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**From:** Elizabeth . Diente <[REDACTED]>  
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Good morning,

Please find my testimony below.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Diente

**TESTIMONY of Elizabeth Diente  
New York City Districting Commission**

My name is Elizabeth Diente and I am 83 years old. I am very familiar with Woodside. In 1976, I first lived there for 8 years with my family. I have visited Woodside often ever since. My daughter is still living in Woodside. I came to New York City from the Philippines in 1970 on an H-1 visa to work as a staff nurse for the Hospital for Joint Diseases in Manhattan. I am now a U.S. naturalized citizen. My husband and I bought our first home in Woodside because it was near the RFK Bridge where I commuted to the Hospital. My daughter is a member of Little Manila Queens Bayanihan Arts, a member organization of APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force.

The APA community should be kept whole in Elmhurst and Woodside in two separate city council districts. In the beginning, in 1976, there were few Asian Americans. When we first bought our home in Woodside, we were only one of two Asian families on the street. Most people in the neighborhood were Irish and Italian. Then there was a great influx of Asians in the 1980's and 1990's. We were united by shared immigration experiences.

In the 1970's and 1980's, I had many Filipino friends who like me, were in the healthcare industry, doctors and nurses who worked in nearby hospitals. The Filipino restaurant business took off which led to the beginnings of Little Manila. We later moved to Rockland County and my daughter returned to Woodside in the late 1990's. I visit her often. Now, there is a noticeable presence of Asian Americans in the streets, restaurants, and ethnic grocery stores. There are several Asian restaurants all along Queens Blvd, Broadway and Roosevelt that did not exist in the 1980's.

In the 1970's and 1980's, we were few in number and immigrants struggling hard to make a living in America in the healthcare field. We could not make our voices heard. There were many labor issues, including misplaced fear of Asian workers taking over their jobs when in reality our services were in demand, and unfair pay issues because we did not have a group advocating for us.

Now there is a big population of APA's in these neighborhoods, their contributions need to be recognized and their needs addressed. By keeping the Asian American community as whole as possible, more APA's like my daughter are becoming involved in making the voices of the Asian community heard and that can make a difference. Organizations like Little Manila Queens Bayanihan Arts is an example.