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From: Amy <[REDACTED]>
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To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps

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Good day to Members of New York City Re-districting Commission,

I was unable to attend the Public Hearing last week due to work constraints but wanted to send an email in support of Yiatin Chu and the Asian Wave Alliance (AWA) testimony.

Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in NYC, particularly in the boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens, yet we have so few Asian American elected officials representing our communities.

Please keep our Asian American communities together because we sorely lack good representation in government. Communities, consisting of recent immigrants and first generation Asian Americans should be grouped together as much as possible. I am an immigrant who came to the United States at the age of five and I feel a strong connection to those who are recent immigrants and who are not fluent in English and are limited by language barriers to resources and assistance. I have lived in Brooklyn and in Queens and it was striking to me even as a student in high school that we did not have any representation, nobody who looked like me, in seats of government power and 50 years later, it is much the same.

Please keep areas where there is a large population of Asian Americans together in a district (ex. Bayside, Elmhurst, Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, and Manhattan Chinatown).

The Manhattan Chinatown area has become gentrified, with many younger, more affluent residents and the voices of the older generation of Asian Americans who call Chinatown their home for half a century, have been silenced. Historic Chinatown, a neighborhood that raised multiple generations of Asian Americans is now being violated by a tower jail about to be built and surrounded by homeless shelters for drug addicts and formerly incarcerated men. This is because there wasn't strong representation in government advocating for the Chinatown residents and in the interest of the community. And due to the pandemic, all around NYC and the nation, Asian American voices are now starting to be heard. But being heard isn't enough; we must have elected leaders who will listen to the community and act in the best interest of the community.

These are the Asian communities I speak of:

Manhattan - Chinatown
N/S: Canal St to FDR
E/W: Essex St to Broadway

District to include Fidi and Tribeca where families prioritize rigorous education and accelerated opportunities, and support the police for community patrol and public safety.

Brooklyn - Sunset Park
N/S: 45th st to 70th st
E/W: 6th ave to 10th ave

Sunset Park Central (Chinese) is combined with a neighboring district with different priorities that drowned out Asian representation, similar to Manh's Chinatown.

Brooklyn - Bensonhurst
65th St: 18th Avenue to Bay Pkwy
W 6 and Kings Hwy
McDonald and 86th St.
Bath Ave and Stillwell
Benson Ave to 18th Ave.
(see map)

Bensonhurst is currently in FOUR! council districts.

Queens - Flushing
N/S: 20th Avenue to Booth Memorial Ave.
E/W: Utopia Pkwy to College Point Blvd

Queens - Bayside
N/S: Bell Blvd to LIE
E/W: Utopia Pkwy to Cross Island Pkwy

Thank you for your cooperation and for this work. I urge former Chancellor Walcott, Judge Go, Mr. Wong and the other members of this commission to give us fair representation by keeping Asian American communities whole.

Sincerely,
Amy Tse