

2022

8.16.22 - NYC Districting - Queens Public Hearing

Piper Benedict



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The New York City Districting Commission 2022-23 Public Hearing
Tuesday August 16, 2022 @ 5:30pm to 9pm
Museum of the Moving Image,
Sumner Redstone Theater, 36-01 35 Ave Astoria, Queens 11106

Brooklyn		
Witness Name	Organization(s)	Testimony
Dr. Zulema Blair	Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College Unity Map Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity Map – followed VRA and represented racial and language minorities to best extent possible • Kept northern Bronx whole (as is on draft map) • Want to draw lines in a way that represents the growth moving forward • District 41 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure Ocean Hill is kept whole – a lot of history in the area for people of African descent • Keep communities and neighborhoods whole as much as possible • Districts 35 and 36 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might not be beneficial to keep everything the same • How long can 35 be sustainable if some of Crown Heights (legacy families for people of African descent) is not reunited with Prospect Heights? • Keep 35 in a way that plurality is able to elect candidate of choice • Preserve 35 and 36 through 2030 • District 46 • Make sure Flatlands line is respected to keep Canarsie whole
Frankie Correa		<p>District 38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Hook and Sunset Park • Developers pushing people out • Draft will not represent working class in 38 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunset Park separated from Red Hook • Sunset Park divided by new district 43

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports creating Asian district but suggests creating district east of 9th Ave. to Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, and Bath Beach area • Don't break up two communities to create another • Proposal would be a disservice to community by tearing it apart and combining with communities that are very different
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Manhattan		
Witness Name	Organization(s)	Testimony
Barry Schneider	East Sixties Neighborhood Association (President)	<p>Districts 26 and 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District lines proposed for Queens 26 and Manhattan 5 (portions of Sutton Place, UES, Roosevelt Island) should not be adopted • Violates criteria from charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact • Not compact • Extreme crossover district • Very oddly shaped • Many communities of interest would be affected
Judith Schneider	Community Board 8M – Parks Committee (co-chair) *speaking as an individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft proposal for Manhattan and Roosevelt Island violates four of charter criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhoods and communities of interest are not kept intact (Roosevelt Island and Manhattan will be torn apart by a river) • Not compact • Extreme crossover district • Oddly shaped • Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would lose the Esplanade and Andrew Haswell Green Park phase 3 • Esplanade needs \$ for repairs <p>Community Board 8 has submitted plan</p>
Sharon Pope-Marshall	CIVITAS (executive director)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 5

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testifying against carving out 50 blocks portions of Sutton Place, UES, and all of Roosevelt Island from district 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are Manhattan based communities and would be incorporated with a Queens district • District 5 neighborhoods are economically, politically, and socially connected • Many issues of mutual concern • Unified voice would be substantially diminished • Roosevelt Island has been geopolitically linked with UES since its inception as residential community – Tramway is based in UES • Not compact, would result in unnecessary crossover, oddly shaped, neighborhoods of common interest and concerns would not be kept intact – violating charter criteria • CIVITAS opposes draft for district 5
Erica Bersin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 5 • With draft plan – “Bedpan Alley” (hospital area) would become part of district 26 • Importance of keeping this area in 5 where representatives have experience working with these institutions • Logistical issues if doctors’ offices associated with institutions are separated from their institution • Also splits Hunter College at Lexington Ave.
Frederick Bondy?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manhattan • Four reasons he opposes draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will result in loss of funding for Manhattan East River parks • Will cause mayhem and confusing in administration of east side hospitals – Weill Cornell, Sloan Kettering • Will cause mayhem/confusing for schools • Same for libraries and recreational facilities

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Ellen Pallove? & Olivia Safu?		District 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Roosevelt Island in 5 • Roosevelt Island • Connected with Manhattan • Went to Manhattan for high school rather than Queens
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Queens		
Witness Name	Organization(s)	Testimony
Council Member Julie Won	New York City Council – District 26	District 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not want crossover district between Manhattan and Queens • UES / Roosevelt Island should remain in Manhattan • office has heard from both Manhattan and Roosevelt Island side • adapted the Unity Map • District 26 Asian American population increase by 33% • Immigrant population – represents 60% of district • 66% People of Color • Protect minority groups under VRA • Keep communities of interest intact • Draft map violates those two criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White population increases from 29% to 44% • Hispanic population decreases from 29% to 22% • Asian American population decreases from 31% to 25% • Black population decreases from 6% to 4% • Would double average income from \$70-80k to \$140-150k • Would go from mostly working class and people of color district to predominately wealthy white district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violates charter • Compactness goes from perfect square to a C shape

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supposed to limit crossover districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • but now Queens and Manhattan crossover • Hearing loudly from Community Board 8 on Manhattan side and neighbors in Roosevelt Island and UES – do not want crossover • Carolyn Maloney; Julie Menin; Mark Levine; Gale Brewer – wrote letters re UES and Roosevelt Island remaining in Manhattan • Community Board 2 and herself support this fully • Not contiguous – would have to leave district to get to land bridge to Roosevelt Island • Oddly shaped • Will hear from other communities to keep their communities whole – fractured into four different districts (Woodside) • Understand district is about 11,000 people over the limit • Tibetan Americans = geopolitically persecuted community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been part of district 26 since 90s when they first sought asylum here • Predominately reside in Woodside and Sunnyside • Cutting into four different districts will diminish their political power they have been building • Noted importance of Blissville to district – would like to remain in district
<p>Council Member Nantasha Williams</p>	<p>New York City Council – District 27</p>	<p>District 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep more of downtown Jamaica in 27 • Keep Rochdale Village whole • Southeast Queens - Cambria Heights, Hollis, Jamaica, St. Albans, Queens Village, Addisleigh Park, parts of Springfield Gardens • Opposed to draft map lines

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochdale Village is split between two districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would disenfranchise community • Leaves downtown Jamaica out of district 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Jamaica is critical to 27 – historically has been a part of the district, would stall many ongoing revitalization projects (Downtown Jamaica Taskforce) • York College • Bus terminal • Should be representing more of downtown Jamaica
<p>Council Member Robert Holden</p>	<p>New York City Council – District 30</p>	<p>District 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural border of District 30 should be Queens Blvd. • Keep Glendale united • Include Elmhurst Triangle in 30 (on the map he submitted) • The Crescents in Rego Park should be in 30 (same housing stock) • Maspeth, Middle Village, Glendale, parts of Woodside, Woodhaven, and Ridgewood • Submitted memo and map with proposed lines for District 30 • Draft plan splits neighborhoods • Takes places with one-two family homes out of 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divides communities with same interests re housing stock • Emphasized using natural borders of major highways and blvds • Draft map extends 30 north of Queens Blvd. to include parts of Woodside and removes sections of Glendale (splits Glendale up) • Losing Liberty Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not lose southern part of district that has same housing stock

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And would add larger Woodside apartments to district – not consistent with housing stock of 30 • Also removes parts of Glendale – arbitrary line drawing
<p>Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers</p>	<p>New York City Council – District 31</p>	<p>District 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider adopting map: Districtr.org/plan/137797 • Keep lines the way they currently exist except for JFK – make JFK wholly in 31 (as it is in preliminary draft map) • Bring two important assets back into 31: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop & Shop Plaza at Merrick and Springfield Blvds • Montbellier? Park • Rockaway peninsula should remain as is • Arverne, Brookville, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Laurelton, parts of Rockaway Beach, Rosedale • Need for minimal disruption • Black and Brown communities should not see voting power marginalized • Noted state redistricting disenfranchising communities of interest • Southeast Queens = predominately African American, one-two family homeowners, community of interest • Southeast Queens encompasses districts 27, 28, and 31 – represented by only three Black elected officials in Queens • Downtown Jamaica in 27 • Rochdale Village in 28 • JFK airport in 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep JFK wholly in 31 • Communities in 31 are most impacted by JFK flight path • Especially Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, and Far Rockaway

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise mitigation • Environmental justice • JFK is represented by one congressional member, one state senator, one assembly member, and should also be represented by one council member in 31 • Hammels Houses and Arverne by the Sea should remain in 31 • Do not cut out portions of Springfield Gardens and replace it with parts of Ozone Park
Council Member Joann Ariola	New York City Council – District 32	<p>District 32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep communities of interest intact from perspective of common interests and concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Glendale and Woodhaven share common transportation interests (both should be in 32) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would have to pass through District 30 or Brooklyn to get to Liberty Park part of 32 • Retain South Ozone Park south of Rockaway Blvd. between 114th St. and Lefferts Blvd. – more similar housing stock and other similar city interests • Rich in cultural diversity • Racial diversity • Emphasized importance of competitive districts
Emilia Decaudin	State Committee Member and District Leader for Assembly District 37	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit a crossover districts and keep Woodside together • Assembly District 37 (Long Island City, Hunters Point, Sunnyside, and Ridgewood) • Testifying against current proposed plan for District 26 and surrounding districts • Echo what Council Member Won said • Emphasized importance of Woodside and other communities not being split up – having to talk to multiple council members makes advocacy exponentially more difficult

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt Island very different from communities in 26
James Hong	<p>Districts 20 and 26</p> <p>District 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed map divides Flushing through Murray Hill (center of Korean community) • Northern Blvd should not be used as a boundary • Move northern boundary for 20 further north to include all of Flushing including Murray Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use 20th Ave. or Willets Point Blvd. as northern edge of District 20 • Auburndale and Bayside – look at boundaries of community boards, police precincts, and school districts of Northeast Queens – none join Flushing with Auburndale across Utopia Pkwy • Utopia Pkwy is where Flushing ends <p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodside belongs with Sunnyside and Long Island City in 26 • Maspeth has different politics, transportation, demographics • Splitting Woodside in this way is an anti-Asian change <p>Prioritization of Staten Island should not be done to the detriment of the rest of NYC</p>
Tenzin Tseyang	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside together with Long Island City, Sunnyside, and western Astoria • Tibetan Community • Similar language and cultural challenges • Over 15,000 Tibetans in 26 – mostly in Sunnyside and Woodside • Tibetan Community center in Woodside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest Tibetan nonprofit organization in North America • Wish to stay together with other Asians and similar cultures in District 26 • Don't divide into four districts

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<p>Michael Nussbaum</p>	<p>Representing: Jewish Community Relations Council</p> <p>Queens Jewish Community Council (President)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 24 • Emphasized not focusing on politics • Uniqueness of Queens • Submitted map for 24 concerning Jewish community spread out through 24 in Kew Garden Hills, Utopia, Hillcrest, Fresh Meadows • Looking to include Cedar Grove area (Asian American), Hillcrest area, and make sure Utopia and Fresh Meadows area is not divided • Need to follow structures of communities
<p>Kevin Livingston</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 31 • Southeast Queens • Approves of draft map keeping JFK whole in 31 • Bring back Springfield Gardens to 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently represented well and want to keep that • Keep Rochdale Village whole
<p>Annie Fordous</p>	<p>Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts (founder and artistic director)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 26 • Keep Woodside together with Long Island City, Sunnyside, and western Astoria • Little Bangladesh – Sunnyside, Woodside, Long Island City • Together with other Asian communities built political power • Celebrate social and cultural identities in many different ways • Made friends with other organizations in the area • On draft map, area is divided into 4 parts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will lose all their cultural and social power • Language assistance needs • Council office provides services for immigrants that they don't want to lose
<p>I. Daneek Miller</p>	<p>Former Council Member – District 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 27 • Southeast Queens • Lack of density in 27 – many single-family homes

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 and 27 splitting downtown Jamaica area • Rochdale Village is being divided into multiple districts • Expand 24 east west instead of north south
Alexandria Serochy?		<p>District 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports draft • Keep district the way it is • Preserves historical significance of district • District represents the diversity of the city – community that supports each other
Jennifer Barrata?		<p>District 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not always well represented • Issues with Con Ed • Would like area to be represented better in eastern Queens
Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson	Assembly District 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Queens • Look at history of district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created to ensure African American and Caribbean American community could be represented in city council • JFK airport was historically in one council district • Keep Rockaway peninsula together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public housing developments • Respect consolidation of Hammel Houses and Carleton Manor • Rochdale Village should not be divided • Growing South Asian American community should be represented by uniting parts of district 32
Nick Gulotta		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside whole • Supports map proposed by Julie Won <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary should be 31st Ave. to the north • Queensbridge and Ravenswood Houses should remain in 26 • Keep 26 a Queens district • Opposed to incorporation of Manhattan's east side and Roosevelt Island – would dilute political power of working-class residents of color in 26

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Unity Map – keeps South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities in one district in Richmond Hill and Ozone Park • Woodside divided into four districts • Tibetan and larger Himalayan communities of interest in this area would be affected • District 25 and 26 • Would disconnect these communities • Would cause harm to these communities
Carolina Gill		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep District 26 together in Queens only • Diverse community • Communities of interest • Draft plan decreased Latino population • Queensbridge Houses, Ravenswood Houses, and Woodside Houses – have been part of this district since 1940s • Draft plan would break up immigrant communities and communities of color into four districts • Violates city charter criteria – fair and effective representation
Sarah Mohammed	South Queens Women’s March	<p>District 32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill whole • Submitting testimony that includes Asian American Legal Defense Fund communities of interest map • Draft map splits community across 28, 29, 32 • Opposed to draft plan as part of APA Voice Redistricting Taskforce • Supports Unity Map
Assemblymember William Scarborough	<p>Former NY State Assemblymember</p> <p>Addisleigh Park Civic Association</p> <p>Testimony on behalf of organizations:</p>	<p>District 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern re draft map moving most of downtown Jamaica out of 27 and into 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important economically for surrounding Black community • Importance of Black council members in 27 directing funding into Jamaica

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	<p>Brinkerhoff Action Association</p> <p>St. Albans Civic Improvement Association</p> <p>Greater TriAngular Civic Association</p> <p>149th Street South Ozone Park Civic Association</p> <p>Octagon Neighborhood Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in 24 do not patronize Jamaica like those in 27 <p>District 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't split Rochdale Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microcosm of Civil Rights Movement <p>In support of maps proposed by council members from 27, 28, 31</p>
Christina Sovereign	Liberty Park Homeowners' Association	<p>District 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Liberty Park in District 30 • Glendale Queens • Historic neighborhood – about 500 homes • Draft map places neighborhood in 32 – removes Liberty Park from rest of Glendale • They are active members of Glendale community • Would like same council person as rest of Glendale • Strange shape – stretches to Howard Beach and Rockaway Beach – nearly 10 miles away • Severed from rest of 32 – cemeteries and parks between
Jean Hall	Rochdale Village Board of Directors	<p>District 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Rochdale Village whole in District 28 • Opposed to draft lines for Rochdale Village • Would divide community into 27, 28, 31 • Would be devastating to the housing community • Keeping Rochdale Village in one district and avoiding crossover districts is key • Would dilute voting power • Splits one of the buildings in half
Isaac Blasenstein		District 26

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnyside and Woodside should be together in geographically compact Queens district • Draft for 26 would not result in quality representation • Would place working class community with zip codes in Manhattan where people make twice as much • Would place diverse district with whiter, wealthier residents, reduce Black population by nearly a third • Strangely shaped to cut out Ravenswood and Queensbridge and add UES and Roosevelt Island • Divides Woodside • Need to keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact <p>Council member would have to attend meetings for four community boards</p>
<p>Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos</p>	<p>Queens Community Board 2 *Testifying in own personal capacity</p>	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt Island belongs either in Astoria (contiguity) or Manhattan • Bring Woodside back completely in 26 • Manhattan belongs in Manhattan • Opposed to proposed boundaries for 26 • Add Manhattan and Roosevelt Island and take out diverse blue color sections of Woodside • Must be contiguous – would have to leave 26 to get to Roosevelt Island • Many hospitals on UES – not where Queens locals go for emergency care • Splits Woodside – disenfranchising ethnic enclaves
<p>Derek Evers</p>	<p>Queens Community Board 5 (member)</p>	<p>District 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Ridgewood whole again • One of oldest neighborhoods • Falls fully within one community district, one education council, has clear borders – Brooklyn to west, Metropolitan Ave. to the north, commercial train line and cemetery to the east and south • Singular community of interest

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split between 30 and 34 • Largest Hispanic population is right where district is split • Draft map would split Ridgewood up into three districts • Extend district 34 to include all of Ridgewood from Grover Cleveland Park up to Fresh Pond Road and along commercial train line to Cypress Hill Cemetery • Unite rest of Hispanic community
Sheila Lewandowski	Community Board 2 – redistricting taskforce	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to draft for 26 • Call for more feedback and more hearings in the fall • would make needed amenities harder to get if combined with Manhattan area that already has these amenities
Mark Laster	Central Queens Redistricting Coalition Forest Hills Green Team Queens Community Board 6	<p>District 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • divides Richmond Hill • separates Sunnyside from Woodside • moves parts of Elmhurst into one district although residents have asked to be moved to another • splits Mitchell Linden neighborhood into two districts • Central Queens Redistricting Coalition will submit map that addresses these concerns • Concern re Staten Island being kept whole <p>Asked what conflict of interest policy is for commission</p>
Nick Berkowitz	Democratic district leader and state committee member for AD 37 Queens Community Board 2	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside and Sunnyside together • Could reduce access to resources and ability to advocate on Queens side of district • Statistics re healthcare access and greenspace will be distorted • Woodside – split into four and separated from Sunnyside
Martha Flores-Vazquez	District leader in 40 th Assembly District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for public service • Need to be mindful of underserved populations

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	<p>Community Prevention Alternatives for Families in Crises</p> <p>DA Melinda Katz for the Latinos (advisory board member)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underserved in Flushing • Not many voices representing Hispanics • Asking diverse commission to please serve the underserved
Albert Baldeo		<p>District 32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't put Rochdale Village with Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, and Richmond Hill - No commonality • Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park should stay together – very integrated • He submitted map - Unity Map is similar • Same heritage, ancestry, customs, churches, similar homes • Howard Beach is different • Don't divide Rochdale Village
Bill Perkins		<p>District 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all of JFK in district • Rest of 31 should remain intact – shared characteristics and interests • Working with 27 and 28 and elected officials • Submitting written testimony • included map from Selvena Brooks-Powers • Matches Queens Civic Congress map
Timothy Mercer		<p>District 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't cut Rochdale in half • Rochdale Village is solely a village – no through streets – city within a city • Has its own powerplant • Fractures the community • Could hurt vulnerable seniors and access to resources • Violates criteria
Sherry Algreto	<p>Community Board 9</p> <p>*Speaking as resident</p>	<p>District 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Richmond Hill together

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important organizations and institutions run from Van Wyck, Jamaica Ave., and Woodhaven Blvd. • Should be part of 28 • Keep community together under one district as much as possible • Importance of community needs
Anil Shahi	Adhikaar	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside and Sunnyside whole in 26 • Nepali speaking community – fastest growing Asian ethnic group in the city • Keep community whole • Little in common with rest of population of 30 – language, culture, lifestyles • Supports Unity Map
<p>Group with translator</p> <p>Maria Signora? Claudia Nunez Gerard Nunez Sandra Dominguez Vasilio? Garcia</p>		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't divide community into four separate districts • Diverse immigrant community • Woodside, Sunnyside, Long Island City • Would increase white population • Keep lines the same as they have been for past 30 years • Emphasized VRA protections
Osman Chaudry ?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnyside • Oppose draft map • Dividing Woodside into four parts – not acceptable • Supports Unity Map • Sunnyside and Woodside are very connected • large Bangladeshi community
Lakrani Ray?	DRUM – Desis Rising Up & Moving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Unity Map – keeps Woodside and Sunnyside together and whole • Currently majority Asian district • If split up will create two white majority districts • Woodside and Sunnyside mostly rely on public transportation while Maspeth and Middle Village mostly rely on driving • Very few things in common

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<p>Tamang Lama? Representing group</p>	<p>Community Board member</p> <p>Tamang Society of North America?</p> <p>Society of American and Nepalese Community</p>	<p>District 25 and 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepalese community • Statement together from 18-20 Tibetan community • Nepali community settled in Woodside, Sunnyside, Elmhurst, Astoria • Want community to stay together • Oppose map for 25 and 26
<p>Ambika Prasad?</p>	<p>South Queens Women's March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community of interest – Woodhaven Blvd to the west, Jamaica Ave. to the north, Van Wyck Expressway to the east, and Conduit Ave. to the south • Draft divides community across 28, 29, 32 • Opposed to draft • Supports Unity Map – creates plurality APA district in 32 • Open to any option that will keep Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park together
<p>Mahtab Khan</p>		<p>District 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to draft map for 24 • Similar to past district 24 maps • Violates VRA – by not acknowledging South Asian growth • Not receiving adequate representation • Will upload map
<p>Juan Manzella?</p>		<p>District 34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridgewood • Many immigrants and undocumented families • Diverse language and cultures • Explained 2020 census – low count for Latino families – numbers are not accurate • Don't divide Ridgewood • 34 should expand more into Queens to represent more Latino families
<p>Dirk McCall</p>		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnyside, Woodside, Southern Astoria, Long Island City – very similar, should be together • Strong opposition to draft map

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted new state senate district that combines Astoria with east side – don't want same situation for city council
Diana Salamano?		<p>District 34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ridgewood – keep together Hispanic, Latin families – makes sense to keep families together rather than dividing them
Tania Sharmino?		<p>District 34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must expand towards Ridgewood because 34 represents Ridgewood in Queens and Bushwick in Brooklyn – share similar concerns Hispanic, Latin families – sense of unity Draft map divides Ridgewood into three districts Will damage working class families in Ridgewood
Cesar Ruiz	<p>LatinoJustice Unity Coalition AALDEF CLSJ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt Unity Map in full <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeps Woodside and Sunnyside whole Keeps 26 exclusively in Queens Three wholly contained districts in Staten Island violates charter and doesn't match demographic growth – malapportionment concerns Coalition districts must be protected 38 on draft removes Red Hook and part of Sunset Park
Jerry Vattamala	<p>AALDEF APA Voice Redistricting Task force Unity Map Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt Unity Map Problematic to start with Staten Island Must start with communities protected by VRA Can't dismantle performing coalition districts – protected by VRA 27, 28, 31 (performing Black districts) unity map turns 28 into majority Black district – would have 3 majority Black districts Richmond Hill / South Ozone Park – protected community of interest – Asian American – must first ensure fair and effective representation for that community before looking at Howard Beach and

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		<p>Breezy Point and Broad Channel that were consolidated in draft plan in 32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodside kept whole in 26 • Previously submitted communities of interest map
Selima Ashraf Islam	Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts (BIPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astoria, Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside • Redistricting this area is not a good idea
Potri Ranka Manis?	<p>Woodside on the Move</p> <p>National Alliance for Filipino Concerns</p> <p>Asian Advisory Council for NYC Mayor</p>	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnyside, Woodside, Long Island City, parts of Astoria • Draft would cause change to the area – new district would see much of Astoria removed and Queensbridge and Ravenswood, and much of Woodside would be gone • White population would increase and minority groups would decrease • Will lose representation • Concerned about Little Manila • Don't divide Woodside into four
Haley Kim	MinKwon Center for Community Action	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Sunnyside and Woodside together in District 26 • Don't need to have crossover
Jay Williams	Rochdale Village – general manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Rochdale Village whole • District 28 that includes one part of Rochdale Village should not split Rochdale Village • One community, common interests, • Proposed lines cuts through one of the buildings
Thomas Murowski		<p>District 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to draft map re section of Liberty Park in Glendale • Removes small section of Glendale from 30 and places it in 32 • Don't want to be detached from rest of district
Elizabeth OuYang	APA Voice Redistricting Taskforce (coordinator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park • Draft map prioritizes Staten Island • Population in other boroughs has grown more than Staten Island

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking commission to release other draft map • Unity Map – best keeps 16 APA communities of interest whole <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps Woodside whole in 26 • APA community in Elmhurst whole in 25 • Considers growth of APA population in northern Flushing in 20 <p>Creates plurality APA district in Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park in 32</p>
Mohamed Q. Amin	Caribbean Equality Project (founder/executive director)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echoes Liz’s sentiments re Staten Island • Little Guyana in Richmond Hill • Little Punjab in South Ozone Park • These communities of interest are divided into 28, 29, 32 • Dilutes political power • Boundaries of community: • Woodhaven Blvd. to the west, Jamaica Ave. to the north, Van Wyck Expressway to the East, and Conduit to the south • Draft map further divides into five districts – 27, 28, 29, 31, and 32 • Keep this community of interest whole
Anlisa Outar & Farzana Linda	Chhaya CDC APA Voice Redistricting Taskforce	<p>District 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severely underserved community • Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park – natural lines are Woodhaven Blvd. to the west, Jamaica Ave. to the north, Van Wyck Expressway to the East, Conduit Ave. to the south – keeps communities of interest together • Keep Woodside whole in 26 - Supports Unity Map for Woodside • Keep Elmhurst whole in 25 as in draft • Ensure south Asian and Indo-Caribbeans in these key neighborhoods are not divided
Tenzin Techen?		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tibetan American Community in 25 and most importantly in 26 • Draft map scatters community across 4-5 districts

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserve 26 as much as possible
John Bahia	<p>Woodside on the Move</p> <p>Queens Community Board 2</p>	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodside's Filipino community in Little Manila – 70th St. to 63rd St. along Roosevelt Ave. in Woodside • Woodside and Little Manila should be kept whole and remain in 26 • Draft creates majority white district – dismantling minority performing district • Supports Unity Map proposal
Farah Salam		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladeshi community in 26 • Little Bangladesh • In Sunnyside, Woodside, Long Island City, and Astoria from 36th Ave. to Woodside Ave. • Get translation services from council office now • Want to stay together with larger APA community in 26 • Keep Woodside together with Long Island City, Sunnyside
Sandra Choi	<p>MinKwon Center for Community Action</p> <p>APA Voice Redistricting Taskforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Unity Map • Flushing • Important transportation hub • Linden Hill, Murray Hill, Auburndale, and Bayside • Asian American community makes up more than 50% in these neighborhoods • Restore original boundary for division of 19 and 20 – same on Unity Map • Murray Hill – Korea Town on map – divided into two – they don't call it that • Keep Murray Hill whole – Unity Map reflects that
Raj Korpan	Central Queens Redistricting Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will submit map • District 29 keeping much of central Queens together - good • Consequence is splitting many surrounding neighborhoods • Don't split Woodside • Issue with 32

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't artificially force Staten Island to have three districts
Ivan Mossop Jr.	Assembly District Leader	<p>District 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Rochdale Village whole in 28 • Draft divides Rochdale Village into 28 and 27 – splitting a building in half • 2nd largest cooperative village in the world • Utilities provided by common power plant, own public safety officers, community center that serves all buildings, senior center • Enclave of people from the African diaspora • Charter – keep neighborhoods and communities of interest intact
John Ortiz?		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside and Elmhurst whole • Supports Unity Map • Filipino community in Little Manila in Woodside = community of interest • Draft splits Woodside into four districts and puts part of Woodside including Little Manila with 30 (predominately white community) • Very different communities – doesn't make sense • Would cause disenfranchisement for Little Manila community • Concern re transportation lines – 7 train, bus lines being cut
Eric Duncan		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ravenswood Houses • Referenced Julie Won's great work during the pandemic and now • Good representation • Don't take Ravenswood and Queensbridge Houses out of district • Requested hearings starting earlier in the day
Nalima Amin?	Caribbean Equality Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park - home to largest South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities in Queens • Currently divided into 28, 29, 32

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerrymandered political power • Draft fractures community further into 27, 28, 29, 31, 32
Danielle Brecker	Queens Community Board 2	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to draft plan for district 26 • Does not comport with city charter and will have adverse impact on community • Adding portion of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island – violates districting requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to keep neighborhoods and communities intact – also divides Woodside into four districts • Fails to keep district compact • Creates an oddly shaped crossover district • Shifts racial makeup of 26 to majority white • Inflates average income to 110k • No hospitals in CB 2 • Less representation and resources on Queens side
Kashri Seshadri?	Indo-Caribbean Alliance Inc. (ICA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep all of South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill together • Against plan to split Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park into several districts • Indo-Caribbean community • One of hardest hit by COVID pandemic • Keep communities together
? Lee		<p>District 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amhurst / Jackson Heights • Most diverse neighborhood • Supports Unity Map • Keeps Asian American interests in mind • Woodside and Sunnyside have always been combined • Unity Map would address this issue – keeps entirety of Woodside and Sunnyside in 26 and Amhurst and Jackson Heights in 25 • Also advocating for Unity Map for Flushing and Bayside • Also follow Unity Map for Murray Hill • Murray Hill should be entirely in 20

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Morry Galonoy	Queens Community Board 2 (chairperson)	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to draft map for 26 • Does not align with charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not compact • Does not limit crossover – crosses three land masses • Does not keep communities intact – splitting Woodside will lead to disenfranchisement • Parks and hospitals – will appear that district has a lot of these but they're all in Manhattan • Diminished representation • Requesting commission hold additional hearings • Will submit more thorough testimony
Benjamin Kim	Woodside on the Move (project coordinator) APA Voice Redistricting Taskforce	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside whole – Unity Map • Draft map splits Woodside into 22, 25, 26, 30 • Puts bulk of Woodside into 30 • Will create two white majority districts at expense of a performing minority district (elected Julie Won) • Disregarding City Charter and VRA • Sunnyside would also be separated from Woodside
Pema Children?		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of Tibetan Americans live in Astoria, Sunnyside, Long Island City, and Woodside • Important community centers are in Woodside • Finally have office that provides language services for Tibetan community • Supports Unity Map
Nowang ?	Tibetan Community of New York and New Jersey (Vice President)	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure Woodside stays together with Sunnyside, western Astoria, and Long Island City • Tibetan community in Astoria, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Long Island City

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't divide community into multiple districts • Keep together in 26
Richard David	<p>District Leader Assembly District 31 – Southeast Queens</p> <p>Indo-Caribbean Alliance (board member)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to map for Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park • Indo-Caribbean community • Lack basic access to services • Need to correct years of being overlooked • Draft map does not go far enough • Must include Smokey Park – where they have outdoor festivals (125th St. and Atlantic Ave.) • 6 blocks cut out of Ozone Park and put with Rockaways • Use these boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamaica Ave. to the north • Conduit Expressway to the south • Woodhaven Blvd. to the west • Van Wyck Expressway to the east
Will Thomas	Open New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing shortage • Staten Island point – substantially lower in residents than ideal district size, unfair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staten Island's political representatives have actively worked with Bloomberg administration to impose exclusionary zoning – should face those consequences • Should extend those districts out to Brooklyn • Should take into account expected future residential change over time – far west side of Manhattan, downtown Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Long Island City, and Astoria – growth will likely be concentrated in those areas • Err on side of historical data • District 26 – already over ideal population, growth is likely to continue • Will submit written testimony
Arianne Maliwanag	National Federation of Filipino American Associations	<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Unity Map

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	<p>APA Voice Redistricting Taskforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps Woodside whole in 26 and Elmhurst whole in 25 • Filipino community in Woodside and Elmhurst • Opposed to draft map as it splits Woodside into 22, 25, 26, 30 • Puts Little Manila in 30 instead of remaining whole in 26 • Fourth largest AAPI population in NYC and NY State • This area contains highest concentration of Filipino small businesses in NY • Splitting Woodside would negatively impact community's representation
<p>Pasam ?</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tibetan Community Center is in Woodside • Tibetan language weekend classes • Most of community is in Woodside and Sunnyside • Draft plan weakens voice of Tibetan community
<p>Zoila Alonzo</p>	<p>Queens Latinos Presente</p>	<p>District 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Latino opportunity districts – only have one • Latino community is the largest minority group in Queens • Representation in council does not reflect this • Propose three Latino districts in Queens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 21 – majority Latino district and has been represented by a Latino since 2002 – East Elmhurst, Corona, Jackson Heights, and Elmhurst • Reconfiguring 25 – take into account large Latino population in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Woodside, East Elmhurst, and parts of Corona • Take into account large Latino population in Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Jamaica, and Richmond Hill

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will submit district maps
Vishnu ?		<p>District 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Woodside together with Sunnyside, Long Island City, and western Astoria • Draft map - Woodside divided into four districts • Nepali community will be separated • Against community’s interest • Importance of language access

Witness Name	Organization(s)	Testimony
Francie Scanlon?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to gerrymandering • Emphasized importance of this process • “lines don’t make a district, people make a district”
Dan Kaminsky	Citizens Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenting on process • Recommendations from Citizens Union <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the reasons behind line drawing decisions (kept three whole districts on Staten Island) • Have mapping deliberations in public – concerned about backroom deals • Disclose any meetings commissioners have with elected officials
William Stanford Jr. / Five Borough Man		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint re timing of his testimony • Should use bus corridors to draw lines • Don’t separate communities