvas Joel. We write to express our clients' grave concerns regarding the ongoing process to draw new redistricting maps for the State Senate and Congress, following the Court of Appeals' decision to invalidate the first set of maps, and respectfully ask that you protect the constitutional rights of the minority language community that resides in and around the Town and Village when preparing revised maps.

It is important for the Special Master to consider in this process that the redistricting maps that were previously adopted drew unconstitutional lines that not only violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibition in the New York Constitution, but also abridged language minority voting rights in southern Orange County. In particular, New York Constitution Article III, § 4(c)(1) specifically prohibits the creation of political districts that "result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights." Indeed, as the Constitution provides, political districts must be drawn to ensure that "minority language groups

do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice." *Id.* 

In the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove in southern Orange County, over the past ten years, a significant minority language community has grown that speaks English as a second language. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 Yiddishspeaking residents who now live in these four municipalities. The Orthodox Jewish community in southern Orange County, nevertheless, has been either ignored or purposefully dispersed in the redistricting process that has resulted in splitting the Yiddish-speaking community in two and drastically reducing the opportunity of these residents to elect representatives of their choice who will understand the unique issues that the community faces. Indeed, since the Orthodox Jewish community began to grow in southern Orange County in the 1970s and 1980s, Yiddish-speaking families, business people, and governmental officials have faced discrimination in almost every facet of their lives, including opposition to Orthodox Jewish religious practices, exclusionary zoning, and hindrances to the community's access to reliable water sources and sewage treatment infrastructure, among many other issues.

In the face of this overt discrimination, many, if not most, local political leaders turned a blind eye to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. The recent redistricting maps have split the Orthodox Jewish community in half by placing the Town of Palm Tree in a different election district than the neighboring adjacent Towns of Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove. For the nearly 40 years prior to the establishment of the Town of Palm Tree, the voters in the Village of Kiryas Joel, which was then located within the Town of Monroe and is now in Palm Tree, were part of the same election district as the rest of the minority language community in Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove. Aside from the establishment of the new town, nothing else has changed to warrant the new drastically different election district dividing line.

This specific and seemingly intentional division of the Yiddish-speaking community has drastically impaired these minority language voters' rights. With the courts now overseeing the redrawing of the State Senate and Congressional districts to correct the unconstitutional gerrymander, the Special Master must rectify this wrong, keeping the language minority population in the Orthodox Jewish community in the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a single district to ensure that they have the same opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Indeed, if the Orthodox Jewish community were to remain in divided election districts, election material, including political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, among others, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns, making it much more difficult to reach the voters.

Given that the Town of Palm Tree's voters have already been arbitrarily placed in a State Assembly minority district in the map that was not challenged in this litigation, and thus will not change, we would respectfully request that the Special Master place the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a State Senate majority district where they have been for the last 40-plus years since the founding of the Village of Kiryas Joel. Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully submitted,

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Michael G. Sterthous Robert S. Rosborough IV

All counsel (via NYSCEF) cc:

. . . . . .

My name is Brian E Wells

I am the Chairman of Hamilton County

I testify today in support of the existing Assembly redistricting maps, which I believe are drawn in accordance with the laws of this State, whereas the proposed IRC draft plan appears to be drawn in violation of the current law.

Under the State Constitution, the Assembly map should promote the maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest.

Under the current map, Hamilton County is almost completely contained within the 118th Assembly District. However, under the IRC's draft plan, Hamilton County is now split between the 115th and118th Districts. Dividing up Hamilton County violates the principle of keeping counties intact.

Hamilton County is the core county of the Adirondack Region, yet the draft plan combines its Adirondack community with Cooperstown in the Catskills. A 5,000 plus community in the Adirondacks deserves to be kept intact to ensure its voice is consistent with the fact that it is one of the largest counties in the state and the only one without a stop light.

Under the Constitution, each district shall be as compact in form as practicable and consist of contiguous territory. In the current Assembly Map, the 118th Assembly Districts is as compactly drawn as possible. In the draft plan, the districts look like a jigsaw puzzle with Hamilton County divided in the middle.

Districts cannot be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents. The draft IRC map was drawn to disfavor incumbency since the current representative of the 118 th District has been drawn out of his district and placed into another district. The current Assembly map is a better example of one that promotes competition and consistency in representation when compared to the IRC plan.

Questions for the Commission:

Can you please provide an outline of the input and meetings that took place prior to the release of the draft map on December 1, 2022?

How many times did the Commission meet prior to releasing a draft map?

How is this draft map different from the 2021 draft plan which was resoundingly rejected by the Legislature?

Can you outline the IRC's next steps between the conclusion of the public hearings and the release of the first plan which is expected in April of this year?

Thank You Brian E Wells- Supervisor Town of Indian Lake Chairman Board of Supervisors of Hamilton County Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

February 9th, 2023

Dear Commission Members,

It is understood that this commission is tasked with the important purpose of redrawing assembly maps for New York State. We write to you to express the importance of keeping communities together, especially our south Asian / Bangladeshi population that exists within the Fillmore and Lovejoy districts in the City of Buffalo and the Village of Sloan. These areas are currently combined within the 143rd assembly district. The district, as currently comprised, allows our south Asian / Bangladeshi minority community a stronger amplified voice that was previously diluted as part of two separate assembly districts.

Over the past 10 years our community has grown in the Broadway – Fillmore, Lovejoy, and Sloan/Cheektowaga section of Western New York. Our growth is evidenced by the opening of mosques and the holding of community events in schools and spaces throughout these neighborhoods. Our residents frequently travel back and forth between these areas and often live in one while working in another. The interconnection between the Lovejoy/Fillmore districts and Cheektowaga/Sloan can also be seen in the similar socioeconomic status of our neighborhoods.

We ask that you keep our community together in the redrawing process to the current 143rd Assembly district. Below are signatures from our neighborhood.

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NAME SHELLER MMIGH	ADDRESS 322. GIBSOINSY
AKTHER HUSSIN	37 BSt. BUFFELO NY 14211
ABDUI MISHAN FAHIM	347935 2267 929 Filmed
MD IBRANI - AL FILLIMON	716 292 9570 367-53
Alm A MATIN	LAAR ST RUNTILIPTICA
Glan Alom.	345 Sherman St. 247-780-9676
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MD. R HIL	282GUILFOPLD 9173924787
TUFAIAL THEMD	107 KOODS AVE BUFFALD IVY 14212
tampellnoin	1003 Fillmore Are Buttale NY. 14120





COUNTY OF MONROE STATE OF NEW YORK

March 1, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chair Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Chair Jenkins and Vice Chair Nesbitt,

I write you today to express my concerns regarding the current redistricting proposal put forth by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission for the Assembly Districts.

I am specifically referencing the western portion of Monroe County. Currently, the Town of Ogden, in which I serve as the Town Supervisor, is in the 134th Assembly District. This current district includes the towns of Greece, Ogden and Parma, along with the villages of Spencerport and Hilton.

The proposed redistricting plan proposed by the IRC removes the town of Ogden and village of Spencerport from the current district and places it with the towns of Chili, Gates, Brighton and Henrietta. Towns that have much less in common with Ogden than the current district representation. These towns have much more extensive commercial property than the town of Ogden and do not reflect the rural and agricultural community we have here.

Additionally, under the current district, the villages of Hilton and Spencerport are together, which allows them to have a more impactful voice when advocating for issues related to their communities. The school districts are similar, the topography is similar and the issues we face are similar. Under the proposed district, the village of Spencerport stands alone in its interests that are uniquely tailored to its status as a village presiding in a town like Ogden.

It's imperative that the town of Ogden and village of Spencerport remain in a shared district under the existing 134th Assembly District to allow for our rural values and shared communities to continue having an effective voice that is properly represented in our state government. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

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Long and Alternative State

Respectfully,

Mike Zale Ogden Town Supervisor

269 Ogden Center Road, Spencerport, N.Y. 14559-2076 • (585) 617-6100 • (585) 352-4590 FAX www.ogdenny.com



KAREN MCMAHON Assemblymember 146<sup>th</sup> District

5500 Main Street, Suite 224 Williamsville, New York 14221 716-634-1895 FAX: 716-634-1250

February 24, 2023

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

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input with respect to the proposed NY Assembly redistricting map. I have had the honor of representing the people of the 146<sup>a</sup> Assembly District since 2018. During that time (and for years before), the District has always included the entire Town of Amherst. A fairly densely populated first-ring suburb, Amherst has a unique and long history, and is one of the largest Towns in New York State.

I strongly object to the NYIRC's proposed Assembly map which splits the Town of Amherst into two districts and creates a 146<sup>a</sup> Assembly District which would be a sprawling and contorted collection of dissimilar towns having nothing in common with the segmented portion of Amherst. Over the past five years, I have forged relationships that allow me to have particular insight into the needs of this community. I currently have on-going projects with schools, businesses and other institutions throughout the entirety of Amherst. Splitting Amherst into two districts will make it difficult to maintain support for those institutions going forward.

I believe the proposed new 146<sup>a</sup> District clearly runs afoul of the constitutional requirement that districts be drawn with compactness respecting the geographic, political and economic characteristics of the community. Amherst is large enough to have its own Assembly member representing its interests in Albany. Retaining the entirety of Amherst in one Assembly District means that the 146<sup>a</sup> Assembly representative can advocate wholly and effectively for the similarly situated residents of the Town of Amherst. The proposed new district includes populations that are substantially dissimilar geographically, politically, and economically.

Finally, the newly proposed map would disadvantage the largest growing minority community in Amherst. The Asian community currently makes up approximately 13% of the population of the 146<sup>a</sup> Assembly District. By splitting Amherst into two, the NYIRC will reduce the influence of the Asian community by approximately half.

I ask that the NYIRC re-address the boundaries of the 146th Assembly District to include the entirety of the Town of Amherst.

Respectfully,

1. Mal

Karen M. McMahon Assemblymember, 146th District

## THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIR Subcommittee on Trusts and Estates

COMMITTEES Environmental Conservation Higher Education Judiciary Libraries and Education Technology People With Disabilities Transportation



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Phone (315) 349-8230 Fax (315) 349-8237

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING - 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126

JIM WEATHERUP CHAIRMAN EMAIL: james.weatherup@oswegocounty.com 8ETSY SHERMAN-SAUNDERS CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE EMAIL: betsy.saunders@oswegocounty.com

Good afternoon Commissioners:

My name is James Weatherup and I am the Chairman of the Oswego County Legislature. I write today to provide comments on your latest proposed Assembly plan and suggestions for how the County of Oswego should be included in the drawing of your next Assembly plan in April.

As you all know, keeping community of interest's whole is a primary principle of redistricting. Few things would better represent this than by keeping the County of Oswego whole in any Assembly plan. That is what was done in the current map, what was undone in the latest IRC proposal, and what should be fixed in the IRC's next proposal.

The 2020 Census population of Oswego County is 117,525. This number is smaller than the average Assembly population. Because of this, I would suggest that the County of Oswego be kept wholly within one district for all future proposed Assembly plans.

Oswego County is a county with its own unique issues and concerns. We would like to have a single Assemblyperson who would be dedicated to those issues that the residents of Oswego County care most about.

On behalf of the undersigned Oswego County Legislators Thank you for your time and consideration.

Leg. Michael Yerdon, District 1

Leg. Herbert Yerdon, Distric

Leg. Edward Gilson, District 3

Leg. David Holst, Distrig 4

Leg. Roy Reehil, District 5

Leg. John Martino, District 6

Leg. Frank Bombardo, District 7

Leg. Paul House, District 8

U a Mary Enen Chesbro, District 10 DCKUDOO inda Lockwood, District 11

Leg. Richard Kline, District 12

Leg. Frank Castiglia, District 25

Patrick Twiss, District Walpole, District Leg. Nathan Emmons, District 1 mes Scanlon, District 16 Leg. Robert Wilmott, District 18

Leg. Marie Schadt, District 19 Leg. Tim Stahl, District 20 Beckwith-Salmonsen, District 2 Leg. nes Karasek Disfr Leg. Michael Solow Leg, March Greco,

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

## The message is simple – Keep Columbia County Whole.

NYIRC's proposed 107th AD violates the goal of compactness, stretching from the Dutchess County border north to the Washington County border and from the Massachusetts border west to the Delaware County border. This is a large and sprawling district that includes urban and suburban areas with very rural areas.

- We fear that separating Ancram and Gallatin from the rest of Columbia County will result in those two small towns not being properly represented. We've experienced this before when the small towns of Stockport and Stuyvesant were included in the old 102nd AD.
- With the possible exception of its Northwestern region, Columbia County has a stronger connection to the Hudson Valley than the Capital District. Subsequently, Columbia County should be kept whole and paired with Dutchess County.

Alexandra E, East Chatham, NY 12060 February 15, 2023 Town Supervisor Peter V. Ingalsbe 315-986-8100 Opt. 2

Deputy Supervisor Steven Holtz

Town Clerk Michelle Finley 315-986-8100 Opt. 1

Town Councilmen Steven Holtz Michael Casale Nate Bowerman Ron Herendeen



1000 County Road 8, Farmington, New York 14425

"The Gateway to Ontario County" (Exit 44 NYS Thruway) The Town of Farmington is an Equal Opportunity Provider

TDD 1-800-662-1220

www.townoffarmingtonny.com

Justices John E. Gligora 315-986-3113 Morris H. Lew 315-986-8195 Highway Supt. Tim Ford 315-986-5540 Acting Water & Sewer Supt. Dave Conti 585-924-3158 Assessor Paul Arndt 315-986-8100 Opt. 4 Code Enforcement Office Daniel Delpriore 315-986-8100 Opt. 3

December 16, 2022

Independent Redistricting Commission Attn: Submissions 250 Broadway 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York NY 10007

Dear Commission:

Enclosed is a certified resolution the Farmington Town Board passed at their meeting held on December 13, 2022, pertaining to the division of Ontario County into three assembly districts.

Sincerely,

Michelle Finley MMC, RMC Farmington Town Clerk

Town Supervisor Peter Ingalsbe 315-986-8100 opt 2

Deputy Supervisor Steven Holtz

Town Clerk Michelle Finley 315-986-8100 opt 1

Town Councilmen Michael Casale Steven Holtz Ron Herendeen Nate Bowerman



Justices

John E. Gligora

Highway Supt. Tim Ford 315-986-5540

Dave Conti

Assessor

Paul Arndt

Dan Delpriore

315-986-3113 Morris H. Lew 315-986-8195

Water & Sewer Supt.

585-924-3158

315-986-8100 opt 4

315-986-8100 opt 3

**Code Enforcement Office** 

#### 1000 County Road 8, Farmington, New York 14425

"The Gateway to Ontario County" (Exit 44 NYS Thruway) The Town of Farmington is an Equal Opportunity Provider

TDD 1-800-662-1220

www.townoffarmingtonny.com

#### **RESOLUTION #492-2022:**

Councilman Holtz offered the following Resolution, seconded by Councilman Bowerman:

#### RESOLUTION URGING AGAINST DIVISION OF ONTARIO COUNTY INTO THREE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the redistricting process in New York State comprises of redrawing legislative boundaries every 10 years following the completion of the United States Census; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State has been tasked with proposing new Assembly Legislative Districts for Assembly terms to begin in 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2022, the Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State proposed new Assembly Legislative Districts and solicited public comments on such proposals; and

WHEREAS, those new districts propose that Ontario County be separated into three new Assembly Districts including the 130th, 131st and 133rd; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 131st and 133rd separate Ontario County into eastern and western portions respectively, the towns of Manchester and Farmington have been singled out to be included in the 130th District with Wayne and Cayuga Counties; and

WHEREAS, New York State Law requires that each legislative district shall "consist of contiguous territory", "be as compact in form as practicable" and consider the pre-existing subdivisions of counties, cities, towns and communities of interest; and

WHEREAS, the history and tradition of Ontario County is that it has been included within one or two Assembly Districts, including the most recent redistricting years of 2022, 2012, 2002 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, Ontario County will be wholly represented in one New York State Senate District and one US Congressional District until the next redistricting cycle after the 2030 US Census; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State and the New York State Legislature should continue the State's longstanding practice of containing Ontario County to one or two Assembly Districts because they constitute a community of interest whose residents are best represented by a unified voice in the New York State Assembly; and

WHEREAS, while previous constructions of Assembly Districts have well served the residents of Ontario County and they are generally compact, contiguous and respect municipal boundaries, the Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State and the New York State Legislature should make every effort to preserve the District boundaries to the greatest extent practicable; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: The Town of Farmington strongly urges the Independent Redistricting Commission and the New York State Legislature to not split Ontario County into three different Assembly Districts and make every effort to preserve Ontario County to one or two Assembly Districts.

I, Michelle Finley, Town Clerk of the Town of Farmington do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Farmington on December 13, 2022, by the following vote:

	<u>Aye</u>	Nay	<u>Abstain</u>
Peter Ingalsbe	X		
Michael Casale	Х		
Steven Holtz	Х		
Ronald Herendeen	Х		
Nathan Bowerman	X		

STATE OF NEW YORK ONTARIO COUNTY

This is to certify that I, Michelle Finley, Town Clerk of the Town of Farmington, in the said County of Ontario, has compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. 492-2022 - RESOLUTION URGING AGAINST DIVISION OF ONTARIO COUNTY INTO THREE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

With the original now on file in this office, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such originals and the whole thereof.

#### TOWN OF FARMINGTON

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.

Monuli will Michelle Finley MMC, RMC Farmington Town Clerk - Ontario County

SEAL

## William F. Cooney

6282 Empire Ave Schenectady, NY 12303

January 30, 2023

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

I am sending these comments to object to the NY State Assembly Maps that are being proposed by the Independent Redistricting Commission.

Under the proposed maps, the town of Guilderland in which I reside would be in assembly district 102 which includes the hill towns of Albany County, all of Schoharie County, the western portion of Montgomery County and parts of Fulton County!

The redistricting commission is supposed to draw lines that respect the core of current assembly districts and to create districts that create communities of common interest. Up until now, the Town of Guilderland has always been linked with the city of Albany and its suburban towns of Colonie and Bethlehem in Assembly districts 109 and 110. Most of the residents of Guilderland are suburban commuters to the urban and suburban districts of the Tri-City region. With probably very few exceptions, they do not live near or commute to the Hill Towns, or Schoharie, Montgomery or Fulton Counties.

In other words the new district offers virtually no community of interest for the citizens of Guilderland with vast majority of the voters in the newly drawn district. It will make Guilderland the only community that consistently votes Democrat in a district that otherwise votes overwhelmingly Republican. In doing so, it not only vitiates the voting preferences of the residents of Guilderland, it also dilutes the Democratic vote in the adjacent Assembly districts from which Guilderland has been cut out of thereby handing Republicans the prospect of easier electoral gains than they have earned.

The treatment of Guilderland in the new Assembly maps strikes me as being very similar to the Gerrymander strategy which Republicans have been allowed to use in Tennessee where they have vitiated the Democratic vote of Nashville by breaking inner Nashville into pieces which are now captive to overwhelmingly Republican outer suburban and rural districts.

The Treatment of Guilderland in these new Maps is therefore contrary to the mandate that the supposedly independent Redistricting commission was supposed to apply in drawing these maps.

The maps need to be redrawn to re-connect the Town of Guilderland with the core assembly districts 109 and 110 which it has been historically a part of and to restore the vote of its Citizens to its rightful community of common interest.

With Regards,

win Con

# 358 Gables Road, Narrowsburg NY 12764

FRANCIS CAPE

utopianbenches@gmail.com ~ 917-856-4245

C 19 24

#### 5th February 2023,

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

## Proposed Assembly Map for District 100

The proposed map for the redistricting of District 100 cuts Sullivan County, where I live, off from Orange County, and instead connects it with areas north of the Catskill mountains.

The Catskill mountains are not only a geographic barrier. Sullivan County is treated by many institutions and organizations as part of the mid-Hudson region.

I am a volunteer with the Tusten Volunteer Ambulance Service and we come under the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council. For care that is not available in Sullivan County we transport patients to Garnet Health in Middletown. Garnet Health runs the only hospitals in Sullivan County as well as that in Middletown. We never transport patients north of the Catskills.

I write of the specific health service with which I am involved to give you but one example of the connections between Orange and Sullivan counties. There are many others involving business as well as public services. I know of no such connections between Sullivan county and the north side of the Catskills.

Please reconsider the proposed map and keep our political connection with Orange county to go along with so many others links.

Yours,

ruins lige

Francis Cape

## Wei Qin

6282 Empire Ave Schenectady, NY 12303

February 5, 2023

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

I am sending these comments to object to the NY State Assembly Maps that are being proposed by the Independent Redistricting Commission.

Under the proposed maps, the town of Guilderland in which I reside would be in assembly district 102 which includes the hill towns of Albany County, all of Schoharie County, the western portion of Montgomery County and parts of Fulton County!

The redistricting commission is supposed to draw lines that respect the core of current assembly districts and to create districts that create communities of common interest. Up until now, the Town of Guilderland has always been linked with the city of Albany and its suburban towns of Colonie and Bethlehem in Assembly districts 109 and 110. Most of the residents of Guilderland are suburban commuters to the urban and suburban districts of the Tri-City region. With probably very few exceptions, they do not live near or commute to the Hill Towns, or Schoharie, Montgomery or Fulton Counties.

In other words the new district offers virtually no community of interest for the citizens of Guilderland with vast majority of the voters in the newly drawn district. It will make Guilderland the only community that consistently votes Democrat in a district that otherwise votes overwhelmingly Republican. In doing so, it not only vitiates the voting preferences of the residents of Guilderland, it also dilutes the Democratic vote in the adjacent Assembly districts from which Guilderland has been cut out of thereby handing Republicans the prospect of easier electoral gains than they have earned.

The treatment of Guilderland in the new Assembly maps strikes me as being very similar to the Gerrymander strategy which Republicans have been allowed to use in Tennessee where they have vitiated the Democratic vote of Nashville by breaking inner Nashville into pieces which are now captive to overwhelmingly Republican outer suburban and rural districts.

The Treatment of Guilderland in these new Maps is therefore contrary to the mandate that the supposedly independent Redistricting commission was supposed to apply in drawing these maps.

The maps need to be redrawn to re-connect the Town of Guilderland with the core assembly districts 109 and 110 which it has been historically a part of and to restore the vote of its Citizens to its rightful community of common interest.

With Regards,

wei Oin

DEREK DOTY SUPERVISOR LAURIE C. DUDLEY TOWN CLERK/ TAX COLLECTOR 523-2162 RICHARD CUMMINGS EMILY KILBURN POLITI JASON LEON RICHARD PRESTON TOWN COUNCIL KENNETH PORTER SUPT. OF HIGHWAYS 523-9081 CATHERINE EDMAN BUDGET OFFICER 523-9517



LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK 12946 phone: (518) 523-9516 fax: (518) 523-9569 web: www.northelba.org



EUGENE MARTIN PARK DIST. MGR. 523-2591 MIKE ORTICELLE DARCI WHITNEY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS 523-9518 TODD ANTHONY ASSESSOR TEL: 523-1975 FAX: 523-9821 TOWN COURT OFFICE 523-2141 MARK SCHACHNER ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN

January 25, 2023

Please accept this letter in support of the existing boundaries of assembly district #114. The primary reason centers around the fact that the greater tri-lakes area of Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake are now encompassed within one district, instead of previously two. This resort area of the Adirondacks mutually share so many services that one district can represent that population more effectively. Just to mention a few, please consider; schools, healthcare, housing initiatives, economic development initiatives, tourism/event destinations, and many more. The current boundaries work.

Respectfully

Derek Doty Supervisor, Town of North Elba



Board of Supervisors

Telephone (518) 736-5540 Fax (518) 762-0224

23 January 2023

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission Chairman Ken Jenkins 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> floor NY, NY 10007

RE: Testimony Regarding 118th Assembly District Lines

Dear Chairman Jenkins and Commission Members:

My name is Scott Horton and I am the Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Supervisors. The Redistricting Commission's proposed plan as it relates to the 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and the residents of Fulton County is unacceptable.

The IRC draft plan bifurcates our county into two unrelated strips by irrationally extending the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly District westward across the bottom of Fulton County. This unfathomable change in the draft IRC map removes the cities of Johnstown and Gloversville from the 118<sup>th</sup> District. Those two cities are the heartbeat of Fulton County and since the 1800's have shaped its development, culture and economy. Johnstown is the County Seat. They must be included in the 118<sup>th</sup> District.

In accordance with the State Constitution, the Assembly map should promote the maintenance of existing districts and political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns and communities with common interests. Currently, Fulton County is almost completely contained within the 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. Under the IRC's draft plan, Fulton County will be drastically split between the 118<sup>th</sup>, 112<sup>th</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup> Districts. Dividing up Fulton County violates the principle of keeping counties intact. Fulton County is, and has always been, the gateway to the Southern Adirondacks. The communities in this County have a social and economic identity that is dramatically different than Schenectady County and Clifton Park. Combining rural Adirondack municipalities with densely populated Albany suburbs does not make sense.

## PAGE 2 23 JANUARY 2023 CHAIRMAN KEN JENKINS

Under the Constitution, each district shall be as compact in form as practicable and consist of contiguous territory. In the current 2022 Assembly Map, the 118<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts are compactly drawn. In the draft IRC plan, the districts are neither compact nor contiguous. In more densely populated areas, small geographical changes can accomplish the goal of equal representation. In less densely populated areas, large changes in geography are needed to accomplish the goal of equal representation. This makes the job of re-districting harder and accomplishes nothing. In the case of the 118<sup>th</sup> district, the proposed changes do not meet the requirements of the State Constitution. This is unjust and needs to be corrected. Keeping the 118<sup>th</sup> District boundaries aligned to the current boundaries will meet the constitutional requirements.

On behalf of the citizens of Fulton County, I implore you to keep the existing 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly District boundaries as they currently exist.

Sincerely,

Sam. Kh

Scott M. Horton Chairman of the Board

SMH: jl



WILLIAM B. MAGNARELLI Assemblyman 129th District THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY CHAIR Committee on Transportation

COMMITTEES Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry Education Rules Oversight, Analysis and Investigation Steering Ways and Means

January 20, 2023

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed "Draft Assembly Plan" of the Independent Redistricting Commission. As a lifelong Syracuse resident and Assembly representative of the City since 1999, I strongly believe this plan violates Article III, Section 4 of the NYS Constitution for the drawing of Assembly districts. Most notably, it ignores the requirement that districts "shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest." This plan needlessly cuts off a key Syracuse neighborhood from the rest of the City, reduces the representation of the City of Syracuse and needlessly splits the Towns of Geddes and Van Buren.

This proposal blatantly ignores the "cores of existing districts" and "pre-existing political subdivisions". Most egregiously it takes the Syracuse neighborhood of Eastwood and places it in a suburban dominated district. The interests of these City residents would be lost in a district dominated by the wealthier suburban towns of Manlius, Dewitt and Cicero. Eastwood must remain in an Assembly district centered in the City of Syracuse.

Additionally, the plan effectively cuts the representative power of the City of Syracuse in half. Since at least the 1992 redistricting cycle, Syracuse has maintained two representatives in the Assembly representing significant portions of the City. Under this map, the City would be effectively reduced to one member. This would do significant harm to a major urban center in Upstate New York that has ongoing issues with poverty, equitable school funding and infrastructure needs. It also ignores the diversity of the City's neighborhoods and its unique communities of interest.

The proposed map also harms the two towns I have represented for over twenty years, Geddes and Van Buren. These two towns have been part of the same Assembly district since 2002 and have a strong community of interest. Under the proposed plan, Geddes would be split off from the neighboring City of Syracuse and placed in a district that includes the northern suburb of Clay. Van Buren would be placed in a district that wouldn't even center on Onondaga County. The proposal would put Van Buren in a district that centers on Chenango, Madison and Cortland Counties. I fail to see how either draft district preserves "communities of interest".

DISTRICT OFFICE: State Office Building, 333 East Washington Street, Room 840, Syracuse, New York 13202 • 315-428-9651 • FAX: 315-428-1279 ALBANY OFFICE: Room 830, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4826 • FAX: 518-455-5498 magnarw@nyassembly.gov



Again, I strongly oppose the initial draft plan shared by the Commission. It should reject this plan and draft a new map that better protects the cores of the existing districts and keeps together communities of interest in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Very truly yours,

William B. Magnarelli egnan

William B. Magnarelli Member, NYS Assembly 129<sup>th</sup> District

## **Town of Avon**

23 Genesee Street Avon, New York 14414 Phone: (585) 226-2425 Fax: (585) 226-9299 Web Site: <u>www.avon-ny.org</u>

David LeFeber, Supervisor James Harrington, Councilman Paul Drozdziel, Councilman Tami Snyder, Assessor Thomas Crye, Highway/Water Superintendent Thomas Mairs, Deputy Supervisor Malachy Coyne, Councilman Clara Mulligan, Historian Brian Glise, Code Enforcement Officer Sharon M. Knight, MMC/RMC Town Clerk

January 18, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I am the Supervisor of the Town of Avon and Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors. The proposed map for the 133 Assembly District does not include all of Livingston County.

Currently, the County is all in the district represented by Assemblywomen Byrnes. It is a real benefit to have complete County representation by one Representative. Our needs aren't necessarily the same as our adjourning counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David LeFeber Supervisor, Town of Avon Chairman, Livingston County Board of Supervisors

Oswego County Conference of Mayors 175 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Oswego, NY 13126

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Millard Murphy, and I am writing on behalf of the Oswego County Conference of Mayors.

I am writing to express our strong support for keeping the County of Oswego whole in your next proposed Assembly plan. The principle of maintaining continuity within communities of interest is a critical aspect of redistricting, and there is no better example of this than the City of Oswego.

As you are aware, Oswego County's population is smaller than the average Assembly District. Because of this, it would be in the best interest of the residents of Oswego County to have a single Assemblyperson who is dedicated to addressing the specific issues that are important to them. Keeping the County whole would allow for a more effective and efficient representation of the residents' needs and concerns.

I urge you to consider the importance of keeping Oswego County whole in your next proposed Assembly plan. The residents of Oswego County deserve a representative who is able to fully understand and address their unique concerns and keeping the County whole is the best way to ensure that they have that representation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

M. W. Murphy, Executive Director

Oswego County Conference of Mayors

175 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Oswego, NY 13126



THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIR Subcommittee on Agricultural Production & Technology	
COMMITTEES	
Agriculture	
Correction	
Environmental Conservation	
Housing	
Health	
Mental Health	
TASK FORCES	
Tack Force on Women's issues	

Legislative Women's Caucus

January 20, 2023

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

Dear Chair Jenkins and Commission Members,

Thank you for your work on the Independent Redistricting Commission to create fair and equitable districts in New York that keep communities of interest united. It has been an honor to serve constituents of the 125th Assembly District, and I am pleased that the majority of the District remains largely intact. There are, however, notable exceptions.

In the draft map, three towns would be removed from the 125th District into the 126th District: Harford, Virgil, and Lapeer. These are distinct communities whose economic interests are closely aligned with the geographic areas to the west boundary of Interstate 81. These communities' economic development is highly correlated to the City of Cortland, which will remain in the 125<sup>th</sup> district. As the City of Cortland and Cortland County continue to improve services, such as public transportation, these more rural areas would also benefit. Keeping these towns connected to the economic hub of the County, which includes Greek Peak Mountain Resort as an attraction and community resource for the towns of Virgil, Harford and Lapeer, at the northern border of the District, remains in their best interest.

Additionally, Cortland, Virgil, Harford, and Dryden are the central catchment area both for students and staff as well as for services for Tompkins Cortland Community College, a regional community college maintained and supported by both Tompkins and Cortland Counties. Keeping these areas intact serves the college, which is an important center of workforce development for both Tompkins and Cortland Counties.

A significant number of the children in Virgil and Harford attend school in the 125th Assembly District. Some of the students from both the towns of Virgil and Harford attend school in the Dryden Central school District in Tompkins County. Additionally, all the students in the Hamlet of Virgil attend school in the Cortland Enlarged school district.

> ALBANY OFFICE: Room 833, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 518-455-5444, FAX: 518-455-4640 ITHACA DISTRICT OFFICE: 106 East Court Street, Ithaca, New York 14850 607-277-8030, FAX: 607-277-8033 CORTLAND DISTRICT OFFICE:: 83 Main Street, PO Box 5026, Cortland, New York 13045 607-208-2024, FAX: 607-758-4937 EMAIL: kellesa@nyassembly.gov

School districts are by definition, communities of interest. Dividing each of these school districts into multiple Assembly districts will create unnecessary administrative and financial difficulties both for the school districts and families. Staying within the 125th District maintains continuity of representation that has existed for several decades, and secures the educational and economic needs of the residents of both Virgil and Harford.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments to the Commission on this important process and urge you to maintain the integrity of the current 125th Assembly district. We look forward to the public hearings.

Respectfully,

Aun R Kellis

Dr. Anna R. Kelles NYS Assemblymember 125th District

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 833, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 518-455-5444, FAX: 518-455-4640 ITHACA DISTRICT OFFICE: 106 East Court Street, Ithaca, New York 14850 607-277-8030, FAX: 607-277-8033 CORTLAND DISTRICT OFFICE:: 83 Main Street, PO Box 5026, Cortland, New York 13045 607-208-2024, FAX: 607-758-4937 EMAIL: kellesa@nyassembly.gov



## Office of the Town Supervisor

The Honorable William W. Moehle

January 10, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007 VIA https://www.nyirc.gov/participate

Dear Commissioners:

RE: 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Please find attached my comments on the proposed redistricting plan and my recommendation to keep the Town of Brighton, Monroe County, in a single Assembly District.

Sincerely

William W. Moehle Town Supervisor

Attachment

2300 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618 585-784-5252 william.moehle@townofbrighton.org



# Office of the Town Supervisor

The Honorable William W. Moehle

## SUBMISSION TO NYS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

My name is William Moehle and I am the Supervisor of the Town of Brighton in Monroe County. I have served as Brighton Town Supervisor for eleven years and previously served as Attorney to the Town for 18 years. Today, I ask you to maintain the Town of Brighton's single Assembly District, as opposed to the proposed IRC plan to divide the Town into two Assembly Districts.

The Town of Brighton is an inner ring suburb of Rochester with a population slightly over 37,000, which is a small increase from the 2010 census. The entire Town of Brighton is currently a part of the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, represented by Assembly Member Sarah Clark. The Town of Brighton has been included in a single Assembly District since at least the 1970s. Audre "Pinny" Cooke represented Brighton in the Assembly from 1978-1990. Joe Morelle represented Brighton from 1991-2018. Jamie Romeo represented Brighton from 2019-2020 and Sarah Clark has represented Brighton since 2020. For most, if not all of that time, the entire Town of Brighton has been included in an Assembly District that, regardless of its District number, has also included Irondequoit and a portion of the City of Rochester.

For the first time in over 40 years, the plan proposed this year by the IRC would divide Brighton between two Assembly Districts. While I understand that, unlike Senate Districts, there is no absolute prohibition on dividing Towns between two or more Assembly Districts, on the IRC webpage under *Frequently Asked Questions*, the question, "What criteria are used to draw district lines?" is answered as follows: "The Commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities and towns, and of communities of interest." However, as proposed, this plan would not only separate the residents of this part of Brighton from the rest of the Town of Brighton, but it would also remove them from the core of an Assembly District that has existed in substantially its current form for over four decades.

The population of Brighton is small enough that it can easily be included in a single Assembly District. The IRC could do so by unifying Brighton within what is now the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, and returning a portion of the east side of Rochester to the 137<sup>th</sup> District currently represented by Assembly Member Demond Meeks. Additional slight adjustments to the District lines could also restore Members Harry Bronson and Sarah Clark to the Districts they currently represent, maintaining the relationships and local understanding of their Districts that they have developed.

I firmly believe that the residents of the Town of Brighton are best served under the current, single District model. I thank you for taking these recommendations under consideration.

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

I write to you regarding the Independent Redistricting Commission's (IRC) proposed maps for the New York State Assembly.

I was disappointed to see that the IRC proposed separating the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill from Sullivan County in the current 100th Assembly District. While the immediate Middletown area may be located in Orange County, many people in Sullivan County go to Middletown to see their doctor, do their shopping, or visit loved ones. We are inextricably linked.

Although much of Sullivan County is rural, it also has significant population centers along the Route 17 corridor that are economically tied to Orange County. Even Sullivan County's rural communities along the Delaware River share more similarities with Orange County than they do with those in Delaware County.

Sullivan County has seen tremendous growth in recent years due to the influx of people from New York City, and it is important that our community leaders have the opportunity to continue building upon this success. The Middletown area has been in the same Assembly district as the majority of Sullivan County for decades; it would be a mistake for these communities to be separated now. I urge you to reconsider these district lines and keep intact the 100th Assembly District.

## Alexander Cooney

6282 Empire Ave Schenectady, NY 12303

February 7, 2023

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

I am sending these comments to object to the NY State Assembly Maps that are being proposed by the Independent Redistricting Commission.

Under the proposed maps, the town of Guilderland in which I reside would be in assembly district 102 which includes the hill towns of Albany County, all of Schoharie County, the western portion of Montgomery County and parts of Fulton County!

The redistricting commission is supposed to draw lines that respect the core of current assembly districts and to create districts that create communities of common interest. Up until now, the Town of Guilderland has always been linked with the city of Albany and its suburban towns of Colonie and Bethlehem in Assembly Districts 109 and 110. Most of the residents of Guilderland are suburban commuters to the urban and suburban districts of the Tri-City region. With probably very few exceptions, they do not live near or commute to the Hill Towns, or Schoharie, Montgomery or Fulton Counties.

In other words the new district offers virtually no community of interest for the citizens of Guilderland with vast majority of the voters in the newly drawn district. It will make Guilderland the only community that consistently votes Democrat in a district that otherwise votes overwhelmingly Republican. In doing so, it not only vitiates the voting preferences of the residents of Guilderland, it also dilutes the Democratic vote in the adjacent Assembly districts from which Guilderland has been cut out of thereby handing Republicans the prospect of easier electoral gains than they have earned.

The treatment of Guilderland in the new Assembly maps strikes me as being very similar to the Gerrymander strategy which Republicans have been allowed to use in Tennessee where they have vitiated the Democratic vote of Nashville by breaking inner Nashville into pieces which are now captive to overwhelmingly Republican outer suburban and rural districts.

The Treatment of Guilderland in these new Maps is therefore contrary to the mandate that the supposedly independent Redistricting commission was supposed to apply in drawing these maps.

The maps need to be redrawn to re-connect the Town of Guilderland with the core assembly districts 109 and 110 it has been historically a part of and to restore the vote of its Citizens to its rightful community of common interest.

With Regards,

Whitem for
Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10007

I am writing with regard to the proposed Assembly Maps, in particular Assembly District 100.

While pleased to see that the Towns of Neversink and Fremont would be added back into the district, I'm concerned that the northeast corner of the Town of Mamakating would be separated from the district. Sullivan County is about 970 square miles in size with a population that is suburban, rural and in places densely populated. We share a strong sense of community that spans and embraces our diversity.

It's a great concern that Sullivan County would be separated from the City of Middletown and the Town of Walkill. We are inextricably linked economically, socially and in regional identity. Both Sullivan and Orange Counties are in the Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and are considered to be in the same region by many other government and business entities, including the majority of our health care system. Patients are sent to Middletown and Westchester, not north to Cooperstown and Binghamton. We are both in the NYC media market which gives us a shared informational, economic, and cultural connection to New York City. We share a busy and populated Route 17 corridor on which our residents travel southeast to work, play and visit relatives. Historically, many of our long time "local" population migrated to Sullivan County from NYC and from Orange County. Currently, there is a large second home population of Metropolitan area residents who stop in Middletown to shop on their way to their homes in Sullivan County. Route 17 connects us all.

It is important that our community leaders continue to be able to work together to continue to benefit its residents. Over the years it's been a successful collaboration which has resulted in a great deal of growth for the region. It's important to build on that success. It would be a mistake to separate these communities now.

I urge you to keep the 100<sup>th</sup> Assembly district intact and to include our Towns of Neversink and Fremont in the district.

Niane Kula 11 Donenfeld Nuie P. O. Dok 367 Kauneonga Lake, MY 12749

## Angelica Cooney

6282 Empire Ave Schenectady, NY 12303

January 30, 2023

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

I am sending these comments to object to the NY State Assembly Maps that are being proposed by the Independent Redistricting Commission.

Under the proposed maps, the town of Guilderland in which I reside would be in assembly district 102 which includes the hill towns of Albany County, all of Schoharie County, the western portion of Montgomery County and parts of Fulton County!

The redistricting commission is supposed to draw lines that respect the core of current assembly districts and to create districts that create communities of common interest. Up until now, the Town of Guilderland has always been linked with the city of Albany and its suburban towns of Colonie and Bethlehem in Assembly districts 109 an 110. Most of the residents of Guilderland are suburban commuters to the urban and suburban districts of the Tri-City region. With probably very few exceptions, they do not live near or commute to the Hill Towns, or Schoharie, Montgomery or Fulton Counties.

In other words the new district offers virtually no community of interest for the citizens of Guilderland with vast majority of the voters in the newly drawn district. It will make Guilderland the only community that consistently votes Democrat in a district that otherwise votes overwhelmingly Republican. In doing so, it not only vitiates the voting preferences of the residents of Guilderland, it also dilutes the Democratic vote in the adjacent Assembly districts from which Guilderland has been cut out of thereby handing Republicans the prospect of easier electoral gains than they have earned.

The treatment of Guilderland in the new Assembly maps strikes me as being very similar to the Gerrymander strategy which Republicans have been allowed to use in Tennessee where they have vitiated the Democratic vote of Nashville by breaking inner Nashville into pieces which are now captive to overwhelmingly Republican outer suburban and rural districts.

The Treatment of Guilderland in these new Maps is therefore contrary to the mandate that the supposedly independent Redistricting commission was supposed to apply in drawing these maps.

The maps need to be redrawn to re-connect the Town of Guilderland with the core assembly districts 109 and 110 which it has been historically a part of and to restore the vote of its Citizens to its rightful community of common interest.

With Regards,

angit Cory

# VILLAGE OF HANNIBAL

### CELEBRATING 150 YEARS 1860 -2010

Mayor Ronald Greenleaf Drawer B 824 State Route 34 Hannibal, NY 13074

Elizabeth Quaile Clerk/Treasurer

Board of Trustees Charles Fadden Terry M. Wilbur Wendell Blanchard Gordon Kellogg

TDD 1(800) 795-3272 Telephone (315) 564-6037 Fax (315) 564-7379

February 6 ,2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway ,22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York ,New York 10007

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to Express our strong support for keeping the County of Oswego whole in your next proposed Assembly plan. The principle of maintaining continuity within communities of interest is a critical aspect of redistricting, there being no better example than the City of Oswego. Here in Hannibal we were split prior to the formation of the present district and really felt separated from our neighbors to the east whom we had close ties with.

As you are aware ,Oswego County's population is smaller than the average Assembly District . Because of this , it would be in the best interest of the residents of Oswego County to have a single Assemblyperson who is dedicated to addressing the specific issues that are important to them . Keeping the County whole would allow for a more effective and efficient representation of the resident's needs and concerns .

I urge you to consider the importance of keeping Oswego County whole in your next proposed Assembly plan. The residents of Oswego County deserve a representative who is able to fully understand and address their unique concerns and keeping the County whole is the best way to ensure that they have that representation. Thank you for and your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rould Breenlert

Roanld Greenleaf Mayor Village of Hannibal

The Village of Hannibal is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 1(800) 795-3272(voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD)

Village of Parish 2938 East Main St., PO Box 308, Parish, NY 13131 Phone: (315) 625-4592 ~ Fax: (315) 625-4791 www.villageofparish-ny.us TDD: 711

February 8th, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Kathryn Perkins, Mayor of Parish NY.

I am writing to express our strong support for keeping the County of Oswego whole in your next proposed Assembly plan. The principle of maintaining continuity within communities of interest is a critical aspect of redistricting, and there is no better example of this than the City of Oswego.

As you are aware, Oswego County's population is smaller than the average Assembly District. Because of this, it would be in the best interest of the residents of Oswego County to have a single Assembly person who is dedicated to addressing the specific issues that are important to them. Keeping the County whole would allow for a more effective and efficient representation of the residents' needs and concerns.

I urge you to consider the importance of keeping Oswego County whole in your next proposed Assembly plan. The residents of Oswego County deserve a representative who is able to fully understand and address their uniqu concerns and keeping the County whole is the best way to ensure they have that representation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Perkins

Kathryn Perkins Mayor

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

I am writing with regard to the proposed Assembly Maps, in particular Assembly District 100.

While pleased to see that the Towns of Neversink and Fremont would be added back into the district, I'm concerned that the northeast corner of the Town of Mamakating would be separated from the district. Sullivan County is about 970 square miles in size with a population that is suburban, rural and in places densely populated. We share a strong sense of community that spans and embraces our diversity.

It's a great concern that Sullivan County would be separated from the City of Middletown and the Town of Walkill. We are inextricably linked economically, socially and in regional identity. Both Sullivan and Orange Counties are in the Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and are considered to be in the same region by many other government and business entities, including the majority of our health care system. Patients are sent to Middletown and Westchester, not north to Cooperstown and Binghamton. We are both in the NYC media market which gives us a shared informational, economic, and cultural connection to New York City. We share a busy and populated Route 17 corridor on which our residents travel southeast to work, play and visit relatives. Historically, many of our long time "local" population migrated to Sullivan County from NYC and from Orange County. Currently, there is a large second home population of Metropolitan area residents who stop in Middletown to shop on their way to their homes in Sullivan County. Route 17 connects us all.

It is important that our community leaders continue to be able to work together to continue to benefit its residents. Over the years it's been a successful collaboration which has resulted in a great deal of growth for the region. It's important to build on that success. It would be a mistake to separate these communities now.

I urge you to keep the 100<sup>th</sup> Assembly district intact and to include our Towns of Neversink and Fremont in the district.

Sincerely, Audrea Reynoga Callicoon, New York



# **CITY OF NEWBURGH**

Office of the Mayor 83 Broadway, Newburgh, New York 12550 (845) 569-7305/Fax (845) 569-7370 www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

Mayor Torrance R. Harvey

Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Re: Proposed Redistricting for the 104th Assembly District

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about the proposed Assembly lines.

As you are aware, the cities of Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Beacon are in the existing 104<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. I am writing to request that these three cities be kept in the same district going forward.

These three cities sit on the banks of the Hudson River with less than twenty miles separating Beacon and Newburgh from Poughkeepsie in the north. They share a common history, similar demographics, and many of the same challenges.

Separated only by the two-mile span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, Beacon and Newburgh are considered "sister" cities with residents going to and from each city for their shopping, entertainment and medical needs. The hospital closest to Beacon is Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.

All three cities have significant African American and Latino populations with a high proportion of low-income families whose secondary school students qualify for free meals. While economic development in each of the cities is at different stages, the cities have historically faced similar headwinds.

Today, all three cities struggle from a lack of affordable housing and sufficient local employment opportunities. Residents of these cities face similar health-related environmental issues, including high asthma rates, and their futures are tied to the health and well-being of the Hudson River.

As mayor of the City of Newburgh, my ability to govern is strengthened when I can work in tandem with the mayors of Beacon and Poughkeepsie.

By keeping the three cities in the same Assembly district, our elected representative can better advocate for Newburgh, because our concerns are tied to those of Beacon and Poughkeepsie. Should these cities be separated, our voices—particularly those of our minority populations— will be diluted and our influence diminished.

It is for these reasons and more that I believe the three cities have been kept in the same district for so long – over 40 years. It is for these reasons and more that I hope they will continue to remain together.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my concerns.

Very truly yours, m - 7 Torrance R. Harvey

Supervisor - Robert Valentine

Town Board -Antonio Ardisana Robert Courtenay Brandon D. Holdridge Cynthia Smith Town Justices -Janet M. Haislip Sharon Worthy-Spiegl

# TOWN OF CHESTER

1786 Kings Highway Chester, NY 10918

Tel: (845) 469-7000 Fax: (845) 469-9242 www.chester-ny.gov Town Clerk - Linda A. Zappala Highway Supt. - John Reilly, III Receiver of Taxes - Vincent A. Maniscalco Building Inspector – Alexa Burchianti Assessor - John Schuler, III Police Dept. - Daniel J. Doellinger, Chief

February 15, 2022

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Re: Redistricting of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Chester on February 8, 2023 with regard to the redistricting of New York State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

gepal. Linda A. Zappała

Town Clerk

#### ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to petition the Independent Redistricting Commission to include all of the Town of Chester, Orange County, within the same Assembly District in the 2023 redistricting lines of New York State.

DISCUSSION: The Town Board discussed how detrimental it would be to split the Town into two Assembly Districts. Councilman Holdridge explained in the proposed rough draft of the redrawn districts the Town of Chester would be divided into two districts, with the western and southern side in one district with Rockland County and the northern and eastern side in another with northern Orange County, which makes no sense geographically. He added having the same representation in the State Assembly is very important to our community. He said it is very difficult to have our small town's voice being heard with one Assembly District than to have two sides of Town having to go to different Assembly members to hear our needs for funding and legislation. Supervisor Valentine said Chester, size wise, is a small town compared to Montgomery or Warwick and dividing the Town in half makes no common sense. Councilman Courtenay said Goshen is living this outcome now with part being in the 98<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and another in the 101<sup>st</sup> Assembly District.

VOTE AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith

ADOPTED

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORANGE

TOWN OF CHESTER

I, Linda A. Zappala, Town Clerk of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York,

**DO HEREBY CERTIFY**, that I have compared the foregoing and is a true and correct copy of the extract of Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Chester from the 8th<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that each of the members of said Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and that Robert Valentine, Anthony Ardisana, Robert Courtenay, Brandon Holdridge, and Cynthia Smith, Councilpersons were present at such meeting.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the seal of the Town of Chester, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

Linda A. Zappala

Town Clerk

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

I write to you regarding the Independent Redistricting Commission's (IRC) proposed maps for the New York State Assembly.

Feb / 2. 23

I was disappointed to see that the IRC proposed separating the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill from Sullivan County in the current 100th Assembly District. While the immediate Middletown area may be located in Orange County, many people in Sullivan County go to Middletown to see their doctor, do their shopping, or visit loved ones. We are inextricably linked.

Although much of Sullivan County is rural, it also has significant population centers along the Route 17 corridor that are economically tied to Orange County. Even Sullivan County's rural communities along the Delaware River share more similarities with Orange County than they do with those in Delaware County.

Sullivan County has seen tremendous growth in recent years due to the influx of people from New York City, and it is important that our community leaders have the opportunity to continue building upon this success. The Middletown area has been in the same Assembly district as the majority of Sullivan County for decades; it would be a mistake for these communities to be separated now. I urge you to reconsider these district lines and keep intact the 100th Assembly District.

- 403 - 9343 Ohelsearoth @ gnael.com

Januare 10, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, Bitsig Sustein 35 Sutton Place NH, M10022

January 9, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational linedrawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Jacqueline Montras 20 Sutton Place South New York, NY 10022

#### ROBERT D. VITALO 20 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH, #11D NEW YORK, NY 10022

January 9, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my **<u>strong opposition</u>** to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Robert D. Vitalo

January 10, 2023

NYS Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to redistricting parts of Manhattan, including my Sutton Place neighborhood and Roosevelt Island, by adding them to District 36 in Queens.

The same proposal was aired last summer by New York City's redistricting commission. It is strange and hard to believe that such an irrational plan has found life again in a draft by a state commission.

At the public hearing just last August, representatives from the Manhattan neighborhoods spoke so cogently and convincingly against the twoborough concept that it seemed "dead on arrival," and it was indeed rejected. Speakers at the Queens hearing were equally opposed.

The map of the proposed combination district illustrates how unworkable it is: the Queens area is vastly greater than the Manhattan area, similar to the relevant population figures. Since the residents of Manhattan East and Queens have different needs and issues regarding housing, transit, open space, taxation, etc., how would one assembly member equitably represent both areas?

Above all, I understand that the draft plan violates several districting requirements of the New York State Constitution.

I urge you to reject the draft plan and find a fair, democratic and representative district for Manhattan residents as well as Queens residents.

Respectfully yours,

Durka Forward

Rhoda Kornreich 425 E 58 St, 6B, New York NY 10022 JEFFREY L. ABRAMS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Beekman Court, #5P 349 East 49th Street New York, NY 10017

215-771-3642 jeffrey.abrams@verizon.net

January 11, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Re: Opposition to New Assembly District 36 Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The residential and business interests on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create substantial practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

The east side neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

JEFFREY L. ABRAMS JLA:mds

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

MARIA Mangand Respectfully,

January 9, 2023

Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Vice Chairman Nesbitt and Commissioners,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider preexisting political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

We and our neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

We strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

J. Bairy

Carol Barry Carol Barry 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 20E New York, New York 10022

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Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Jenkins and Commissioners,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider preexisting political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

We and our neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

We strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Fr J. Barry Carolbern

Carol Barry 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 20E New York, New York 10022

CYNTHIA J. GARDSTEIN · 25 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH · APT. 5-1 · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

#### 9 January 2023

Honorable Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

#### **RE: Assembly District 36 Proposal**

Dear Vice-Chairman Nesbitt:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side of Manhattan into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully fought against a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap this irrational draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, Cynthia J Gardstein

CYNTHIA J. GARDSTEIN · 25 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH · APT. 5-1 · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

9 January 2023

Honorable Ken Jenkins, Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

#### RE: Assembly District 36 Proposal

Dear Chairman Jenkins:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side of Manhattan into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully fought against a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap this irrational draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Cynthla J Gardstein

Patricia J. Scharlin 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 11H New York, York 10022

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

January 10, 20023

Dear Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair and Hon. Charles Nesbitt Vice Chair and all Commissioners,

I strongly oppose the Commission's draft plan to move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates New York State Constitutional districting requirements -- the draft is not contiguous and compact; it fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities with similar interests; and goes against practical, reasonable and rational line-drawing

The communities affected on both sides of the East River have different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space, etc. This draft proposal would cause practical difficulties in providing governmental services, including an Assembly District Office location involving two boroughs separated by a river and additional transportation complications.

This past summer we residents avoided a similar proposal. Please don't let this go any further and instead draw up a more rational proposal and avoid a two-borough district.

Patricio JEllearten

Patricia J. Scharlin

Elizabeth Matthews Frost New York. NY 10022 (914) 522-5189 Jiza.frost27@gmail.com

9th January 2022

#### Independent Redistricting Commission

Chair, Ken Jenkins and Vice Chair, Charles Nesbitt 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my vehement opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this illogical two-borough district plan.

My neighbors and I successfully banded together and beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

**Elizabeth Matthews Frost** 

January 9, 2023

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Lucy Lamphere 1 Sutton Place South, Apt. G-A NY, NY, 10022

Board Member of Sutton Place Parks Conservancy

### JULIA KAGAN BAUMANN 440 EAST 56<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10022 212-663-0871 Jlkagan@aol.com

January 8, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

My neighbors and I successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational linedrawing remain the same. Frankly, I'm appalled that this unwise (the polite term) notion has risen so soon from the dead.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, ZB

Julia Kagan Baumann



A Not-for-Profit Corporation east sixties neighborhood association, inc. P O Box 1855 New York, NY 10021-0048 212-755-1296 • info@esna-nyc.com • www.esna-nyc.com

Co-Executive Directors: Karen Blatt - <u>blattk@nyirc.gov</u> and Douglas Breakell - <u>breakelld@nyirc.gov</u> Directors of Public Engagement: Miranda Goodwin Raab - <u>goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov</u> and Patrick Cameron - <u>cameronp@nyirc.gov</u> Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10007

Dear Co-Executive Directors and Directors of Public Engagement,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move portions of the East Sixties, Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

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Respectfu - ApTILE 1 00 22 Zip Code deh "Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"

NAMES OF A STREET



A Not-for-Profit Corporation east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

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Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10007

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Harcos Delchef	301 6 63120 57	Apt 9H 10065 Zip Code
Name	Address	

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Name (Uleste Pandhi Address 301 2, 65 Zip Code "Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood" Jimmy Pawahi Zip Code 1006



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I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line drawing remain the same. I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a twoborough district.

Respectfully, Mi Bury Achierda 10065 Zip Code 2405-6455 Address

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Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10007

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Respectfull 0065 Zip Code Address Name/ "Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"



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Susanne Lagerstrom

250 East 63 St. NY, NY "Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"

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APIEL STEIN ORZADA 1175 YORK AVE NV. NY	10065
Name Address	Zip Code
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Joan Fabio, ESNA Treasurer 225 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street New York, NY 10065-7450

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301 East 64th ST, 2L New York, NY Respectfully nne M. (Puroly 10063 Address Zip Code

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Respectfully

*A Not-for-Profit Corporation* east sixties neighborhood association, inc.

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Fatmir Kastrati	1175 York Ave, 10E	10065
Name	Address	Zip Code
	"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood	d"

Charles S Warren 200 East 90th Street New York, NY 10128

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10007

Dear Hon, Jenkins, Chair and Hon. Nesbitt, Vice Chair,

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The essential concepts of good government and rational line drawing show that this plan is not appropriate. I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, Name Charles S. Warren

Address 200- East 90th Street 10128

Alan Yoss 425 East 58<sup>th</sup> St., #5H New York, NY 10022

January 24, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

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## Respectfully, Diana Prufer & Daniel Medalie, 205 E 63<sup>rd</sup> St. 14-E, NYC 10065



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SUSAN	WAGNER 205 E 63RD ST. 9D NEW YORK N	N 10065			
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ELIZABETH WAGNER	205 EAST 630 ST. #90 NEWYORK, NY	10065
Name	Address	Zip Code
	"Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"	



P O Box 1855 New York, NY 10021-0048 212-755-1296 • info@esna-nyc.com • www.esna-nyc.com

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- Journay 31 2023 Respectfully, A F Shewan 1175 York Avenue – Apt16G NYNY10065


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Respectfully, Susan Strauss

Name

301 East 63rd #8KL Street N.Y, N.Y. 10065

Zip Code

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P O Box 1855 New York, NY 10021-0048 212-755-1296 • info@esna-nyc.com • www.esna-nyc.com

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10007

Dear Hon, Jenkins, Chair and Hon. Nesbitt, Vice Chair,

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Zip Code Name Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood



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Respectfi llv. 10022 Zip Code Address Name "Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"



A Not-for-Profit Corporation east sixties neighborhood association, inc. P O Box 1855 New York, NY 10021-0048 212-755-1296 • info@esna-nyc.com • www.esna-nyc.com

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Respectfully, STANKA SENOVA 301 EAST 64"#4E New York, N.Y. 10065 Name Address Zip Code

Name

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**Co-Executive Directors**: Karen Blatt - <u>blattk@nyirc.gov</u> and Douglas Breakell - <u>breakelld@nyirc.gov</u> **Directors of Public Engagement**: Miranda Goodwin Raab - <u>goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov</u> and Patrick Cameron - <u>cameronp@nyirc.gov</u> Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10007

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Name	Sara Biordi	301 €. 64 54 ₹) Address	301 E 64th	St, apt 7k		Zip Code
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Celebrating the spirit of Neighborhood

# East Sixties Neighborhood Association, Inc.

From:	Laurie Calkhoven <laurie.calkhoven@gmail.com></laurie.calkhoven@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, January 26, 2023 8:35 AM
To: Subject:	East Sixties Neighborhood Association, Inc. East Side Redris

A Not-for-Profit Corporation east sixties neighborhood association, inc. P O Box 1855 New York, NY 10021-0048 212-755-1296 • <u>info@esna-nyc.com</u> • <u>www.esna-nyc.com</u>

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LAURIE Calkhover	1175	Yook	Dere	NY	764	10065
				-	,	

Laurie Calkhoven 1175 York Avenue, #2F 10065 "Celebrating the Spirit of Neighborhood"

× . • February 20, 2023 Myrna & Ira Epstein 16 Sutton Place, Apt. 6C New York, N,Y. 10022

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, N.Y. 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

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Myrna<sup>'</sup>Epstein

Ira Epstein

1/14/23

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Respectfully, Abby Fox 400 East 56<sup>th</sup> St #16H NY, NY 10022

January 18, 2023

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Commissioner Collado Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

#### Re: Assembly Districts 73 and 76 Manhattan

Dear Commissioner Collado:

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Sincerely, Sharon L. Weiner, Esq.

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January 18, 2023

Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

#### Re: Assembly Districts 73 and 76 Manhattan

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Sincerely, Sharon L. Weiner, Esq.

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Commissioner Conway Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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Commissioner Harris Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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Commissioner Frazier Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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January 18, 2023

Commissioner Flateau Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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January 18, 2023

Commission Cuevas-Molina Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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January 18, 2023

Commissioner Stephens Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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Sharon L. Weiner, Esq. 900 Park Ave. Apt. 17D New York, NY 10075

January 18, 2023

Commissioner Brady Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

## Re: Assembly Districts 73 and 76 Manhattan

Dear Commissioner Brady:

Though I am writing as an individual, I serve as co-chair of Community Board 8 (Manhattan) Voting Reform Task Force. In that capacity, I have thoroughly examined the proposed redistricting lines for Assembly Districts 73 and 76 moving parts of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island to Queens Assembly District 36 and urge you NOT to adopt this proposed redistricting for the following reasons:

The proposal doesn't conform to the requirement of the State Constitution. They include that:

- Voting rights protections where districts cannot deny or abridge racial minority voting groups;
- An equal population standard where districts must contain equal numbers of people (oneperson, one-vote);
- Requirements that all districts consist of contiguous territory and be as compact in form as practicable;
- A prohibition on drawing districts that discourage competition or that favor or disfavor incumbents or partisan candidates; and
- A requirement to consider maintaining the cores of existing districts or pre-existing political subdivisions and to consider "communities of interest.

A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Assembly Member be in this regard?

Finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed Assembly districts referenced above. A proposal which was just recently rejected by the NYC Districting Commission redistricting City Council Districts. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincere N Sharon L. Weiner, Esq.

Sharon L. Weiner, Esq. 900 Park Ave. Apt. 17D New York, NY 10075

January 18, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

## Re: Assembly Districts 73 and 76 Manhattan

Dear Commissioner Jenkins:

Though I am writing as an individual, I serve as co-chair of Community Board 8 (Manhattan) Voting Reform Task Force. In that capacity, I have thoroughly examined the proposed redistricting lines for Assembly Districts 73 and 76 moving parts of Sutton Place, the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island to Queens Assembly District 36 and urge you NOT to adopt this proposed redistricting for the following reasons:

The proposal doesn't conform to the requirement of the State Constitution. They include that:

- Voting rights protections where districts cannot deny or abridge racial minority voting groups;
- An equal population standard where districts must contain equal numbers of people (one-person, one-vote);
- Requirements that all districts consist of contiguous territory and be as compact in form as practicable;
- A prohibition on drawing districts that discourage competition or that favor or disfavor incumbents or partisan candidates; and
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A defining element of the East Side's neighborhood character is the presence of numerous medical and research facilities with sprawling, densely populated campuses. Among those institutions directly impacted by the proposed new lines are: Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Animal Medical Center, Rockefeller University and Cornell Tech. Manhattan elected officials have years of experience and expertise in addressing the compatibility of these institutions with surrounding residential areas. How effective will a Queens Assembly Member be in this regard?

Finally, this oddly-shaped, extreme crossover district will significantly and adversely impact the provision of municipal services and diminish the political voices of thousands of Manhattan's residents.

In the strongest terms possible, I urge the Commission to return to the drawing board and not adopt the proposed Assembly districts referenced above. A proposal which was just recently rejected by the NYC Districting Commission redistricting City Council Districts. My fellow residents and I stand ready to meet with Commission staff to address these matters and to propose alternatives. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely, Sharon L. Weiner, Esq.

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Patricia J. Scharlin 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 11H New York, York 10022

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

January 10, 20023

Dear Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair and Hon. Charles Nesbitt Vice Chair and all Commissioners,

I strongly oppose the Commission's draft plan to move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates New York State Constitutional districting requirements -- the draft is not contiguous and compact; it fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities with similar interests; and goes against practical, reasonable and rational line-drawing

The communities affected on both sides of the East River have different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space, etc. This draft proposal would cause practical difficulties in providing governmental services, including an Assembly District Office location involving two boroughs separated by a river and additional transportation complications.

This past summer we residents avoided a similar proposal. Please don't let this go any further and instead draw up a more rational proposal and avoid a two-borough district.

Patricio JEcharten

Patricia J. Scharlin

# CYNTHIA J. GARDSTEIN · 25 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH · APT. 5-1 · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

#### 9 January 2023

Honorable Ken Jenkins, Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

#### **RE: Assembly District 36 Proposal**

Dear Chairman Jenkins:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side of Manhattan into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully fought against a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap this irrational draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Cynthia J Gardstein

CYNTHIA J. GARDSTEIN · 25 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH · APT. 5-1 · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

#### 9 January 2023

Honorable Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

#### **RE: Assembly District 36 Proposal**

Dear Vice-Chairman Nesbitt:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side of Manhattan into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully fought against a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap this irrational draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Cynthia J Gardstein

T: 212-247-8141 C: 301-351-7630 E: CJGARDSTEIN@GMAIL.COM January 9, 2023

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Jenkins and Commissioners,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider preexisting political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

We and our neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

We strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

r J. Bárry

Carol Barry 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 20E New York, New York 10022

January 9, 2023

Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Vice Chairman Nesbitt and Commissioners,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

We and our neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

We strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

J. Barry

Carol Barry Carol Barry 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 20E New York, New York 10022

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I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, MARIA Mangand

#### JEFFREY L. ABRAMS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Beekman Court, #5P 349 East 49th Street New York, NY 10017

215-771-3642 jeffrey.abrams@verizon.net

January 11, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Re: Opposition to New Assembly District 36 Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The residential and business interests on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create substantial practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

The east side neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

JEFFREY L. ABRAMS

JEFFREY L. ABRAN JLA:mds

January 10, 2023

NYS Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to redistricting parts of Manhattan, including my Sutton Place neighborhood and Roosevelt Island, by adding them to District 36 in Queens.

The same proposal was aired last summer by New York City's redistricting commission. It is strange and hard to believe that such an irrational plan has found life again in a draft by a state commission.

At the public hearing just last August, representatives from the Manhattan neighborhoods spoke so cogently and convincingly against the twoborough concept that it seemed "dead on arrival," and it was indeed rejected. Speakers at the Queens hearing were equally opposed.

The map of the proposed combination district illustrates how unworkable it is: the Queens area is vastly greater than the Manhattan area, similar to the relevant population figures. Since the residents of Manhattan East and Queens have different needs and issues regarding housing, transit, open space, taxation, etc., how would one assembly member equitably represent both areas?

Above all, I understand that the draft plan violates several districting requirements of the New York State Constitution.

I urge you to reject the draft plan and find a fair, democratic and representative district for Manhattan residents as well as Queens residents.

Respectfully yours,

Derla Forwaich

Rhoda Kornreich 425 E 58 St, 6B, New York NY 10022

#### ROBERT D. VITALO 20 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH, #11D NEW YORK, NY 10022

January 9, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my <u>strong opposition</u> to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Robert D. Vitalo

January 9, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational linedrawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

0

Jacqueline Montras 20 Sutton Place South New York, NY 10022

Januare 10, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, Bitsy Susterin 35 Sutton Place NH, M 10022

Elizabeth Matthews Frost New York. NY 10022 (914) 522-5189 Jiza.frost27@gmail.com

9th January 2022

#### Independent Redistricting Commission

Chair, Ken Jenkins and Vice Chair, Charles Nesbitt 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my vehement opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this illogical two-borough district plan.

My neighbors and I successfully banded together and beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Matthews Frost

January 9, 2023

<u>Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair</u> Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

tun

Lucy Lamphere 1 Sutton Place South, Apt. G-A NY, NY, 10022

Board Member of Sutton Place Parks Conservancy

JULIA KAGAN BAUMANN 440 EAST 56<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10022 212-663-0871 Jlkagan@aol.com

January 8, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

My neighbors and I successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational linedrawing remain the same. Frankly, I'm appalled that this unwise (the polite term) notion has risen so soon from the dead.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, ZBA

Julia Kagan Baumann

Shelby White One Sutton Place South New York, New York 10022

February 6, 2023

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioner,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

swho

Shelby White



Shelby White One Sutton Place South New York, New York 10022

February 6, 2023

Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioner,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

swho

Shelby White



February 7, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York

To the Honorable Ken Jenkins and Charles Nesbitt

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly oppose the Commission's draft plan to move the Midtown East neighborhood (above East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street) into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

As a long-time resident of Midtown East, I am acutely aware of the fact that the communities of interest on both sides of the East River have different issues regarding housing, transportation, open spaces and many other topics. Neither constituency will be well served by combining the two districts, and an argument for doing so hasn't been well articulated. Midtown East will suffer if the location of the Assembly District Office isn't even located in Manhattan and if policies are determined by a Queens District Assembly Officer who neither lives nor works in the neighborhood they represent.

My neighbors have succeeded in opposing a similar proposal involving City Council districts, and the essential concepts of good governance and rational line-drawing remain the same. The proposed district is not contiguous and does not consider the best interests of the affected communities.

I strongly urge you to abandon this draft plan.

Sincerely,

alen Chilach

Ellen Chodosh 333 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street New York, New York 10017

Dr. Vera Mehta 333 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 2 H New York. NY 10017 6 January 2023

Dear Commissioners, Chair Hon. Ken Jenkins, and Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move neighborhoods of Manhattan's east side above E. 42nd Street into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts; the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Vera Melita. Veramentallogmail-com Attention: Submissions

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Website: nvirc.gov

Susan H. Alter 45 Sutton Place South 10J New York, NY 10022

January 19, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins. Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of Manhattan's east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft plan (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider preexisting political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) provides irrational line-drawing which negates public interest.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

#### I am very concerned that my voice will not be heard on important matters involving my community in Manhattan.

My neighbors and I successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Sincerely,

Sugar h. aller Susan H. Alter



# Jack G. Schwartz. & Línda Schwartz

9174066166 jgsempires2@gmail.com

425 East 58th Street, Ste24A New York, NY 10022

January 21, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 BroaDWay, 22nd floor New York, NY 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chairman Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chairman

Dear Commissioners:

My wife and I want to express our deep concern against moving Sutton Place and other parts of the east side of Manhattan into Assembly District 36 in Queens. We have been residents in Sutton Place for over 50 years. Regardless that the draft proposal, clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements, specifically it is not contiguous, and compact, fails to consider pre-existing subdivisions, and communities of interest plus it defies citizens reasonable expectations of rational line division. The communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues including the location of an Assembly District office would be complicated by this two borough district plan.

We strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan to create a two borough district. Our city needs creative, constructive ideas, to maintain areas like Sutton Place, that represents an historic city area,

Lynda & Jack Schwartz



Jack G. Schwartz. & Línda Schwartz

9174066166 jgsempires2@gmail.com

425 East 58th Street, Ste24A New York, NY 10022

January 21, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 BroaDWay, 22nd floor New York, NY 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chairman Hon. Charles Nesbítt, Více Chairman

Dear Commissioners:

My wife and I want to express our deep concern against moving Sutton Place and other parts of the east side of Manhattan into Assembly District 36 in Queens. We have been residents in Sutton Place for over 50 years. Regardless that the draft proposal, clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements, specifically it is not contiguous, and compact, fails to consider pre-existing subdivisions, and communities of interest plus it defies citizens reasonable expectations of rational line division. The communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues including the location of an Assembly District office would be complicated by this two borough district plan.

We strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan to create a two borough district. Our city needs creative, constructive ideas, to maintain areas like Sutton Place, that represents an historic city area,

Lynda & Jack Schwartz

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully. Bachard Cooplinan Pakert Cooplinan 435 East 58th St. New York, NY 10002

JOANN SIOLI 330 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street #34 New York, NY 10022 Cell # 917.257.3216

January 25, 2023

**Attention: Submissions** 

Independent Redistricting Commission

250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10007

Attn: Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair

Dear Hon. Ken Jenkins,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commissioner's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact ; (2( fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions ad communities of interest and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational linedrawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully best back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Joann Sícolí

Joann Sicoli

### JOANN SIOLI

330 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street #34 New York, NY 10022 Cell # 917.257.3216

January 25, 2023

Attention: Submissions

Independent Redistricting Commission

250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10007

Attn: Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Hon. Charles Nesbitt,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commissioner's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact ; (2( fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions ad communities of interest and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational linedrawing.

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Joann Sícolí

Joann Sicoli

January 28, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York City, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the East Side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact, 20 fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest and 30 defies citizens' reasonable expectation of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line drawing remain the same.

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SCRAP THE DRAFT PLAN AND NOT CREATE A TWO BOROUGH DISTRICT.

Sincerely, Cour Mony

Carol Mouyiaris 425 East 58th Street, New York City, New York 10022

1/25/2023

The Honorable Ken Jenkins, Chair The Honorable Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

Please stop the nonsense. Please stop parroting the GOP. It did not work in the midterms and we lost a competent, productive and decent Congress woman due to ill-advised restructuring. It would have been better if we could have preserved both Carolyn Maloney and Jamie Raskin.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Joe Furey

January 20, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

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I and my neighbors successfully defeated a similar ill-advised proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to discard the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Nany Statford

# ROBERT A. MOOR 440 EAST 56<sup>TH</sup> STREET, 4B NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

January 26, 2023

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioner:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

#### ROBERT A. MOOR 440 EAST 56<sup>TH</sup> STREET, 4B NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

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Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

# ERO HEALTH communications

Honorable Charles Nesbitt Attention Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

January 26, 2023

Dear Commissioner Nesbitt,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island, and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Sincerely,

Enci p. Busin

Erica B. Bersin President (constituent Community Board 8 / Council District 5)
# **ERO HEALTH** communications

Honorable Ken Jenkins Attention Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10007

January 26, 2023

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Sincerely,

Enci S. Brisin

Erica B. Bersin President (constituent Community Board 8 / Council District 5)

William Murphy 349 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street, 2R, New York, New York 10017

January 16th, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully. William Murph

Lum Murphy 349 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street, 2R New York, New York 10017

January 16th, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the East Side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Lum Murphy

Kim Baker 310 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street, 8h New York, NY 10017 kim@goudainc.com

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chris Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Jan 17, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to oppose to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island, Turtle Bay and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

As a community volunteer in midtown east, I am deeply concerned this will further disenfranchise our community.

I beg you to scrap the draft for a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Kim Baker Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

349 East 49 St., Apt. 3P New York, NY 10017

January 15, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007 Attn: Submissions

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

My neighbors and I successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Joan Fuedman

Joan Friedman

Dear Commissioners,

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I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, Strploin

Dear Commissioners,

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I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Sharmsheer

Patricia J. Scharlin 50 Sutton Place South, Apt. 11H New York, NY 10022

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners and Chairmen, Ken Jenkins and Nesbitt, I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal is not contiguous and compact and it fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and it also defies rational line-drawing.

The communities on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully prevented a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to abandon the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Patricia J. Scharles

### Testimony to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 4:00 p.m. Hunter College Auditorium, 695 Park Avenue, New York New York 10065 Submitted by Meryl Brodsky, District Leader, 73<sup>rd</sup> AD, Part A

**Background:** There is a redistricting plan afoot that would place East Manhattan from  $61^{st}$  Street, Sutton Place, Turtle Bay and environs under the aegis of a Queens assembly district. This redistricting scheme is not favored by the respective communities and may not meet constitutional muster. According to City and State, "Five big takeaways from the new Assembly draft map," <sup>1</sup> 12/1/22:

As it stands, Assembly districts don't span the East River to join Queens and Manhattan. But the new proposed District 36 would bundle into one seat the Upper East Side of Manhattan, Roosevelt Island and the Long Island City and Astoria waterfronts in Queens. It would take from portions of retiring Assembly Members Dan Quart and Cathy Nolan's districts.

According to a former project director at the Citizens Union, the process can be simplified in the words of New York law school Professor Jeffrey Wice: "[T]he IRC goes on the road to hear from the public at hearings that start in January and go through early March. The IRC can be expected to modify its map and to release another draft before its April 28th deadline to submit a map to the legislature for approval. If the legislature (or Governor) rejects the map, the IRC goes back to produce a second draft map (and this is where the commission failed last winter). A formal legislative second map rejection could let the Assembly draw its own map."

The redistricting spawned an ongoing lawsuit due to procedural questions. Pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, US and NYS Constitutions, including 2014 amendments, the various redistricting proposals are subject to a constitutional procedure. Pertinent US cases include *Rucho* v. *Common Cause* (Gerrymandering does not violate the US Constitution if it does not impinge on minority voting rights or obstruct the one-person, one-vote law).

Accordingly, Petitioners, a group of New York Republican voters, claim that procedure was not adhered to in the first round of map-making. *Nichols et al. v. Hochul*, 2022 NY Slip Op 22312 (NY Supreme Court, 9/29/2022) invalidated the assembly maps on procedural grounds.

Now on appeal, their Petition and accompanying affidavits allege procedural unconstitutionality only, with no allegation of gerrymandering or any other substantive flaw. The brief for Respondents-Respondents Senate Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie (Case No.: 2022-04649 (1st Dept, 12/07/2022, NYSCEF Doc. No. 14-page 25)), states:

THE COURT: [I]s your only claim to strike the Assembly map[] and to do the other items based upon the perceived procedural unconstitutionality or are you seeking a claim that there are issues in terms of potential gerrymandering.

MR. WALDEN: Your Honor, to be crystal clear, again, I'm sorry if I wasn't crystal clear before, the issue here is what everybody here is referring to as procedural unconstitutionality.

<sup>1</sup> https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2022/12/heres-newly-drawn-draft-map-assembly/380347/

Accordingly, plaintiffs, representing NYS Republicans, are not concerned with substance, e.g. or if the lines were gerrymandered and thus fail to comply with DOJ requirements for minority voting rights, but only if the process should allow the lines to be rejected by the legislature or governor and redrawn, under which circumstances, they would not win.

**The Proposal does not satisfy the Criteria**: In their own words, the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission " is required to create a plan for the re-drawing of the State legislative and congressional districts, and must take into account various State and federal constitutional and statutory requirements.<sup>2</sup> There follows an analysis of whether or not the IRC is complying with its own statutory criteria, as applied to the proposed 73<sup>rd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts for which there is currently no Department of Justice (DOJ) approval. Objections to the proposal include:

(i) Whether the new district lines would result in the prohibited denial or abridgment of racial or language minority voting rights.

- (a) A comparison of the population by race shows that a prohibited denial of minority voting rights might result in Queens. Briefly, there would be a sharp increase in the number of white voters in Queens and diminution of minorities including Hispanic, Asian and Other. This result may not comport with DOJ requirements.(See Tables 1 and 2)
- (b) The Manhattan subdivision, comprising Manhattan East from East 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Sutton Place and Turtle Bay would shift approximately 28-30,000 voters comprising 22 Election Districts (ED) to Queens.
- (c) Relevant community planning district profiles for the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly districts show the 73<sup>rd</sup> AD has the highest proportion of senior citizens in the City, perhaps the country, approximately 20%, compared to 12% in Queens.(See Exhibit 1- County and Community District Profiles) Such categorical group would be denied their right to vote as a force majeure and affect state and federal legislation, including Medicare, Medicaid and long-term care. Further, the Queens district containing a large number of expanding families would similarly be denied its right to promulgate legislation that affects children and families, such as pre- and public school funding.

(ii) To the extent practicable, districts containing as nearly as may be an equal number of inhabitants;

- (a) Although all of the 150 assembly districts are required to have equal numbers, the 73<sup>rd</sup> assembly district subdivision that would be subsumed or eliminated by Queens should be considered as well. There is no way the assembly parts in either Queens or Manhattan could have an equal number of voters.
- (iii) Districts must consist of contiguous territory and shall be as compact in form as practicable;
  - (a) The proposed district is not contiguous to Manhattan since it is entirely separated by the East River, and difficult for senior citizens, who heavily populate the region, to reach via public transportation. We should not have to swim to Queens for Town Hall meetings nor cross the 59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge with canes or walkers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See "U.S. Department of Justice Guidance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. 10301, for redistricting and methods of electing government bodies," September 2021. <u>https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-</u> release/file/1429486/download

(b) Manhattan's 73<sup>rd</sup> subdivision shares boundaries with both the 74<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Manhattan assembly districts but not the Queens' 36<sup>th</sup> AD. The 73<sup>rd</sup> is currently both compact and proximate to Midtown's transportation hubs, including East 59<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Central. Its compact shape renders it accessible for seniors to reach the best health care, entertainment and shopping. Their local assembly member should be accessible as well.

(iv) Districts cannot be drawn to discourage competition, or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents; and

(a) The proposal unfairly disfavors both the incumbent and newly elected assembly members. Neither the incumbent Queens assembly member (AD #36), nor newly elected Manhattan assembly member (AD #73), was elected from this "merged" district. Thus, the redistricting draft is not predicated on an elective change and may not pass muster with the DOJ. However, the 2021 districts approved by the DOJ and implemented for the 2022 assembly election, still make sense. (See Exhibit 1 – Voter Enrollment Totals)

(v) The maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns and communities of interest.

- (a) Whereas Queens further divides each assembly district into two subdivisions (each represented by two district leaders), Manhattan divides most assembly districts into three and sometimes four parts. Thus, based on the population, the Queens 36<sup>th</sup> AD subdivisions would always outnumber the Manhattan 73<sup>rd</sup> subdivision by 2 or 3:1. Also, a substantial number of (senior) citizens who comprise the subdivision would have less opportunity to participate in the process and elect candidates of their choice.
- (b) The proposal affects land use in our district adversely because an institutional memory of development projects is key to Turtle Bay's quality of life. For example in 2017, when the massive redevelopment of Vanderbilt One was contemplated, the efforts of Turtle Bay to exclude six square residential blocks was crucial to the improvement of the entire vicinity. Divorcing Turtle Bay from the rest of the 73<sup>rd</sup> AD will impinge on its quality of life.

**Conclusion** - Since the congressional district lines in the 12<sup>th</sup> CD have already gone to court and were ordered to be revised by a special master, the same constitutional error could occur again if the IRC does not listen to the public's opposition. Assembly districts are smaller than congressional or state senate district and generally are kept intact in one county. Further, there is no precedent for a Queens assembly district subdivision in Manhattan nor for a Manhattan assembly district subdivision in Queens. The current 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly district should not be divided by the East River since I do not intend to swim to town hall meetings in Queens or ask anyone to cross the 59<sup>th</sup> Street bridge with canes or walkers.

Since the people of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts have already spoken and elected representatives for both congress and assembly, such elections should not be undermined. The IRC proposal, if not corrected to keep all of the Manhattan subdivisions in Manhattan, as are both current assembly districts 73 and 76, should be rejected by the NYS legislature.

## Table 1

# Current Population of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts compared to the NYS **Independent Redistricting Commission Proposed Lines**

|                    | <u>C</u> | urrent Lines | <u>– Manhattan 73</u>             | <sup>rd</sup> Assembly Dist |          |                    |  |  |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|
|                    | Total    | White        | Black                             | Hispanic                    | Asian    | Other <sup>3</sup> |  |  |
| Total <sup>4</sup> | 141,269  | 105,538      | 2,730                             | 9,573                       | 17,942   | 5,676              |  |  |
| % of Total         |          | 74.57        | 1.93                              | 6.78                        | 12.70    | 4.02               |  |  |
| Total 18+          | 123,794  | 93,418       | 2,514                             | 8,110                       | 15,751   | 4,001              |  |  |
| % of 18+           |          | 75.46        | 2.03                              | 6.55                        | 12.72    | 3.23               |  |  |
|                    |          |              | Department                        | of Justice                  |          |                    |  |  |
| Total              | 141,269  | 105,348      | 3,305                             | 9,573                       | 19,989   | 3,054              |  |  |
| % of Total         |          | 74.57        | 2.34                              | 6.78                        | 14.15    | 2.16               |  |  |
| Total 18+          | 123,794  | 93,418       | 2,948                             | 8,110                       | 16,824   | 2,494              |  |  |
| % of 18+           |          | 75.46        | 2.38                              | 6.55                        | 13.59    | 2.02               |  |  |
| Proposed           |          |              |                                   |                             |          |                    |  |  |
|                    | Total    | White        | Black                             | Hispanic                    | Asian    | Other              |  |  |
| Total              | 137,535  | 101,965      | 5,378                             | 11,688                      | 18,504   |                    |  |  |
| % of Total         |          | 74.1         | 3.9                               | 8.5                         | 13.5     |                    |  |  |
| Total 18+          | 89,684   | 67,139       | 4,423                             | 7,089                       | 10,604   | 428                |  |  |
| % of 18+           |          | 75.0         | 4.9                               | 7.9                         | 11.8     | .4                 |  |  |
|                    | Ç        | urrent Lines | <u>– Oueens 36<sup>th</sup> A</u> | ssembly District            |          |                    |  |  |
|                    | Total    | White        | Black                             | Hispanic                    | Asian    | Other              |  |  |
| Total              | 141,276  | 59,196       | 11,248                            | 35,313                      | 27,451   | 8,608              |  |  |
| % of Total         |          | 41.90        | 7.96                              | 25.00                       | 19.43    | 5.71               |  |  |
| Total 18+          | 122,594  | 53,515       | 9,161                             | 29,084                      | 24,47    | 6,365              |  |  |
| % of 18+           |          | 42.65        | 7.47                              | 23.72                       | 19.96    | 5.19               |  |  |
|                    |          |              | Department                        | of Justice                  |          |                    |  |  |
| Total              | 141,276  | 59,196       | 12,212                            | 35,313                      | 29,005   | 5,550              |  |  |
| % of Total         |          | 41,90        | 8.64                              | 25.00                       | 20.53    | 3.93               |  |  |
| Total 18+          | 122,594  | 53,515       | 9,863                             | 29,084                      | 25,535   | 4,597              |  |  |
| % of 18+           |          | 43.63        | 8.05                              | 23.72                       | 20.83    | 3.75               |  |  |
| Proposed           |          |              |                                   |                             |          |                    |  |  |
|                    | Total    | White        | Black                             | Hispanic                    | Asian    | Other              |  |  |
| Total              | 137,433  | 71,026       | 12,632                            | 23,889                      | 29,986   |                    |  |  |
| % of Total         |          | 51.7         | 9.1                               | 17.4                        | 21.8     |                    |  |  |
| Total 18+          | 77,790   | 47,417       | 7,068                             | 11,854                      | 10,937   | 514                |  |  |
|                    | 1 1,,    | 11,111       | 1,000                             | 11,001                      | 1 20,001 |                    |  |  |

rd .

<sup>3</sup> Includes the average of categories; AmIn (American Indian), Hwn (Hawaiian), Multi and Other.

<sup>4</sup> The ideal population per assembly district 2020 is 134,626 persons. The "current" lines represent a 4.94% deviation from the ideal. The "proposed" lines deviate by about 2.09-2.16%. Possibly, this 2% change was made to comport with the provision that states, "[A]any amendments by the Senate or Assembly to a redistricting plan submitted by the Commission shall not affect more than two percent of the population of any district contained in such plan," pursuant to Chapter 17 of the Laws of 2012. SOURCE: NYS Task Force on Legislative Reapportionment and Research, LATFOR and NYS Independent Redistricting Commission; https://latfor.state.ny.us/maps/; https://www.nyirc.gov/

## Table 2

# Current Department of Justice (DOJ) Lines for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan and 36<sup>th</sup> Queens Assembly Districts compared to the <u>Proposed Lines of the Independent Districting Commission (IRC)</u>

| 73 <sup>rd</sup> AD | Total 18+ | White  | Black   | Hispanic | Asian | Other |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Manhattan           | %         |        |         | -        |       |       |
| DOJ Current         |           | 75.46  | 2.38    | 6.55     | 13.59 | 2.16  |
| IRC Proposed        |           | 75.30  | 4.90    | 7.90     | 11.80 | .40   |
| Change              |           | 16     | +2.52   | +1.35    | -1.79 | -1.76 |
|                     |           |        | Table 2 | •        | •     | \$    |
| 36 <sup>th</sup> AD | Total 18+ | White  | Black   | Hispanic | Asian | Other |
| Queens              | %         |        |         | -        |       |       |
| DOJ Current         |           | 43.65  | 8.05    | 23.72    | 20.83 | 3.95  |
| IRC Proposed        |           | 61.00  | 9.10    | 15.20    | 14.10 | .60   |
| Change              |           | +17.35 | +1.05   | -8.52    | -6.73 | -3.35 |

**Table 1** shows the racial composition of Manhattan's 73rd AD is a majority white, 75.5%, which the IRC decreased by .16%, less than 1%. Similar findings exist for the proportion of Black, +2.5 %, Hispanic +1.4%, Asian -1.8 and Other, -1.8. The overall change for all groups is statistically insignificant at .16%.

**Table 2,** the racial composition for Queens  $36^{th}$  AD, shows stark contrasts. The IRC creates a white majority of 61%, up 17.4 % from a plurality of 43.65%. The Black percentage is increased by 1.05% to 9.1%. The Hispanic population declines by 8.52% from 23.72% to 15.2% and the Asian population by 6.73%, from 20.83 to 14.1%; also, Other declines by .60% to 3.35%. Further, the data shows that the white percentage varies inversely with the substantial decline of Hispanic, Asian and Other voters. The white increase of 17.4% is approximately the same as the cumulative decline of Hispanic, Asian and Other voters of 18.6%, from 48.5% to 29.9%.

**Discussion**: The changes in the 36<sup>th</sup> AD may not comply with DOJ regulations since the proposed lines would decrease minority voters by approximately 19%, exceeding the 5% or 10% standard error. Further, the proposed lines demonstrate a sharp increase in the number of white voters of 17-18%, creating a majority where none would otherwise exist, thus diluting minority voting strength. This would not be allowable under DOJ Guidelines. See "U.S. Department of Justice Guidance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. 10301, for redistricting and methods of electing government bodies," September 2021. <u>https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1429486/download</u>

## 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District and Subdivision Maps (Manhattan East from East 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Sutton Place, and Turtle Bay)



#### <u>Map 1</u>

Current shaded (orange) and proposed (blue) lines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> AD pursuant to the NYS IRC. The subdivision proposed to be eliminated, cross-hatched, includes Manhattan East (East 61<sup>st</sup> Street), Sutton Place, Beekman Place, Turtle Bay, etc. The 73<sup>rd</sup> AD comprises 70 Election Districts (ED)(each about 500-2000 voters) and 89,684 voting age persons. The current lines, approved by the Department of Justice, meet redistricting criteria which are:

1) <u>contiguous</u> because they share the same boundaries with the  $74^{\text{th}}$  and  $76^{\text{th}}$  assembly districts in Manhattan and easily amended to keep communities of interest intact;

2) <u>compact</u> due to the existence of natural boundaries created by Central Park to the West and the East River to the East.

#### <u>Map 2</u>

The proposed district breaks up subdivision lines encompassing communities of interest; Manhattan East (East 61<sup>st</sup> Street), Sutton Place, Beekman Place, Turtle Bay, etc. Such subdivision includes 22 election districts (ED), EDs 16-37 (3 split EDs, 21,36,37) and a total of approximately 28-30,000 voters to be eliminated. Integrally connected to Mid-Manhattan, such subdivision should remain in the universe of the current 73<sup>rd</sup> AD because the proposal is:

1) <u>not contiguous</u> to Queens due to separation by the East River causing transportation hardships particularly for its large number of senior citizens;

2) <u>not compact</u> due to subdivisions, or communities of interest, crossing two counties, Queens and Manhattan.

6.

### Exhibit 1

## NYS Voter Enrollment by Assembly District, Party Affiliation and Status <u>Voters Registered as of November 1, 2022\*</u>

| D  | ISTRICT        | STATUS   | DEM    | REP          | CON        | WOR | OTH   | BLANK  | TOTAL  |
|----|----------------|----------|--------|--------------|------------|-----|-------|--------|--------|
|    |                |          |        | OUTEN        | q          |     |       |        |        |
|    |                |          |        | <u>OUEEN</u> |            |     |       |        |        |
| 36 | District Total | Active   | 51,011 | 5,726        | 217        | 255 | 1,522 | 16,133 | 74,864 |
| 36 | District Total | Inactive | 6,118  | 879          | 27         | 19  | 345   | 2,683  | 10,071 |
| 36 | District Total | Total    | 57,129 | 6,605        | 244        | 274 | 1,867 | 18,816 | 84,935 |
|    |                |          |        |              |            |     |       |        |        |
|    |                |          | M      | IANHATT      | <u>'AN</u> |     |       |        |        |
| 73 | District Total | Active   | 50,128 | 12,414       | 148        | 72  | 2,189 | 18,838 | 83,789 |
| 73 | District Total | Inactive | 4,976  | 2,754        | 38         | 8   | 582   | 3,677  | 12,035 |

80 2,771 22,515 95,824

# County\*\* and District\*\*\*Profiles Comparison of Queens and Manhattan Community Planning Districts <u>that correspond to Queens 36<sup>th</sup> and Manhattan's 73<sup>rd</sup> & 76<sup>th</sup> ADs</u>

73 District Total Total 55,104 15,168 186

| <u>Queen</u>                                                       | <u>IS</u>                                         | Community Planning Districts #1 and #2:                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Population:                                                        | 2,331,143                                         | 164.15K                                                  |
| Foreign born                                                       | 46.80%                                            | 35.25%                                                   |
| White:                                                             | 24.00%                                            | 36.55%                                                   |
| Black:                                                             | 16.00~%                                           | 6.15 %                                                   |
| Hispanic:****                                                      | 28.00%                                            | 29.15%                                                   |
| Asian:                                                             | 26.00%                                            | 25.40%                                                   |
| Other:                                                             | 6.00%                                             | 2.75%                                                    |
| 65 Years+:                                                         | 12-14 %                                           | 12.60%                                                   |
|                                                                    |                                                   |                                                          |
| <u>Manha</u>                                                       | <u>ttan</u>                                       | <u>Community Planning Districts #6 and #8:</u>           |
| <u>Manha</u><br>Population:                                        | <u>ttan</u><br>1,576,876                          | <u>Community Planning Districts</u> #6 and #8:<br>187.5K |
|                                                                    |                                                   |                                                          |
| Population:                                                        | 1,576,876                                         | 187.5K                                                   |
| Population:<br>Foreign born:                                       | 1,576,876<br>28.10%                               | 187.5K<br>24.25%                                         |
| Population:<br>Foreign born:<br>White:                             | 1,576,876<br>28.10%<br>45.00%                     | 187.5K<br>24.25%<br>71.75%                               |
| Population:<br>Foreign born:<br>White:<br>Black:                   | 1,576,876<br>28.10%<br>45.00%<br>12.00%           | 187.5K<br>24.25%<br>71.75%<br>3.00 %                     |
| Population:<br>Foreign born:<br>White:<br>Black:<br>Hispanic: **** | 1,576,876<br>28.10%<br>45.00%<br>12.00%<br>26.00% | 187.5K<br>24.25%<br>71.75%<br>3.00 %<br>8.55%            |

\* Source: NYS Board of Elections; <u>https://www.elections.ny.gov/EnrollmentAD.html</u>

\*\* Data from Census reporter.org; U.S. Census Bureau (2021). American Community Survey 1- year estimates. Retrieved from Census Reporter Profile pages for Queens and Manhattan Counties, New York. <a href="http://censusreporter.org/profiles/">http://censusreporter.org/profiles/</a>

\*\*\*\* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Source: NYC Department of City Planning's Community District Profiles, 2014 -2018; population averages for Queens community planning districts 1, 2 and Manhattan community planning districts 6, 8; https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/

#### SAMPLE LETTER

4-

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

3

Respectfully, mængane Cenh

February 7, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move neighborhoods of Manhattan's east side above E. 42nd Street into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) proposed district is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider preexisting political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

Our community members successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts; the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to amend this draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

yan

Jean M. Dugan 240 East 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment 25EF New York, NY 10017

## From: Gail Lloyd gail.p.lloyd@gmail.com Subject: Fwd: Keep the Upper East Side in Manhattan Date: Jan 31, 2023 at 6:45:37 PM

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft:

(1) is not contiguous and compact

(2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest

(3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing

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I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Sincerely, Hail Lloyd Ms Gail Lloyd

130 E 63rd St New York, NY 10065-7334 gail.p.lloyd@gmail.com

Susan Olden 14 Sutton Place South New York, New York 10022

Dear Hon. Ken Jenkins,

This is in concerning the re-districting lines proposed for the Queens Council District 26 and the Manhattan Council District 5 which include portions of Sutton Place is not adopted for the following reasons.

This proposal is ill-conceived. It demonstrates a loss of good governing for the people and any strategic planning to avoid this, (America was built overcoming insurmountable barriers). Are we less?? Two Boroughs/Districts, a river between, different priorities and the special needs of the community without an equitable split. The imbalance of voting power, transportation, housing, the needs of the area, and the higher tax rate not to mention the office-just to name a few--is this democracy? Another borough! We live in NYC and we pay NYC taxes!!!

This is about numbers not people. All too often today when these situations arise the answer is NO, rather than pulling together and try to create an alternative strategy that may better serve the community. A group with experience, understanding the community served, who can look at issues with pragmatism and find fair alternatives would be appreciated.

1. The taxes in Manhattan differ from that of Queens. The constituency in Queens is 73%, and Manhattan will be 27%. The votership in the district of Queens and the foreign owned District Sutton Place is self-prophesizing. The Council and larger constituency being in Queens naturally would be favored. Queens, through lack of understanding the needs of Sutton Place, could not embrace the importance or requirements of SP.

Manhattan taxes are paid by the citizens in Manhattan, and they should have the best opportunity to be the beneficiaries of those taxes which will never change.

- 2. Splitting Sutton Place in Half (it is only 6 blocks) with a community of elderly people is ludicrous. So many issues are Politic or Financial. Attending meetings to try to effect change today is for the most part hopeless--the narrative is a fait accompli. This issue should receive the attention it deserves, and hopefully the committee is inspired to put the people of this community first.
- 3. The most important piece of this, is the community, a touch more civilized, many elderlies, who do not or are unable to leave Sutton Place. Our parks give them the opportunity to be in the sunlight and enjoy the fresh air. They are in wheelchairs, walkers, canes but they are out there. SP has already been disrupted by current changes destroying the safety and tranquility of its residents due to poor decisions from government. nphs. I hope a humanitarian effort triumphs.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully, Jusan alden

## Susan Olden 14 Sutton Place South New York, New York 10022

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Susan Olden\_

Shelby White One Sutton Place South New York, New York 10022

January 9, 2023

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioner,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Shelby White

Shelby White One Sutton Place South New York, New York 10022

January 9, 2023

Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, New York 10007

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shelby White

January 8, 2023

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Respectfully,

1/stal

Natalie Dweck

Preston W. Klimley New York, NY 10022 (914) 907-7515 pklimley@gmail.com

9th January 2022

#### Independent Redistricting Commission

Chair, Ken Jenkins and Vice Chair, Charles Nesbitt 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The draft proposal violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

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My neighbors and I successfully banded together and beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process may be different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully,

Preston W. Klimley

February 7, 2023 1. Hon Junkin Hon Trisbitt el have been a resident (owner 236 E. 47th At gat 18E, Tyc 100/9 do this latest Bis. idea to com Combine - Justle me Bay neighborhood 36 district another of Severa attempts to drive to deliberat sidents on 4 OUT not only Justle B Ba  $\bigcirc$ They. State 377 voice my OPPOSITION ba to your proposal erent recording , top polic hirising & Transportation op en velopment limitations, paul a any attempt to COMBINE would joparchize needs of both Ronald D. Arago 242-838-1576

ebruary 7, 2023 Justite shave been م ZZ E. 47th St get 18E <u>740</u> 10019 . do This latest 1996 idea to ombine may Justle 5. <u>36</u> neighborhiod <u>~</u> pts to drive esta as lyc Justle Be くて They State propose \_\_\_\_\_ Uso ees - regarding # Transportation hirising, top polic <u>en</u> limitations, velopment paul a any attempt to Comein area world jopardig needs og both Ronald D. Dragg 242-1 JOP TI 838 1526

**Michele Birnbaum** 1035 Park Avenue New York, New York 10028 Tel: (917)868-0748 Fax: (212)427-8250 E-mail: mbfany@nyc.rr.com

Dear Vice Chair Nesbitt:

I am a resident of the Upper East Side of Manhattan and a member of Community Board 8 and its Voting Reform Committee.

Our efforts have recently been rewarded resulting in maintaining our City Council Districts and keeping Roosevelt Island and our hospital corridor in-tact and part of their original Council districts.

Now we are faced with a similar threat to sever Roosevelt Island and our hospital corridor from their current Assembly Districts, and the opposition position has the same merit as the opposition to City Council district changes which eventually resulted in our districts remaining largely unchanged.

The previous successful arguments remain the same and are applied here.

The existing districts consist of contiguous territory and are represented by accessible, local Assemblymembers. Real estate interests, such as development in the hospital corridor, and future city and state proposals such as congestion pricing and the installation of 5G network towers affect both Districts 73 and 76 and constitute a common interest for their residents.

The eastern portion of the East Side and Roosevelt Island have major differences with 36 AD and transferring them to that district could result in a diminution of services for the elderly, disabled and all those who require services that currently rest in the 73 and 76 Districts. Decisions on the development, traffic patterns, housing and transportation needs will be made in a District in which none of these residents live.

The medical facilities located in the Manhattan corridor will be viewed as facilities servicing the Queens districts and thus will diminish the chances of District 36 getting its own medical facilities in more proximity to its residents.

Funding and other services will be distributed proportionally to the smaller east Manhattan population, i.e. green space so badly needed in Manhattan will be deemed sufficient if reported as inclusive of the green space in District 36.

For all these reasons and many more, as outlined in Community Board 8's resolution and the comments by the Upper East Side preservation organizations, Assembly districts 73 and 76 should not violate the Commission's own redistricting criteria and partition a like-minded residential and business community.

Our Districts boundaries should remain unchanged! 

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted, Mil Chile Janbar Michele Birnbaum

Michele Birnbaum 1035 Park Avenue New York, New York 10028 Tel : (917)868-0748 Fax: (212)427-8250 E-mail: <u>mbfany@nyc.rr.com</u>

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n an the state of the second sec Respectfully submitted,

Michele Birnbaum

Our Districts boundaries should remain unchanged!

Yone A. Wells 410 East 57 Street Apartment 6B New York, NY 10022 fallmountain@me.com

February 8, 2023

Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose the Commission's draft plan that would move the neighborhoods of Manhattan's east side above East 42nd Street into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

It is my understanding that the proposal violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. For example, the draft's proposed redistricting (1) creates a district that is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

Varied communities on either side of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

Our neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts; the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

Drop this offensive draft plan and do not create a two-borough district.

YourAn

Yone A. Wells

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2/5/23                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 405 East \$45                                                                                                       |
| Dear Commissioners,                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | NEC 10022                                                                                                           |
| I write to express my strong opposition to<br>would move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island<br>into Assembly District 36 in Queens.                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                     |
| The draft proposal clearly violates several districting requirements. Specifically, the compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing communities of interest; and (3) defies citizational line-drawing.                                | draft (1) is not contiguous and<br>political subdivisions and                                                       |
| The various communities of interest on bo<br>different issues regarding housing, tax pol<br>and other matters. The draft proposal wou<br>the provision of governmental services. Ev<br>District Office is complicated by this irratio | icy, transportation, open space<br>Id create practical difficulties in<br>en the location of an Assembly            |
| I and my neighbors successfully beat back<br>Council districts this past summer. While t<br>different, the essential concepts of good g<br>drawing remain the same.                                                                   | he law and the process may be $$                                                                                    |
| I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan district.                                                                                                                                                                                 | and not create a two-borough                                                                                        |
| Respectfully,                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                     |
| Dephine C. De                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | When                                                                                                                |
| ternen an                                                                                                                                                                                         | งแล้วไฟไหล่งของของของการแก่งแล้วของของและและและและและและสารมากที่สารทำที่สารมากที่สารทำที่สารมากที่สารมากการที่<br> |
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Attention: Submissions Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

February 7, 202

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose the Commission's draft plan that would move neighborhoods of Manhattan's east side above E. 42nd Street into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

It is my understanding that the draft plan violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. For example, the draft's proposed redistricting (1)creates a district that is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

I'm going to add a fourth consideration: It's stupid and wrong.

Varied communities on either side of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

Our neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts; the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

Drop this offensive draft plan and do not create a two-borough district.

Respectfully, Jame B. Tigan Jane Tigar

870 United Nations Plaza, Apt 9C New York, NY 10017 February 12, 2023

#### **Attention: Submissions**

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

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move neighborhoods of Manhattan's east side above E. 42nd Street into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, the draft (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I strongly urge you <u>not</u> to create a two-borough district. Manhattan is clearly separate from Queens.

Respectfully, Manster DA Marissa F. Ain

310 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street, #4E New York, NY 10017 (703) 473-9147

Joanne L. Candela 349 East 49th St, 6 V New York, New York 10017

Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair Independent Redistricting Commission 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor New York, New York 10007

February 8, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Commission's draft plan that would move neighborhoods of Manhattan's east side above E. 42nd Street into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

The proposal clearly violates several New York State Constitutional districting requirements. Specifically, (1) the draft is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The various communities of interest on both sides of the East River face different issues regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in the provision of governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

I and my neighbors successfully beat back a similar proposal involving City Council districts; the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan and not create a two-borough district.

Joanne L. Candela