

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF OCA-NY

Before the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC)

By: Suzanna Au Yeung

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My name is Suzanna Au Yeung. I was born and raised in Brooklyn and have lived here for over 26 years with my family. I am testifying on behalf of OCA-NY, a member of the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force.

While the letter's map unites Sunset Park and Bensonhurst, we would like to show our full support for the Unity Map because it not only keeps Sunset Park and Bensonhurst together as a community of interest, it also creates a majority Asian American state senate district. With a 43% increase in the APA population over the past decade, Brooklyn is ready for its first majority Asian American state senate district.

These two areas have similar shops, restaurants, medical services, supermarkets, and people. I, personally, jump between Sunset Park and Bensonhurst with my parents for day-to-day needs since they both offer similar services, ranging from doctor's visits, shopping for groceries, and eating food within our culture. We feel at home when visiting these communities because we speak a common language and understand each other's culture. These two areas are one of the same, and should be looked at that way.

For the Names State Senate Map, we are disappointed that it divides Sunset Park and Bensonhurst. This divide would diminish the rights of the Asian community of interest, divide beneficial resources, and decrease the community's political power.

We hope you will hear our voices and adopt the Unity Map.