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PATRICK THOMPSON

November 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Patrick Thompson. I am a Pastor and co-founder of LIC Relief. I live alongside the Long Island City waterfront that overlooks the East River, Roosevelt Island, and the East Side of Manhattan.

My family, neighbors, and congregants are constantly commuting into Manhattan and Roosevelt Island, connected by the 7 Train, F Train, bus routes and ferry service. We need a representative who not only understands the importance of infrastructure but who has the ability to ensure it gets funding in Washington so that the thousands of LIC residents who rely on it daily can continue to do so.

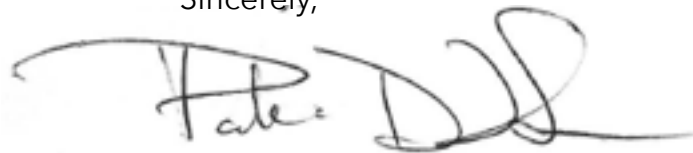
At the height of the pandemic, I co-founded LIC relief, which collaborated with local restaurants to ensure our neighbors in need had access to food. Without these restaurants and our partnership, many of our neighbors would not have had food on the table. Long Island City is home to mom and pop owned restaurants that LIC Relief relied on - similar to the restaurants on the East Side of Manhattan. We need a representative who understands the importance of small business and who will advocate for continued relief as we recover from the pandemic. When our City was in need, restaurants were there for us, and we need a representative who will be there for them.

LIC relief is also leading efforts on job training and coaching. Long Island City is a busy new home to start up companies at the cutting edge of innovation. Our neighborhood is quickly becoming a hub for new jobs, similar to Cornell Tech on Roosevelt Island and innovation hubs on the East Side of Manhattan. We need representation who has a holistic view of how these startups operate, interact, and help our community.

I have seen firsthand how devastated our community was throughout the pandemic. We need experienced, knowledgeable, and savvy leadership in Congress who know how to get things done and has a proven record of accomplishment. We cannot mess around with our recovery because the years ahead are going to be pivotal for our neighborhood, city, state, and nation.

That is why I'm calling on the independent redistricting commission to keep a consecutive east side and Western Queens waterfront district so residents like myself can have the representation we deserve in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Patrick D. Thompson
Pastor, New City Church LIC
Co-Founder, LIC Relief