



# COUNCIL OF PEOPLES ORGANIZATION

1077 Coney Island Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11230

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[www.Copo.org](http://www.Copo.org)

February 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Mohammad Razvi and I am the founder and executive director of the Council of Peoples Organization (COPO) at 1077 Coney Island Avenue. I am writing with the urgent request that the IRC allow for our block of Coney Island Avenue between Foster and Avenue H to remain in the 44th Assembly District.

In the wake of 9/11, I founded COPO in 2002, and have operated from a centrally located office on Coney Island Avenue in Midwood, Brooklyn and assisted low-income immigrant families in reaching their full potential as residents of New York City. COPO is a "one-stop-shop" that provides free, high-quality, and trusted social services to more than 12,000 households per year. Our food pantry programs help more than 150,000 people each year. COPO serves a citywide population with most clients coming from surrounding Brooklyn neighborhoods, many of which are from the 44th Assembly District. Our services are targeted to meet the specific language and cultural needs of immigrants from South Asia (Pakistan and Bangladesh).

For the past 30 years, COPO has been in the 44th Assembly District, but in the IRC's draft plan released on December 1, 2022, you have drawn our block out of the district and thereby divided the Pakistani community and the greater South Asian community from one another. The IRC map divides the 44th Assembly District at Foster Avenue, severing the Pakistani-American community and cutting key social services providers, Makki Mosque, and Al-Rayaan Muslim Funeral Services, Brooklyn's premier Muslim funeral home. To allow our community to remain whole and maintain our voice and political power, the 44<sup>th</sup> should continue to Avenue H, as indicated on the attached map, which was submitted by Assemblymember Robert Carroll.

Thank you for your consideration

Please feel free to contact me if there is any question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mohammad Razvi", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Mohammad Razvi  
Chief Executive Officer



