

## Independent Redistricting Commission Testimony

My name is Elizabeth Pooran, I have lived at 150-39 114 Street for 14 years and I am 28 years old. My occupation is project manager for an educational nonprofit.

I support the Independent Redistricting Commission's draft map for Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park because I believe our community of interest should be represented in one unified district, and not four. So our community members gain access to the essential resources they need to better their lives and those around them who help our community thrive. So elders who walk long stretches along Liberty Avenue getting their groceries for the week have a place to rest, and clean facilities to use. So we're not left behind when the city is being provided with COVID kits and other essential resources. In 2020, zip code 11419 in our community had the highest COVID positivity rate, and was the last zip code to receive a testing site and COVID tests. Because of this, many members of our community are no more.

I support the Independent Redistricting Commission's draft map so that our community has equal access to political representation. So we can vote for and count on candidates that can support us as a unified district. My friends and I live in South Ozone Park, part of the Guyanese community, same zip code, but different representatives, where our local council members are from opposite parties.

I support the Independent Redistricting Commission's draft map so our community is fairly represented and so that we can continue to be the doctors, lawyers, educators, and so much more that we are for society.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to be heard.