

January 31 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Chair Ken Jenkins and Members of the Assembly Redistricting Committee:

The goal of redistricting is to create districts that are roughly equal in population and that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, provide access to open areas, maintain vital conditions for development and preserve the cultural and ethnic character.

As a borough of the metropolitan New York City and also known as Bronx County, its location on the most northern of the city, is the only mainland borough of New York. The Bronx has a population of over 1.4 million people and is known for its diverse cultural communities, historical sites, parks and recreation areas, and vibrant arts scene. Some notable landmarks in the Bronx include Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage. The Bronx is also home to several important institutions of higher education, including Fordham University and Bronx Community College.

The Assembly District 86th serve as the most northernly connection to the tip of Northern Manhattan making it a connector to the neighborhoods in Manhattan and the Bronx. The configuration of the district for many years has serve as a point of arrival to many looking for more affordable rent, job opportunities and more open streetscape. The 86th District enjoys the access to the water of the East Side River or Harlem River and views of the Inwood area in Manhattan and even is a thoroughfare to the Deegan expressway to the north and the east.

Each Assembly District in the Bronx has its own unique blend of residential, commercial, and industrial areas, as well as cultural communities and access to transportation options. Some Assembly Districts may be known for their parks and recreation areas, while others may be known for their high levels of poverty or crime.

It is important to consider the specific needs and priorities of each Assembly District when evaluating changes to the district. The need for more open fields, parks and recreation areas makes the water front and its open land a prime location for the release of congested street throughfare of the borough. I see this of paramount necessity to maintain and preserve the existing district lines. These existing lines are vital to the success and economic attainment of the population of the district and its future.

53.3% of the Bronx's population identified as Hispanic or Latino. It is likely that Assembly District 86th in the Bronx also has a similar Hispanic/Latino population, furthermore, is the district with the highest

statistics for the lowest income ratios of the city making this a challenge to improve the quality of life of its residents.

The 2023 board must take in consideration that every inch of land is important for the next opportunity that might arrive to provide the district with needed resources in recreational space, medical facilities, educational facilities, commercial development and housing. The proposed map for re-districting proposed to cut off vital land on the water front, land desperately needed for the empowerment and development of its residences. Taking away the waterfront, will crowd even more the people's hopes to improve and make a better Bronx County.

In a final note, I want to ask you as a small business owner on the waterfront, at the local Storage Post down in the river and as I joined to hundreds of small businesses running their affairs every day at this location, it is vital we protect these businesses and the district protect us from being displaced "Gentrified" from our place of work. Don't allow the proposal to remove the section of the waterfront from Kingsbridge Road to the bridge of Fordham Road / 207th street. The district needs this land and we need to stay in our district. Keep the district together do not change it.

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