

Stephen Chesler
980 Manhattan Ave., Apt #3
Brooklyn, NY 11222
Assembly District 50

February 14, 2023

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Re: Draft Assembly Plan

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Stephen Chesler. I am 21-year resident of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, a member of Brooklyn Community Board #1 serving as its Environmental Protection Committee Chair, the Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group and two North Brooklyn park friends groups. During my entire time living and working in this community, and I know for many many decades prior to that, Greenpoint has been unified within one Assembly District. As a whole community we have been able to formidably face incredible environmental and land use challenges over these decades. A giant trash incinerator, extreme over burdening with waste transfer sites, 3 power plants, 3 superfund sites, a giant oil spill and hurricane storm surge flooding that spilled over our waterfronts are the main environmental goliaths that only a unified Greenpoint has been best been able to work through together. Storm surge flooding from Hurricane Sandy caused highly polluted Newtown Creek to spill over its banks and flow down McGuinness Boulevard, impacting both the east and west side of Greenpoint. We must justly continue to be able to work as one, as most of these issues will persist into the future. They all affect and will continue to affect the entirety of Greenpoint, together with Williamsburg.

Greenpoint is also home to one of the largest Polish communities outside of Poland. This community has been the backbone of this neighborhood for generations. Polish residents and businesses span both sides of McGuinness Boulevard, which as proposed as a new de facto district dividing line, will serve to tear up this core fabric of our neighborhood and dilute its rich history, which would be a tragedy. Let's not make the mistake that was made by constructing the Brooklyn Queens Expressway through the middle of Latino and Italian neighborhoods in Williamsburg.

In 2005 Greenpoint and Williamsburg experienced one the largest rezonings in New York City history. Significant commitments were made by the City to North Brooklyn to create large amounts of affordable housing and open space, and to protect manufacturing. However most of these commitments remain grossly unfulfilled. A unified district was very powerful in obtaining these commitments upfront, but getting full delivery on them will require us to remain together as one strong network in our current assembly district.

Greenpoint has so much work to do regarding infrastructure improvements, environmental remediation, economic development, education and climate resiliency (almost the entire neighborhood is surrounded by water!). We live, work and fight for our neighborhood together, for generations. It is a wonderful big village. Please don't break it up!

I strongly recommend that the commission revise its draft map to keep the neighborhood of Greenpoint fully intact as it currently is, within Assembly District 50.

Thank you for your time.

Stephen Chesler
Greenpoint, Brooklyn
AD 50