Independent Redistricting Commission

250 Broadway, 22nd Floor

New York, NY 10007

Good Afternoon,

My name is Saiyeda Momona Akhter and I live at 7 Story Court in Kensington.  I am a native of Bangladesh but have lived in the US since 1997.  Together with my husband and son, I have resided in Kensington since 1997.  My comments relate to your draft decision to divide Kensington between the 44th and 51st ADs.  Since it involves only a few blocks I believe it should be wholly in the 44th AD.  This may seem like a small thing to you but it will have profound consequences for the people of Kensington.

As with most Brooklyn neighborhoods, Kensington is ethnically, economically, and religiously diverse.  It does, however, contain within it one of New York’s largest and growing South Asian communities.  It is this that I ask you to consider.  Neighborhood institutions including mosques, such as Masjid Nur Al-Islam and Darul Jannah Masjid, Churches such as Immaculate Heart of Mary, numerous fraternal organizations and merchants catering to the South Asian community should be kept together, not divided by artificial political boundaries.

I propose that you keep all of Kensington in the 44th AD. This neighborhood, from Ocean Parkway on the East to 39th Street on the West and from Green-Wood cemetery on the North to Foster Avenue on the south is a geographic whole with clearly defined boundaries. It has for as long as I can remember been apart of the 44th AD and the Assemblymember for that district, Robert Carroll, is well known and has been very responsive to the needs of the South Asian community.  We would like to continue our work with him.  Additionally, it is vital that Little Pakistan and the surrounding blocks that the IRC removed around Coney Island Avenue remain whole with the Prospect Park South Neighborhood all within the 44th AD. Please do not cut us out of the 44th AD.

I know the lines must be drawn somewhere and that not everyone can be happy.  The minor changes in your plan which I propose however, would be of great help to my neighbors generally, and to the South Asian community specifically.

Thank You.