**testimony- Feb 7, 2023**

To the NY Redistricting Commission

Keep Roosevelt Island in Manhattan.

My name is Ellen Polivy-I am a 12 year veteran of Manhattan Community Board 8 representing Roosevelt Island and the UES. I am also a co-chair of the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition representing the 12,000 residents and 40 organizations. Thank you for holding these hearings.

For 50 years we have been part of Manhattan.

There are so many reasons to keep us in Manhattan. Here’s 2.

First: We have a strong roots Manhattan. We are an overwhelming Community of Interest. Roosevelt Island was built by NY State as a planned disabled accessible community and , as you might know, we continue to be operated by a NY State Operating Corporation, RIOC . The pioneers moved in 50 years ago, formed a tight community and learned to push for services and infrastructure and have now aged in place. The first library was books pooled from residents until we got a Manhattan public library. The tram to Upper East Side was our only public transportation for 25 years until the F train station was built. We have a long and strong political connection to Manhattan. Everyone pulls together. The Upper East Side can handle us being a pushy, organized group and we all get what we need. We have a residents association and over 40 organizations and interest groups.

Second: Our elected officials in Manhattan have come up through the ranks and have the institutional memory of the issues and history on Roosevelt Island. Being a State run Island, there are too many issues to start with a Queens Assemblymember.

Third: We will have to overwhelm that Assembly member to get attention; and we will. That will rob time and resources from the diverse Queens communities with their own pressing needs. . Your motto should be First Do No Harm.

In summary, Manhattan knows us, wants us. Queens doesn’t know us. Doesn’t want us. Manhattan is our roots. Please keep Roosevelt Island in Manhattan.

Thank you for your time.