

Good Afternoon Commissioners. My name is Lori Huang, the Outreach and Health Coordinator at United Chinese Association of Brooklyn. UCAOB is a member organization of the APA Voice Redistricting Task Force. Founded in 2002, we are a non-profit organization that mobilizes community resources to improve the quality of life and meet the distinctive needs of the Asian American immigrant population primarily in Bensonhurst. Every year, we provide thousands of individuals and families with direct social services and community programs. We also advocate for voter rights and aim to cultivate political awareness and civic mindedness in the community.

Bensonhurst is the most divided of APA communities. It currently is divided into 4 city council districts. The Asian American community in Bensonhurst have shared needs for language access, culturally sensitive services, public safety, affordable housing, support for small businesses, reliable transportation, and quality education. Breaking up communities like this takes away our ability to come together and advocate for these important issues. In fact, Brooklyn's Asian population is the fastest-growing of any demographic group across the borough and the new lines should reflect this growth. So there is a strong need for more equitable community representation and to have our voices included in the decision-making processes. We are simply asking that our communities of interest be kept whole, to the extent possible, when drawing district configurations. This will give us more equal power to have our need for more culturally sensitive bilingual services addressed. As a non-profit organization serving a majority of the Asian American community in Bensonhurst and other neighborhoods in Southern Brooklyn, we know firsthand that Bensonhurst is an Asian-American community of interest (COI) and support the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's (AALDEF's) COI maps, specifically for Bensonhurst, Sunset Park and Sheepshead Bay. Diluting our power harms the Asian American community by preventing equal access to resources and opportunities.

We need to be kept together in fewer city council districts so that we can have an opportunity to elect someone who will listen to our concerns and advocate for these issues. In order to achieve this, we must remain as whole as possible. Diluting our power harms the Asian American community by preventing equal access to resources and opportunities. No community, especially a community protected under the federal Voting Rights Act, should be divided among four different city council districts. Thank you for the time and opportunity to speak today.