Greetings members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Gail Muhammad and I am a lifelong resident of Crown Heights North. I am currently the President of the 1200 Dean Street Block Association Inc., 1st Vice Chair of Community Board 8 and the Vice President of the Crown Heights North Association Inc.  I am also a prime voter who has voted in every election since 1968.

I am here today to bring attention to how Crown Heights North has been divided and fractured over the past 10 years. The way we are divided as a community has diminished our political power and our voices.  Crown Heights North is seeking cohesive political representation.  Now is the time for the NYIRC and the community to make Crown Heights North whole.  We want to be absorbed into an Assembly district that is compact and contiguous with a community that shares the same history, culture, needs and interests.  Over the past year several Crown Heights North residents have worked with the Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights Committee for Fair Redistricting. We have reviewed the proposed map for the 43rd and 56 Assembly Districts. It appears that the 43AD proposed map supports Crown Heights North becoming whole. However, we do share cultural history, institutions, architectural integrity and historic designation with the 56AD. Crown Heights North Association has worked very hard to obtain landmark status.

It is our hope that the integrity of our community is maintained. We are urging the commission to consider making Crown Heights North whole.

Gail Branch Muhammad