

Hon. Mariya and Hon. Lenny Markh
Members of the New York Democratic State Committee
61st Assembly District – Kings County

June 29, 2022

Dennis M. Walcott, Chair
New York City Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007
via email: PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov

Dear Chairman Walcott and Commission Members,

We write to you as duly elected members of the New York Democratic State Committee representing the Kings County portion of the 61st Assembly District and to bring to your attention the 113th Election District (ED) of the 61st Assembly District (AD).

This ED encompasses the immediate waters extending from the shoreline of the Pier 41 Waterfront Garden in Red Hook neighborhood in Brooklyn. It is also home to the Lehigh Valley Barge No. 79—the only all-wooden barge from the lighterage era that is afloat and accessible to the public. It operates as [the Waterfront Museum](#).

In addition to its beautiful views, educational programming, its place as a community resource, and testament to maritime history—earning its place on the National Register of Historic Places and making it a wonderful place to visit, it also home to four of our constituents, the Sharps family.

Seemingly by oversight, the Sharps were recently drawn into the new 61st AD. Richmond and New York Counties overwhelmingly constitute this AD, and the Sharps are the only voters of the Kings County portion. This situation is less than ideal, almost resulting in the Sharps being unrepresented in the Kings County Democratic Party. They would be better served sharing representation with their neighbors in Red Hook.

To wit, we recommend that any plans that this commission puts forth for adoption be cognizant of the voters of this ED and include it within the boundaries of a City Council district that is immediately adjacent to it within the Borough of Brooklyn. This will ensure that the voters of the ED share a City Council representative with the area closest to them and most closely shares their interests.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your service to New York City.

Sincerely,


Hon. Mariya Markh


Hon. Lenny Markh