Wednesday Nov. 23, 2021, Redistricting Mtg at Stonybrook

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Good afternoon Commissioners.

My name is Lillie B Crowder. I am a resident of the Gordon Heights/ Middle Island community, where I’ve lived for 20 plus years. Since relocating to this community after my retirement, I became involved in its Civic Association, served as a member of the Town of Brookhaven’s Senior Advisory Committee, Black History Commission, Longwood School District Safety Awareness Committee , and as well worked with other service organizations and committees.

As an active political party - committee member in my election district, 192, I have observed the results of redrawn boundary lines firsthand, specifically after both the 2000 and 2010 Census, which were disturbing.

Observed were unusual, reconfigured district lines, strikingly noticeable in election district 192, 200 and 137, with changes along West Bartlett Road, Barbara Lane, Granny Road, Mill Road, Gray Avenue among others, which comprise the Gordon Heights community proper. Thus, redistricting led to the multiple Assembly, Senatorial, and Legislative Districts, all within a small community, which impacted the election outcomes in Congressional and Council Districts races as well.

This pattern of separating communities sometimes discourages rather than encourage voter participation, appear confusing to voters and on lookers, all of which seem a form of voter suppression and disenfranchisement. This does not serve in the best interest of residents of communities with similar issues and concerns. Further, such reapportion maneuvering disrupts the voting impact in communities densely populated, with African Americans, people of African descent and people of color.

It is important that cracking and packing do not occur to alter specifically, Assembly District 4, especially with regard to the adjacent Assembly Districts. It is essential that Party interest is not allowed to influence the redrawing of maps, and or, the redistricting and reappropriation process to the detriment of residents of a community. It is essential that election districts 200 and 137, remain in AD 4, and as well, the interest level, cultural value and common interest of African Americans in election district 192 is key in the decision making.

My request of the commission is that the issues and concerns noted in the aforementioned community, inclusive of its adjacent communities, be addressed with sensitivity. That the maps approved reflect a fair and just process which would ensure that voter suppression and disenfranchisement are not inherent in the process.

Thank you for this opportunity to present.

Lillie B. Crowder