



WRITTEN STATEMENT OF OCA-NY

Before the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC)

By Dr. Wah Lee

November 16, 2021

My name is Dr. Wah Lee and I am a lifelong Brooklynite. As I had 10 years ago and this past August, I am testifying on behalf of OCA-NY, a member of the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force.

The APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force supports the Unity Map. The reason for this support is simple, when compared with the Letters Map or the Names Map, the Unity Map preserves marginalized communities of interest the most.

Brooklyn, Sunset Park and Bensonhurst should be kept together in the same district because these two neighborhoods form ONE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST. From Green-Wood Cemetery in Sunset Park, *anyone* who drives south on 8th Ave, then make a left turn on 65th Street, then a right on Bay Parkway, to 86 Street in Bensonhurst, will see the same type of Asian commercial signage, people, shops, eateries, and supermarkets in a continuous, contiguous, uninterrupted manner.

The population of Sunset Park and Bensonhurst have people who speak a common language other than or in addition to English, celebrate similar ethnic holidays, share similar food and grocery tastes, and have critical similar bilingual healthcare and education plus transportation needs.

BOTH neighborhoods are targets of increased Asian hate crimes since COVID-19.



In Support of the Unity Map For State Senate

In regards to the State Senate Maps. We commend the Letters Map for keeping Sunset Park and Bensonhurst together. However, the Unity map preserves Bath Beach with Bensonhurst as well.

About the Names State Senate Map, we are disappointed that it completely divides Sunset Park from Bensonhurst. This configuration would purposefully diminish the rights of this Asian community of interest.

We support the Unity Map for State Senate redistricting. It is created by the People, for the People.

In Support of the Unity Map For State Assembly

Regarding the State Assembly Maps, we support the Unity Map over the Letters Map and the Names Map. The Unity Map is the only map which keeps Sunset Park and Bensonhurst together. There is no need to divide the single community of interest which spans these two neighborhoods, and the Unity Map shows how it can be done.

We support the Unity Map for State Assembly redistricting. It is created by the People, for the People.



Please Accept the Unity Maps For State Senate and State Assembly Redistricting

In conclusion, please give the Unity Maps for State Senate and State Assembly your full consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Wah Lee

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