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THE COUNCIL OF
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MARK GJONAJ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 13TH DISTRICT, BRONX

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New York State Independent Redistricting Commission Bronx County Meeting
Written Testimony

November 9, 2021

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

I am Councilman Mark Gjonaj representing District 13 and I am pleased to hear the redistricting proposals of our state and federal legislatures being discussed in a transparent and open forum.

With any redistricting discussion, the goal must be to keep communities of shared interest, culture, ethnicity, and any other commonality, together. These are our natural boundaries so to speak, and their efficacy as a political unit must not be altered. In solidarity, not division, they achieve the greatest opportunity at accurate and faithful representation.

As an elected official, we must do the bidding of the people who we represent. I urge you all to listen carefully to the testimony we are hearing today, carefully weighing their concerns and community-specific challenges, and in making final determinations on redistricting, ultimately address them. If our redistricting efforts are attuned to community input, we can achieve better representation at all levels of government.

After the Bronx County meeting, I reserve the right to follow up on the concerns, such as gerrymandering and community of interest division, that were brought up. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gjonaj".

NYC Councilman Mark Gjonaj
District 13, Bronx