I don’t know why AD52 would need to be re-lined, but I do know why it should remain as it is.

I was born in Long Island College Hospital in 1951 and currently live on Third Street. As a life long resident I can attest to the strength and beauty of this assembly district and, more importantly, this community.

Back in the day the neighborhood boundaries were determined by the sound of church bells. If you could hear the bells of St. Agnes, that was your parish. If you could hear St. Peter’s bells, that is where you went to school and to mass. We were St. Paul’s parishioners.

Now there are districting lines that determine who goes where. Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Gowanus are not parishes, but they are established communities with common interests and values. As a member of the Third Street Block Association I have witnessed the strength of community members working together for the benefit of the whole:

.We joined to stop the illegal preparation of roofing materials from a commercial renter on 4th street.

.We joined to stop the approval of a liquor license for an after hours club on Hoyt and 3rd.

.We joined to endorse the approval of a liquor license for a Korean café on Smith and 3rd.

.We joined to participate in and monitor plans for Public Place along the canal.

.We joined together to also support the Superfund planning of the canal clean-up.

We are a family community. And there is no better testament to our strength and beauty than our annual block party. Ask anyone in Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens or Gowanus ,”Who throws the best block party in all of Brooklyn? “ Third Street! And it is open to all. Our flyers encourage residents to invite friends from other blocks and neighborhoods and districts to come join us in celebrating our community here – and they do. It is a beautiful, joyous, annual gathering of neighborhood families celebrating their community.

Third Street should not be separated from the rest of the community as the new proposed districting lines seem to indicate.

I worked in Fort Greene for 15 years at Brooklyn Technical High School. It was a great commute from Carroll Gardens. But it was and still is a very different kind of neighborhood. The new districting lines ignore those major differences, and lump both neighborhoods together.

Ft. Greene is very crowded with lots of skyscrapers and huge international corporations like Apple. It has a very active nightlife with a multitude of entertainment centers. It is a transportation hub with traffic coming from all directions and few pedestrian friendly walkways. It has become an exciting destination for thousands of visitors.

Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens are sometimes referred to as “sleepy” neighborhoods. They are quiet, and small scale. They are family focused. Residents walk to their shops and doctors and day care centers, schools and churches. Our problems cannot compare to those of Ft. Greene.

Re-districting Carroll Gardens to exclude Third Street and include Fort Greene is not a solution to any problems in our community. In fact, it would do more harm than good.