Independent Redistricting Commission

250 Broadway, 22nd Floor

New York, NY 10007

My name is Bazah Roohi and I am the founder and executive director of the American Council for Minority Women (ACMW) at 1090 Coney Island Avenue. I am writing with the urgent request that the IRC allow for our block of Coney Island Avenue between Foster and Avenue H to remain in the 44th Assembly District.

ACMW was established in July 2005 by the women of the Minority Community of the USA for the empowerment, development, protection and promotion of human rights of women in the USA, and particularly in the state of New York. While continuing to increase awareness regarding violence against women, ACMW has also broadened the agenda to include all abuses of human rights. We are the first Pakistani-American organization in the USA that focuses on human rights abuses in Pakistan. ACMW has established an Adult Literacy Center in Brooklyn, which has enabled 26 women to read and write. English language and computer learning was also taught to them. Women benefited from this as they learned vocal and communication skills that in the future helped them in their jobs and everyday life.

For the past 30 years, ACMW’s location has been in the 44th Assembly District, but in the IRC’s draft plan released on December 1, 2022, you have drawn our block out of the district and thereby divided the Pakistani community and the greater South Asian community from one another. The IRC map divides the 44th Assembly District at Foster Avenue, severing the Pakistani-American community and cutting key social key social service providers, including COPO, Makki Mosque, and Al-Rayaan Muslim Funeral Services, Brooklyn’s premier Muslim funeral home. To allow our community to remain whole and maintain our voice and political power, the 44th should continue to Avenue H, as indicated on the attached map, which was submitted by Assemblymember Robert Carroll.

Thank you for your consideration