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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

## **VIA ONLINE PORTAL**

January 12, 2023

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

### **Opposing New York State Assembly district boundaries redrawn by the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission**

At the January 11, 2023 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (the “IRC”) is in the process of redrawing New York State Assembly district boundaries to reflect population and demographic changes based on the 2020 US Census;

**WHEREAS**, the IRC is seeking public input into the redistricting process from different stakeholders, which includes Community Boards;

**WHEREAS**, Assembly District 73 (“AD73”) and Assembly District 74 (“AD74”) currently overlap with the boundaries of Manhattan Community Board 6 (“CB6”);

**WHEREAS**, CB6 and community-based organizations in CB6 have concluded that the newly proposed Assembly District lines do not comport with the New York State redistricting criteria and the mandate of the IRC to not create districts that divide counties or towns;

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Constitution identifies the following districting requirements: (1) voting rights protections where districts cannot deny or abridge racial minority voting groups; (2) an equal population standard where districts must contain equal numbers of people (one-person, one-vote); (3) a prohibition on drawing districts that discourage competition or that favor or disfavor incumbents or partisan candidates; (4) requirements that all districts consist of contiguous territory and be as compact in form as practicable; and (5) a requirement to consider maintaining the cores of existing districts or pre-existing political subdivisions and to consider “communities of interest”;

**WHEREAS**, the preliminary draft released on December 1, 2022 proposes removing neighborhoods on the East Side of Manhattan from AD73 and AD74 and adding them to the Queens-based Assembly District 36 (“AD36”);

**WHEREAS**, the IRC's proposal to add a portion of Manhattan and all of Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based Assembly District, AD36, and create a new crossover district between Queens and Manhattan, violates the New York State Redistricting requirement in the following ways: (1) it fails to keep neighborhoods and communities intact; (2) fails to keep the district compact; (3) it creates an oddly shaped crossover district;

**WHEREAS**, the East Side of Manhattan and the Queens portions of AD36 have distinct housing, transportation and open space needs and the proposed combination may result in a significant diminution of municipal services to, amongst others, senior citizens and people with disabilities which populate a large share of those areas;

**WHEREAS**, the areas from Manhattan's East Side that would be moved to AD36 in Queens under this proposal includes several green spaces that are part of major long-term strategic initiatives connecting the East Side of Manhattan that are already underway;

**WHEREAS**, the East Midtown Greenway (East 53rd - 61st Streets) is a major construction project already underway, and is part of the City's grand vision to "close the loop" of the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway;

**WHEREAS**, there will be practical difficulties of having a two Borough Queens-Manhattan district; and a two Borough Queens-Manhattan assembly district will require the AD36 Assembly Member to have two district offices so that residents of both boroughs have adequate access to services;

**WHEREAS**, by separating part of the East Side and placing it in AD36, the IRC has divided a neighborhood and communities of interest in direct violation of its mandate;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that CB6 disapproves of the IRC's proposed Preliminary Plan #1 redistricting map which moves approximately 60 blocks of Manhattan's East Side and Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based Assembly District and strongly urges that these areas remain in a Manhattan-based State Assembly District.

**VOTE: 39 In Favor 1 Opposed 1 Abstention 1 Not Entitled**

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez  
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Alex Bores, Assembly Member  
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member  
Reshma Patel, Chair, CB6 Budget & Governmental Affairs Committee