11/22/2021

Redistricting testimony

I want to thank the commission for giving me the time to testify:

My name is Brachie Schreiber. I am a member of the Jewish community and reside in Far Rockaway, NY which geographically speaking is at the eastern tip of the Rockaway Peninsula and is immediately adjacent to the Jewish incorporated Villages of Lawrence and the hamlet of Inwood in Nassau county. Which both encompass the same communities of interest.

Currently, under the current maps assembly maps, both communities of interest included in  Far Rockaway & Bayswater are connected. The current senatorial districts are divided as this one Jewish community currently has two representatives.

I am asking this commission to take into account the unification of Far Rockaway, Bayswater and the connecting communities of interest in the neighboring neighborhoods in Nassau County so that the unique interests of these communities are Jewish not diluted in this redistricting process.

These communities of interest are currently mapped out within the Far Rockaway community Erev.  An erev is an area within  which observant Jews can carry or push objects on the Sabbath, without violating a Jewish law that prohibits carrying anything except within the home.  There is one erev that connects Rockaway residents and the bordering Nassau county residents. The current boundary lines run from the Nassau county line west to Beach 32nd street and within Nassau county from the Nassau County line including Inwood and Lawrence.  The erev crosses the Nassau expressway along Seagirt Blvd into Rock Hall Road east till Meadow lane which at that point turns North to Central Ave and the LIRR railroad stop.

Both Far Rockaway and Nassau county have access with public transportation by utilizing the LIRR and the Nassau county N31 and N32 bus routes. This connection allows for many communities of interest from within Far Rockaway to obtain employment within Nassau county as Far Rockaway has one of the highest unemployment rates within New York City and this can be a great opportunities to have the right representation focus on the transportation needs and employment needs of Rockaways residents.

The Far Rockaway community stands firmly behind their incumbents of Assmeblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato and State Senator Joe Addabbo as they are very attentive to our needs. When this commission redraws the district lines, I ask that you please incorporate all neighborhoods mentioned into their assembly & senatorial districts.

Currently, the Jewish Community in Far Rockaway & Bayswater are split between 2 state senate districts. It does not allow for any conformity to representation in the State Senate.  Again, we need to be in one State Senate district.  We are asking when you redraw your drafts that these communities of interest already connected by the Eruv be connected, while keeping the current elected officials Stacey Pheffer Amato & Joe Addabbo currently the representatives for the Far Rockaway community.

The current congressional district combines both Rockaway Jewish communities and parts of the neighboring Jewish communities in Nassau county.

Please make every effort to keep these communities of interest unified. I want to thank the commission for their time in allowing my testimony.

*Brachie Schreiber*