

Thursday, January 13th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a community leader and resident from Stanley M. Isaacs Houses and Holmes Towers, and am writing to express my objection to the recent proposed Congressional District map, which would cut us out of our current Congressional District. The most recent map cut us off from the rest of the Upper East Side community, removing us from the 12th congressional district.

As an active community member and organizer, I understand the value of having the same Congressional Representative as our neighbors. Stanley M. Isaacs Houses and Holmes Towers share a community board, police precinct, and school district with our neighbors on the Upper East Side and we should share a Congressional district too. Working with this broader community to advocate for issues important to us has been incredibly important.

We have worked in partnership with other Upper East Siders on issues that are critical to our community, including the fight against the Marine Transfer Station, the drive to build a Second Avenue Subway, and the coalition to improve the East River Esplanade. When an infill program threatened to take land from the Holmes and Issacs complex and sell it to private developers to build luxury apartment towers, we collaborated to stop it. We wouldn't have been able to protect our public housing property from becoming unaffordable, market rate housing if we didn't have the support of the Upper East Side community.

One of the recently proposed maps takes Holmes and Issacs out of our existing district, removing us from our community and decreasing our ability to advocate for issues alongside our neighbors. I am urging the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission to adopt district lines that keep Stanley M. Isaacs Houses and Holmes Towners in the 12th Congressional District, alongside the rest of the Upper East Side.

Sincerely,

LaKeesha Taylor, Co-Founder of the Holmes-Isaacs Coalition