



February 15, 2023

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

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

St. Nicks Alliance is a 48 year old community based not-for-profit organization located in North Brooklyn. We are submitting this testimony to oppose the proposed change in the in the New York State Assembly lines to create District 38 combining the east part of Williamsburg with neighborhoods in Queens.

St. Nicks Alliance has our Central office and numerous service sites located in the proposed 38th Assembly District. St. Nicks Alliance assists more than 17,000 individuals annually with activities including, housing, education, healthcare and employment. A substantial number of these individuals live in the contiguous community of Greenpoint and Williamsburg. We also manage affordable rental and cooperative properties and community facilities providing services. We operate community centers, afterschool and senior centers including the Afterschool program at the Grand Street Campus high schools which would be part of this 38th district. The clients of our programs are substantially comprised of low income Black and Latino residents.

The proposed Assembly district lines will arbitrarily and needlessly split North Brooklyn neighborhoods. The residents living in the proposed new 38th Assembly District will have their electoral voice diluted by inclusion with the Queens neighborhoods that have very different profiles. These residents are low income renters, persons of color which is not the predominant profile of the small homeowners located in the Queens communities. Those neighborhoods are separated from Brooklyn physically by Newtown Creek and as well as demographically, economically and in many other ways. The Brooklyn clients and residents have concerns about the roads, public transit, schools and commercial districts in Brooklyn not Queens. The resulting 38th Assembly district would be focused on services and resources not accessed by the Brooklyn community. Brooklyn is

East Williamsburg should stay included with a Brooklyn Assembly District, either the 50th or 53rd Districts. We request the commission keep our area of Brooklyn whole and not create a negative impact for the minority voters of this community by diluting their electoral voices.

Sincerely

Frank Lang
Deputy Executive Director for Housing