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From: Julie Moschella <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 10:56 PM
To: Public Testimony
Cc: Michael Reilly; Joe Borelli; Nicole Malliotakis; Anthony Reinhart; Senator Andrew J. Lanza; American Firearms Association; Gun Owners of America; New York State Firearms Association; New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc.; Gun Owners of America Erich Pratt; Aaron Dorr; 2a Arms Support; Conservative Party of New York State; DC Project; Divide_NYS; Candidate for New York Governor Lee Zeldin; Remauro for SIBP; Marjorie Taylor Greene; Lauren Hartnett; Staten Island Republican Party; Scott LoBaido; legislative@fop.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Staten Island to its own District

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Greetings,

I am contacting you on my own time with over 15 years of law enforcement experience, as an alumni of the College of Staten Island and also a former adjunct professor, and as a Staten Island native. There are many reasons why Staten Island needs to remain its own District. On Staten Island we support the police rather than defund it, we enjoy our green spaces and want to protect them, we find our historical places and histories priceless and need to continue protecting them- most of all we know what it means to live assimilated with liberty, respect for one another and in the pursuit of happiness- and we do what we can to push back against having our freedoms stolen from big city marxists and special interest groups that do not want to save what conservative American values we have left on Staten Island. People from all over the city move to Staten Island because it is the safest and the most affordable borough to live in with the most green spaces- the reason why people from the city move here is because of our conservative values that are hanging on by a thread.

I was part of the secession movement in the '80s when then Sheldon Silver (look where he ended up) ruined it for us all and I still believe that Staten Islanders should secede. At least in the meantime we must continue to maintain our own district so that our representatives will be able to help us protect what freedoms we have left. If we get merged into any other borough we will lose our constitutional freedoms completely and lose our identity of who we are and it must not happen.

I have heard how people that are not from Staten Island refer to as our own state and it is true. Staten Islanders are unique from the liberal socialists that are in control of the majority of the city in many ways and we need to preserve our district so that we can maintain what freedoms we have left and we have every right to preserve our historical precedent of constitutional rights. We are probably the last bastion of conservatism left in NYC and everyone wants to move here from all other places of New York City because of this. I recently drove from Staten Island through Brooklyn into Queens and counted on one hand how many American flags I have seen but you will drive through just a few blocks and in most neighborhoods on Staten Island and you will see twice that many American flags. We love our country and Constitution, and have respect for our Democratic Republic-unfortunately Marxism has destroyed the American dream in most of the city outside of Staten Island and I do not want to be a part of that loss. I believe that Staten Island traditions, respect for freedom, Law & order and Constitution brings the American dream into a reality and establishes peace. I believe that we have a healthy collective of life, liberty, pursuit of happiness and peace as a goal in life here on Staten Island. Our love of country which has been carried on since our historical peace conference attempt at our Conference House site at the tip of Tottenville prior to the Revolutionary War has taught us the importance of being peaceful and to persevere to protect our freedoms.

The educational tours for our public school students at Richmond Town also help build love for history and country. Staten Islanders want our historical sites preserved for future generations to learn from and to protect and enjoy. If Staten Island is forced to merge it'll endanger the sanctity of our historical places to and identity.

I remember growing up and my mother writing letters to then Governor Carry to protect Sailor Snug Harbor and I remember her articulating in her letter that it is a wonderful place for all communities to go and learn about history and enjoy the beautiful grounds. I recall her asking the governor, "where will all of the families of lesser means go if they didn't have such beautiful place to enjoy.?" To this day Sailor Snug Harbor is enjoyed by all Staten Islanders and I learned from my mother that advocacy and petition to our elected officials for what is right is priceless for our community and that Staten Island needs that protection and Independence. She had also advocated for the Sandy Ground community to be protected and now there is a wonderful ferry boat named after the Sandy Ground community. Many incredible grassroots organizations have formed over the last few decades to protect our civil rights, environment and historical sites. Such accomplishments would not have happened if Staten Islanders were not an entity of its own and supporting one another in a beautiful and assimilated collective.

You will not see this type of love for historical sites, environment, country, law enforcement, and assimilated community anywhere else in New York City especially when the majority of off island City councils have been calling for defunding of the police.

The trend a few years ago for law enforcement officers to be defunded, subjected to frivolous lawsuits and micromanaged did not come from the majority of Staten Island -in fact, it came from the majority of city council members from New York City and Brooklyn and Queens. Such Marxist anti-American and anti law enforcement strategies forced by special interest groups have destroyed safety and communities where such City council Members have advocated to defund the police but it has not happened in the majority of Staten Island where the call to end the defund the police movement has been the strongest. Republican and conservative elected officials from Staten Island have created a plan to stop the exponential rise in crime caused by negligent liberal policies that have endangered not only our communities but our national security. These elected officials were right. To merge our district with another that does not share our values to support law enforcement, right to self defense and constitutional rights, will weaken what's left of Common Sense policy that is good for the safety of Staten Islanders and for our national security. I urge the rest of the city to follow in step with what the Conservative and Republican representatives of Staten Island have laid out to help rescue New York City from the chaos and crime that the reckless socialist policies have caused and to not redistrict Staten Island: Michael Reilly, Joseph Borelli, Nicole Malliotakis, Andrew Lanza all have been calling for the end of the defund the police movement, to end horrific bail reform, to encourage proactive policing, and to stop releasing cop killers to the horror and betrayal of all.

Another testimony to the strength of a unified and Independent Staten Island district is with the closing of the once world's largest landfill. I had studied the dump, and yes it was a dump- it was an illegally started dump in the 1940s. I was an environmental science student at the College of Staten Island the mid-1990s noting the many toxins that were dumped at that landfill. I remember standing at the top of the hill off of Muldoon Avenue doing a bird seagull population study and the ground bubbling underneath my feet as the horrific smell wafted about me. As a student and intern I was part of research and data gathering of obituary studies and newspaper articles from the surrounding area, Rutgers University and Staten Island Museum. I had obtained documents from local farmers saying how the petro chemical industry from New Jersey combined with the dumping was causing changes in crops and wildlife. The dump was caused by debris from areas all over the city and forced upon Staten Island. It was a horrific abuse of Staten Island. We lost farms, environment and wild life Many bird species especially our bald eagles were gone due to endocrine disruption. Staten Islanders began gaining control of their Island and with great voice ended up closing the dump. We now have increased our green spaces and this was only able to happen because of the strong voices of Staten Islanders being unified as its own entity. I recall giving a public testimony during a city parks budget hearing explaining how important it was to allow capitalism but in a responsible and sustainable manner. I was a member of protectors of pine oak woods and I remember learning how the pollution was destroying not only our environment for our wildlife but also for humans as I studied the cancer clusters and rates of autism forming with the wind currents streaming in from the kill van kull across the landfill through Travis and across the island. Parents and students and teachers all residents of Staten Island studied tirelessly to try and understand what was happening to our community and this was done for the love of our Island and for our community and our environment. No one else from any other borough cared like Staten Islanders did for our Island. The endless push to close the landfill finally happened and that is the strength of the voice of Staten Islanders.

We now have a juvenile bald eagle that just fledged from his nest in Raritan Bay on the Staten Island shoreline and I would bet that not many from Brooklyn or Manhattan know this and if they do I would be shocked. I would guess that people from Brooklyn and Staten Island do not know about the incredible birds that we have on Staten Island that are

struggling to hang on and would not know how detrimental the wind farm plans to be developed underneath the Outerbridge Crossing would be to our migratory birds and what a disgusting blight it would be to the eye for Staten Islanders to see. Migratory birds from the North and the South and even from the West converge on Staten Island to get reprieves during their migrations because this is where all of these wind currents meet- the Westerly winds, the Labrador current, and the Gulf stream converge on Staten Island and the birds that travel by them will come here -especially at the southern tip of Staten Island where I have been documenting numerous species of very important birds that are probably going to end up on the endangered species list soon. We have wildlife photographers and birders watching the populations and now in July I am very concerned over the small amount of species that are here on the island and a wind farm would be detrimental to not only our migratory birds but our historical resident species. These are all things that people from Manhattan and Brooklyn would not know because they are from already overdeveloped borough's and in contrast Staten Island is hanging on to the last bastion of suburban life and green spaces.

I have documented confirmed sightings of sandhill cranes migrating North a few weeks ago, broadwing Hawks on a thermal going over Lemon Creek, our beautiful bald eagle family and fledgling eagles that just left their nest, the skimmers, purple Martin colonies at Lemon Creek, the bold and brilliant ospreys that nested on Richmond Avenue by Drumgoole Road West whose fledglings just left the nest and had been hunting very magnificently, the red-shouldered hawk claiming territory over Blue Heron Conservatory Way, the sad number of warblers and Orioles on the South shore which should have been at least doubled- and which, by the way, I confirmed a rare sighting of an Audubon Oriole alongside Wolf Pond Park. The fact that our deer are in crisis right now with a possible mange or CWD illness that needs to be addressed or the turkeys that roam around Staten Island Hospital North also would not be known by any other than Staten Islanders. I only know of one ruby throated hummingbird that has been sighted at the southern tip of Staten Island and it is July and we should have seen more. The beautiful night and yellow crowned herons at Clove Lake Park and the incredible beautiful and elegant great egrets and muted swans. All of this wildlife is not known to people that are not from Staten Island and will not know how important it is to protect such wildlife and prevent any further development.

Another reason Staten Islanders need to have their own district is because nobody is like us when we have four bridges to get over to come home anytime we leave our Island. We are over taxed in many ways and over tolled and we need to be our own voice in such matters or else we will not be respected.

On Staten Island we have the last of the shooting ranges to support Second Amendment rights, shooting sports and right to self-defense that need to be protected. We have people here on Staten Island that enjoy shooting and hunting. More than ever with, especially with the recent Supreme Court decision, Staten Islanders are petitioning to have the right to carry restored which is confirmed constitutional by the recent Supreme Court decision- and this is crucial and must be protected. The restoration of concealed carry is real and permits need to start being issued to Staten Islanders that have been applying. A unified Staten Island will help support this constitutional right for Staten Islanders and further supports why Staten Island must remain its own District. I fully support the law-abiding citizens and their rights to responsibly carry a firearm, back up law enforcement if needed, and support our national security.

Here is a recent letter that I had submitted to my elected officials in regards to immediately restoring the right to self-defense and Staten Islanders are unique out of all New Yorkers in this fight to protect our rights to self defense and further supports why we must remain our own District:

"Gun control has been ruled illegal by the highest court in the land. Without gun rights and the rights of self-defense there are no other rights. Red flag laws violate due process and there must not be any violations of human rights ever again: No Red Flag Confiscation- the Marxist totalitarians in New York City outside of Staten Island will try to ignore Justice Thomas's decision and Supreme Court ruling in favor of self defense and constitutional rights. The plans have already been put in place for illegal metal detectors in NYC subway systems and red flag confiscation and must be stopped immediately. Totalitarians rule when citizens are made helpless and vulnerable and criminals given all the power like bail reform, defund the police, gun control, and negligent Attorney Generals creating their own laws which they cannot do and surrendering to criminally acting anti American coalitions.

"YOU MUST FIGHT FOR YOUR FREEDOM EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE..."

Quotation from Holocaust survivor and mother of Ralph Rubinek-Second Amendment and gun rights supporter from New York City opposing the Sullivan act and gun control for decades with a C-SPAN covered event in 2000, A year before 9/11.

The attacks on law enforcement officers and their rights to self defense are ongoing- do not let this decision fool you into thinking that this will end such attacks on Law Enforcement Officers and their rights to self-defense. A gradual disarmament of the New York City law enforcement officer has been happening and it is a dangerous and offensive attack on our national security and rights for citizens to live in peace and happiness. The Supreme Court decision released on June 23rd ,2022 proves that human rights have been violated in New York and New Yorkers need to not forget and live every day restoring their human rights-the lawful fight is not over.

Restore rights and educate and share the truth before marxists blanket again with more gun control as they ignore Justice Thomas's constitutional and proper decision.

The following are sources documenting historical gun control in New York and how such control has violated New Yorkers and their human rights to live in peace and safety,- it needs to be stopped. The rights to carry a firearm in public must be restored for law-abiding citizens-it is not the tool of self-defense that is the problem it is the emboldened criminal that faces no consequences and no deterrence that is allowed by Manhattan, Brooklyn elected officials(Most Staten Island elected officials have been calling for consequences for violent criminals for years now and support the right to self-defense and have opposed gun control) :

https://www.silive.com/opinion/letters/2012/01/new_yorks_draconian_sullivan_l.html

<https://www.ammoland.com/2009/11/son-of-a-holocaust-survivors-thoughts-on-bloomberg/>

<https://www.deseret.com/1999/11/4/19473770/registering-guns-is-risky>

<https://www.c-span.org/person/?84024/RalphRubinek>

<https://amgathering.org/2006/05/1330/2g-ralph-rubinek-a-mothers-day-tribute/>

You watched as gun rights advocates like myself tirelessly submitted letters, signed petitions, and shared information and now you witness all of the lawful and proper hard work as the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court, ruled in favor of restoring human rights in New York- which will effect the entire country in a very important way in restoring stolen freedoms-the Supreme Court was able to make that proper decision because of the tireless work of Staten Island gun rights advocates reminding elected officials and the courts that "we the people" have a right to be free with our written and oral lawful protests-thereby reminding the world that the Constitution of the United States protects God-given human rights in America and that America is the freest country in the world- now the time has come for law abiding New Yorkers to have their permits to carry processed. , Everyday, Staten Islanders like myself push for lawful protection of freedoms. I have never advocated for violence because that is wrong and entrapment. The win for gun rights via the Supreme Court proves that letters, education, petitions, and reminding elected officials who their constituents are, and reminding elected officials of their sworn oaths to protect constitutional rights do matter. New York City folk can learn from Staten Island and start by calling upon their City councils to restore love for country and neighbor and support one another and their freedoms to be restored. I have traveled into Manhattan and Queens recently and the lack of patriotism throughout New York City is unacceptable and shows a very selfish and unappreciative New York City collective and they will not even know that their rights have been restored so they can defend themselves as they are so far removed from what America truly is and means. It is crucial that New Yorkers become educated about why America is great, learn from Staten Islanders about what their freedoms really mean and to protect them and lawfully fight for them.

For all of the reasons above I am against redistricting Staten Island into any other borough and I am writing to protect Staten Island, our constitutional liberties, our rights to live freely and happy and in peace, and to keep Staten Island as its own District.

Julie Moschella

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