Written Testimony in Opposition to Redistricting the Upper East Side

I have been a resident of the Upper East Side, in the same building on E 72nd Street and First Avenue, for close to 40 years, and I am proud of our neighborhood and the sense of community I share with my neighbors. We are a cohesive population with shared interests and concerns. We clearly identify as Upper East Siders and Manhattanites, and this egregious proposed plan is an assault to that sense of identity and community.

To note, the proposed plan to splinter off the far East Side is a gross violation of four of the criteria set forth in City Charter Section 52 (1) (c) (d) and (e) and Section 52 (2).

The violation of those criteria results in districts where:

* neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact,
* the proposed district is not compact,
* the proposed district results in an extreme crossover district, and
* the proposed district is very oddly shaped.

The proposal plan would segregate Upper East Siders in affected areas from their neighbors, and severely disenfranchise them. The splinter area will not receive the attention and interest of officials they did not elect and by being split from their longtime community by this arbitrary demarcation, would be at a severe disadvantage in representation, attention, discretionary funding, and voting influence.

Additionally, the splinter area has elementary schools and the leading hospitals serving the other Manhattan residents, so they too would be disenfranchised from representation of their best interests.

**I strongly disagree with the proposed re-districting plan** and ask the Commission to hear the growing public dissatisfaction with this plan. Please adopt the proposed map submitted late last year by Community Board 8 where the Upper East Side remains intact and the natural water boundaries of the East River serve as district border lines.

**It is imperative that the Upper East Side remain intact.**  Additionally, Roosevelt Island is part of Manhattan, but if the population numbers require a shift, it would make sense to adhere to the water boundary of the East River, with Roosevelt Island shifting to Council District 26.

Thank you for your consideration of this written testimony.

Lydia Canizares

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