

September 15, 2021

Good Day Commissioners,

My name is Irsa Weatherspoon, a lifelong resident of Crown Heights and living in Crown Heights North (CHN) for last 26 years. I am the Chairperson of Community Board 8 and a Board Director of Crown Heights North Association. I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

For too long we have witnessed the disfranchisement of communities of color that has been reflected in the lack of attention, services, funds and opportunities. Unfortunately, our community of CHN which is settled between Crown Heights South and Bedford Stuyvesant falls in that abyss of disfranchisement.

We are a working class community, whereby the majority of our residents are people of color that share the same family, educational, cultural and recreational values. People who have made their investment in this community and aspire to live a fruitful life. that should be able to receive adequate services as well as have our needs met through adequate and fair representation of our elected officials.

CHN has been drawn and quartered. In the political landscape, we have 4 veins of representation that include 2 Congressional members, 2 State Senators, 2 City Council members and 4 Assembly members.

It is essential that CHN stays intact. We are seeking to acutely narrow the divide, so we can be the main thought and not the after thought, in receipt of what is leftover. This can be achieved by redrawing the lines of CHN for a more sustained and precise representation.

The request is that the CHN footprint be redrawn to reflect the boundaries as furnished in the accompanying map, so we may be afforded the full breadth of services and opportunities that only fair and adequate representation can provide.

**Crown Heights Proposed Population** - 140,834 (within the allowable 5% increase from the 134,675 population guideline)

Again, Commissioners thank you for your time.

Yours in Community,  
Irsa Weatherspoon