Pearl Jacobs

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willene.s.jacobs@gmail.com December 5, 2021

NYS Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to express my thoughts and opinions concerning redistricting. I reside in Uniondale, NY a hamlet in Nassau County. District lines were drawn as a result of a lawsuit almost thirty years ago that “packed together “minority communities thus creating what many people in Nassau County refer to as the “corridor of color”. The intent of the lawsuit was for minority communities to receive better representation and this initiative would bring about “better government”; unfortunately the outcome was not positive for Uniondale. Uniondale’s identity has been encroached upon, referring to the fictitious entity of “East Garden City” where concealed tactics were used to erase Uniondale’s identity and to eventually remove Uniondale’s commercial tax base. The tactic of “back door” zip codes was implemented to remove Uniondale’s identity from Museum Row for the purpose of establishing a Garden City address, thus identifying Garden City with this Nassau County destination.

Uniondale is further suppressed by gerrymandering; our district maps indicate that the small community of Uniondale has three NYS Assembly persons and two Nassau County Legislators. As a result of this perplexing zoning residents are met with frustration along with “finger pointing” and “passing the buck” tactics by our elected representatives while attempting to advocate for their community. Uniondale has one of the highest commercial tax revenue bases in Nassau County yet its residential community receives minimal investment; many Uniondale residents view their community as a “Donor Community”. When residents inquire as to why Uniondale’s roads and streets are left to languish in disrepair or why Uniondale does not have an urgent care center while neighboring communities outside of Legislative District One receives a plethora of investments (i.e.; East Meadow) they are told that “Capital Bond projects are not scheduled in a fair and equitable manner; projects that are placed on the calendar for minority communities remain dormant”. This inequity issue combined with lackluster representation at the Town and County level is the reason that Uniondale’s residential community continues to languish. It is only because of strong advocation on behalf of Uniondale’s civic associations and residents that some investment has been realized.

It would be in the best interest of Nassau County residents that a nonpartisan redistricting process be established inclusive of community stakeholders. Fairness and equity to residents should be the only objective.

Sincerely,

Pearl Jacobs

President, Nostrand Gardens Civic Association (Uniondale)