

2/15/2023

RE: Redistricting Maps, Greenpoint, Brooklyn

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

Over 100 community members and neighbors of North Brooklyn have signed on to this public testimony, written in collaboration by County Committee Members, to express our concerns over the newest IRC map that divides our community in half. The newest proposed AD50 encompasses the western half of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, while the eastern half of our community is becoming part of AD38. AD38 is a Queens-centric district that would represent at least five different neighborhoods including Greenpoint, Long Island City, Maspeth, Glendale, and Rego Park.

The bifurcation of McGuinness Boulevard under the current redistricting plan will serve to separate the longstanding Greenpoint Polish Community, diminishing its heritage, unique character, heart and spirit, like the BQE did to our Williamsburg neighborhood. The split of AD50 along McGuinness Boulevard and lower along Driggs Avenue will also divide a community that has successfully faced environmental challenges threatening our neighborhood. This includes the designation of two federal superfund sites, the building of at least three power plants, and flood resiliency planning. The separation of North Brooklyn is a direct threat to organizers and community members who have worked together to accomplish important climate resiliency, mitigation, and clean-up projects and ensure city/state funding for this work.

The split of North Brooklyn denies us the ability to function as one community and places neighbors at odds with respect to funding for various programs including education, mass transit, economic development, infrastructure repairs and environmental remediation. The proposed maps create an untenable situation for those neighbors who will be moved into AD38, a small but important part of the community, who have a long history in protecting our neighborhood's transition to residential from industrial. Our neighbors will face a tremendous environmental burden if the current maps move forward.

We request for the community of Greenpoint to be kept whole, so we can better coordinate with city agencies and our representatives on the provision of services. The 2005 Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning left this community desperately striving to have NYC fulfill its commitments for creating more affordable housing and open space. Our community has been and must continue to work together to achieve these needs and to preserve our neighborhoods and support its residents.

Together we makeup less than 30 blocks east to west and we believe there is a necessity to keep the neighborhood cohesive and recognize Greenpoint as a longstanding Community of Interest.

Thank you,