

My name is Marcial Reid. I will be a 7th grader at Academy of St. Joseph and I am a New Yorker.

I am pretty new to speaking in front of committees, but I am a Filipino American and I am here to advocate for our Little Manila community in Woodside and Elmhurst, Queens.

I've been coming to Woodside and Elmhurst with my family for as long as I can remember. We come to Little Manila for the food and the groceries that my mom and dad can't get at Whole Foods. And we come to Little Manila for the community.

The Little Manila community was built by people like my grandparents, my Lolo and Lola. They came to the United States in the 1970s when many communities like Woodside and Elmhurst had a shortage of trained doctors and nurses. Many of the Filipinos who came to Queens stayed, built businesses, opened restaurants, and went to church together.

I may be young, but I am advocating for the Filipino American community in **Woodside and Elmhurst to be kept as whole in their districts, as much as possible**. Many of the Filipino frontline workers that died caring for New Yorkers came from our community. Like many communities, Little Manila businesses were affected by the pandemic. Hate crimes against Asians, not just Filipinos, continue. Who is going to represent our community if we are redistricted?

I hope you will **protect our community**. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.