

KINGS COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING

To: The Independent Redistricting Commission
From: Joan Ramsey, Resident of the 56th Assembly District
339A Halsey Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216
Date: February 14, 2023
Re: 56th AD Draft Plans of Proposed District Lines - Testimony

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission,

My name is Joan Ramsey and I reside at 339A Halsey Street, Brooklyn, NY, where I have lived for over 25 years. I also resided for 10 years at 340 Stuyvesant Avenue, making a total of 35 years in the district.

I am in support of keeping as drawn the current district map of the 56th AD for the following reasons:

We want to remain united with Crown Heights, our neighboring community because we have many commonalities, such as shared small businesses, ancestry ties in the Weeksville area, and the desire to preserve numerous landmarks.

We have a working relationship with elected officials where we have toiled and continue to work to protect homeowners from predatory realtors.

Our 56th AD is the home to the first Community Development Corporation whose initiation and growth I witnessed.

We have fought together to keep Interfaith Hospital open to provide medical services and healthcare to our residents.

We share continuous deep-rooted traditions and attend some of the oldest institutions such as the 250 year old Bridge Street AME Church, part of the Underground Railroad. I am currently a member for over 25 years and started my religious life at Cornerstone Baptist Church another longstanding religious institution in the community. In addition, I participated in the 194 year old Brooklyn Sunday school parade in my youth.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a survey for the redevelopment of the Marcus Garvey Armory which can benefit our community economically and provide wellness programs allowing more opportunities for our district.

I am opposed to any new draft district map that would deplete the Black population from 52% to 46% and weaken the Black vote.

Submitted by
Joan Ramsey