

Morningside Heights Historic District Committee  
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Good afternoon. My name is Laura Friedman and I am the President of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee (MHHDC).

As I stated in my testimony of July, 2021, The Morningside Heights Historic District Committee was formed in the 1990s to preserve our neighborhood by pursuing a NYC Historic District designation. Though we prefer to be known as Morningside Heights, our community is often referred to as the Upper Upper Westside and this continues to be the case.

We are testifying today because we believe that the Westside of Manhattan should remain in one Congressional District. When we achieved the first phase of historic districting, one of our crowning achievements was connecting all of Riverside Drive from its beginning block on West 72 Street all the way up to W. 119th Street.

To that end, we request that our District be in Map J and not Map Q.

It is no surprise that the West Side of Manhattan has among the largest number of periodical readers in the country. Morningside Heights, which is represented by the 10th Congressional District, has a higher concentration of diverse academic institutions than any other area in NYC. This helps to create the intellectual synergy that is particularly felt on the West Side and attracts those in the academic fields to our community. Additionally, we still retain the wonderful advantages of being a diverse community, both ethnically and economically, that bring a richness to our unique westside experience. Cultural enclaves such as Broadway, Lincoln Center, Chelsea and the Village connect directly to the Manhattan School of Music on West 120th Street and Claremont Ave, along with the Film programs of Columbia University down to NYU.

Manhattan is largely a linear borough and the distinction is quite clear when you look at the way we are organized, both socially and structurally. Our subways run north and south on the westside, meeting up through our large transportation hubs such as the Port Authority, Penn Station, PATH trains and the Fulton Center. Riverside Park, running along the Hudson River, not only connects us socially, but allows us to develop the necessary protections that are needed for this unique westside stretch of parkland.

We believe that keeping these communities under one Congressional District, that of the West Side of Manhattan and Morningside Heights, will best protect the needs and interests of those that live and work here.

Again, the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee requests that our District be in Map J and not Map Q.

Respectfully Submitted by: Laura Friedman, President