



UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
OF WILLIAMSBURGH AND NORTH BROOKLYN
פאראייניגטע אידישע ארגאניזאציעס פון וויליאמסבורג

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Testimony of Rabbi David Niederman, President of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburgh and North Brooklyn

Submitted to the NYC Districting Commission on:

May 26, 2022

Thank you, Commission Members, for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Rabbi David Niederman and I am the Executive Director and President of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburgh and North Brooklyn, a central social service agency for more than half a century representing more than 75,000 Yiddish Speaking North Brooklyn residents that predominantly reside in the current New York City Council District 33.

The Yiddish speaking population, many years ago, traditionally resided in South Williamsburg and has flourished exponentially. As the community has grown, it has expanded beyond the original borders of Williamsburg, into Bedford-Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill.

Based on that, during the previous redistricting processes, we advocated for and our request to be considered as a “Community of Interest” was accepted thus not being splintered. On behalf of our community I respectfully ask and submit to the commission that our Yiddish Speaking community in South Williamsburg, Bedford Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill continue to be a “community of interest”.

The Yiddish speaking community is not a majority of any district in which we are a part of, but our community still has a voice in the districts, that we belong to. Splintering our community would dilute our voice and be devastating to the community’s unique needs and concerns.

Our community of interest has a unique language, distinctive dress, religious background, common history and other shared ties and identifiable interests.

Some of the key unifiers of our community of interest, is the large households with many children without voting power that make up our community, the need for security and protection from anti-Semitic hate crimes which is an ongoing crisis in our neighborhood, a unique Yiddish language social service delivery and advocacy system, as well service, cultural and language issues that have to be addressed by government and the public sector.

In sum, it is crucial for the community to continue to stay unified and centralized so our community residents' interests and needs are adequately represented. We request that we continue to be united in a single district and our borders expand to include the areas of community growth. Thank you.

Attached is a map of the area in Brooklyn that we are referencing and request to be included in a single district:

