



Coalition For Asian American
Children+Families

Dear Commissioners:

Hello, My name is Lloyd Feng, and I am the Special Projects Policy Coordinator of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF).

Since 1986, CACF has been the nation's only pan-Asian children and families' advocacy organization, leading the fight for equitable policies and services to support marginalized Asian American communities in New York City and State. CACF works with over 100 organizations serving East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Central Asian, and Middle Eastern North African community members.

Asian Americans comprise 18% of New York City's overall population and are the fastest growing racial group across the city, the state, and the nation. Yet, our community receives far less than what we need: last year, the NYS AAPI Equity Budget Coalition co-led by CACF successfully advocated for just over \$20 million toward funding AAPI-serving CBOs; a huge win, but a mere drop in the ocean of the state's \$220 billion budget. This means our communities, as well as the organizations that serve the community, often do not receive enough public resources to provide critical services for those in need.

I would like to stress the importance of protecting the marginalized Asian American communities of interest that so often are neglected by government, sometimes by mistake, other times willfully, but always at their expense.

As a member of the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force, CACF strongly supports all nine of the APA VOICE-backed maps that you can find in Elizabeth OuYang's testimony.

In particular, CACF would like to offer testimony on three Assembly districts: **AD 65, AD 47, and AD 49.**

AD 65:

CACF strongly supports the IRC's proposed AD 65 because it best keeps the Asian American community of interest in Chinatown/LES whole with Crosby Street as the westernmost boundary and East Houston Street and Delancey Street as drawn as the northern boundaries.

Chinatown/LES has the highest ratio of proportion of senior citizens and proportion of seniors who are living below poverty among all neighborhoods in Manhattan. Many multigenerational households, working-class parents, immigrant workers, disabled residents, and aging caregivers rely on the lifeblood of Chinese-language resources and culturally responsive services available here. To divide our community would surely lead to far less consideration and far fewer resources to meet their needs.

AD 47 and AD 49:

We strongly support the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force's proposed revisions to the IRC draft map for AD 47 and AD 49. Some of CACF's member organizations are based in and/or serve clients from South Brooklyn and have identified two Asian American communities of interest in those areas, one centered around Bensonhurst (AD 47) and the other around Sunset Park (AD 49). The boundaries are in the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force Proposed Maps for AD 49 and AD 47 that have already been submitted by Elizabeth OuYang.

An analysis of the 2020 Neighborhood Tabulation Area (NTA2020) data, which the NYC Department of Planning develops by aggregating US Census block data, reveals that South Brooklyn deserves at least one majority Asian district and at least one other plurality Asian district (see Figures 1 and 2).

Sunset Park Central: 56.5%, Sunset Park East: 54.7%, Gravesend West: 44.1%, Bensonhurst: 43.9%, Bath Beach: 41.0%

But for some reason, the IRC's draft map splits these Asian communities in South Brooklyn into three districts (AD 49, AD 46, and AD 47). The IRC draft map does include an Asian majority district in its version of AD 49, but it leaves AD 46 and AD 47 each with just about 35% Asian population. This is strange and deeply concerning to South Brooklyn's Asian community members who

time and again have shown up to public hearings hosted by state and city redistricting commissions, and called for maps that not only respect the irrefutable growth in South Brooklyn's Asian population, but also keep our communities of interest whole. I urge the Commission to adhere to the standards established in the federal Voting Rights Act and the recently passed state voting rights act that explicitly protect the rights of minorities including Asian communities in redistricting.

It is imperative that the IRC keep these two communities of interest whole to best enable these communities to advocate for their needs, particularly in the electoral, budget, and policy processes. These communities have a number of needs ranging from public safety, affordable housing, rigorous and inclusive education, affordable senior care, disabilities, etc. that are unique given the high degree of language access needs.

All in all, I urge the Commission to adopt the maps that best preserve the integrity and best respect the boundaries of our Asian American communities of interest as provided in APA VOICE's nine maps.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lloyd Feng

Figure 1.

Geography						2020 Data	
						Asian non-Hispanic	
						Number	Percent
Order	GeoType	Borough	GeoID	ACT2020	Name	ANH_20	ANH_21
152	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0702		Sunset Park (West)	7,139	13.1
153	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0703		Sunset Park (Central)	31,444	56.5
154	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0771		Green-Wood Cemetery	2	40.0
155	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0801		Prospect Heights	2,041	8.7
156	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0802		Crown Heights (North)	3,461	4.1
157	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0891		Lincoln Terrace Park	0	
158	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0901		Crown Heights (South)	931	1.8
159	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK0902		Prospect Lefferts Gardens-Wingate	1,610	3.3
160	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1001		Bay Ridge	13,662	15.7
161	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1002		Dyker Heights	22,042	47.1
162	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1061		Fort Hamilton	81	10.5
163	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1091		Dyker Beach Park	0	
164	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1101		Bensonhurst	46,034	43.9
165	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1102		Bath Beach	13,543	41.0
166	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1103		Gravesend (West)	26,717	44.1
167	NTA2020	Brooklyn	BK1201		Sunset Park (East)-Borough Park (West)	19,480	54.7

Figure 2.

