



STATEMENT TO NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
FROM MAE LEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 7, 2023 AT HUNTER COLLEGE

My name is Mae Lee, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) which is located in Manhattan's Chinatown/Lower East side.

CPA serves those who live, work, or go to school in this area. They are low income. Among our clients and members it is typical for a family of three to earn \$25,000 a year. Among other things, we provide services to new immigrants, classes and assistance to help them become U.S. citizens, and register them to vote after they become American citizens. While we primarily serve the Chinese community, some of our programs are attended by a diverse group of Asian, Latino, African, and Caribbean immigrants.

We are a member of the APASVoice Redistricting Task Force

Before 1990, this area was divided into different political districts in all legislative bodies and at all levels of government. This did not help our community because our voice was diluted between the different districts.

Today, residents still share the same interests, concerns, needs. Residents have similar socioeconomic characteristics. All utilize the same stores, hospitals, services. The kids go to the same schools. The area is diverse but it is still a community of interest. It should be kept intact as shown in the Independent Redistricting Commission's draft plan for Assembly District 65.

We support the Independent Redistricting Commission's draft plan for Assembly District 65 because it keeps Chinatown and the Lower East Side together in one Assembly District.