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Testimony Independent Redistricting Commission  
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My name is Antonia Ferraro Martinelli. I reside on 2nd St. between Hoyt St. and Bond St. within the current boundaries of Assembly District 52. I have lived within AD 52 for twenty-six years. I am testifying in opposition to the proposed lines for AD 52 in [Assembly Plan B](#). This map places my residence within the confines of Assembly District 44, which encompasses neighborhoods to the southeast.

**I oppose Assembly Plan B, because it isolates a large portion of Carroll Gardens from the historic core of the district. I ask the Independent Redistricting Commission to incorporate Carroll Gardens/Gowanus within its historic assembly district, AD 52, as shown in Assembly Plan A.**

Any new map must reflect the issues and resources that affect the daily life of its residents. The Gowanus Canal, Hamilton Avenue, and the Gowanus Expressway form significant geographic boundaries that impact the locus of activity in Carroll Gardens. Residents tend to move north of these boundaries to obtain resources and services, including educational resources. Further, the Gowanus Canal and the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway Triple Cantilever are the focus of significant, complex projects that will affect Carroll Gardens residents.

### **Schools**

I have been a member of the Community Education Council of District 15 for six years. District 15 encompasses several assembly districts including AD 52 and 44. My council recently spent a year rezoning seven elementary schools within AD 52. The voters of Carroll Gardens that Assembly Plan B moves to AD 44 are zoned for schools in AD 52 and thus these families will lose access to the assembly member that can bring vital state resources to their schools. Further, the geographic barriers of the expressways and canal greatly impact the flow of families to schools which in turn impacts core hubs of activity. Families in Carroll Gardens typically attend their zoned schools in AD 52 and are less inclined to seek schools in Park Slope, Kensington, and Windsor Terrace.

### **Gowanus Canal Cleanup**

Assembly Plan B diminishes the voice of the voters who will be most impacted by the critical Gowanus Canal Cleanup by shifting the core community to Windsor Terrace and Kensington. Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill are hills that, along with Carroll Gardens/Gowanus, contribute to runoff that drains into the canal. The neighborhoods share a sewer system and experience

backups and flooding unique to their geography. The Superfund site has a long history and requires the attention of both well-versed representatives and invested constituents. The Gowanus Canal Cleanup and redevelopment simply does not have the same resonance or value to the core community of Assembly District 44.

### **BQE Triple Cantilever**

Assembly Plan B completely eliminates the voice of Carroll Gardens on the issue of the redesign and rebuild of the Triple Cantilever portion of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. This project impacts the residents of Carroll Gardens in ways that Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Kensington in AD 44 are not affected. Carroll Gardens/Gowanus is the traffic nexus of the Gowanus Expressway and Hamilton Avenue. When the construction begins, the traffic will flow up Hicks St., Clinton St., and especially Smith St. only to return down Henry St., Court St. and Hoyt St., through densely populated Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Gowanus. The neighborhoods to the north (Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights) will dominate the conversation as they will be represented as a unified Assembly District 52. While the portion of Carroll Gardens closest to the highways will be within AD 44, whose main constituent populations exist far to the southeast. Thereby Carroll Gardens loses access to the assembly member directly involved in the Triple Cantilever project.

In sum, the core communities of AD 52 and AD 44 are distinct. Carroll Gardens residents function in their daily lives within the core community of AD 52, not AD 44. Therefore, I ask the Independent Redistricting Committee to maintain the integrity of Carroll Gardens within AD 52.