

Hello everyone, my name is Ekram Alrowmiem, Community Health Partner at the Academy of Medical & Public Health Services. AMPHS is a non profit healthcare organization in Sunset Park, Brooklyn working to make healthcare more accessible to marginalized immigrant communities and people of color. We provide free clinical screenings, bilingual mental health therapy, individualized health education and social services, primarily with the Chinese, Latino and Arab communities of Brooklyn. We are also a member of APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force.

We must keep the neighborhood of Sunset Park together and ensure that Sunset Park is kept whole in City Council District 38. In addition, Sunset Park has more in common with Bensonhurst than Red Hook. These common interests include shared transportation lines, language needs, public safety concerns, culturally sensitive services, and more. Currently, having Bensonhurst split between four districts makes it very hard to prioritize the community's needs, because the separation dilutes our power and creates a division in representation and accountability.

Dividing communities that have common interests will only weaken our communities further and will just continue to marginalize an already marginalized community. We can't afford to be divided any further. Indeed, more division means fewer resources. It means overcrowded schools, lack of language access, and increased homelessness rates. More division means rising food insecurity and unemployment. It means lack of affordable housing, and increased violence and crime rates. More division means being unfairly ignored.

Therefore, I urge the New York City Districting Commission to unify our communities of interest in Sunset Park and in Bensonhurst. Fair districts are the foundation for fair political and social representation. We need to get this right because if we don't our communities will live with the consequences for the next decade.

Thank you for your time, We hope you truly consider the interests of the different communities who will be impacted. Please keep us together, not divided.