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July 6, 2022

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott
Chair
New York City Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 3 Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Walcott:

I am pleased to see that the New York City Districting Commission has commenced preliminary public hearings, but allow me to encourage, in the next round of hearings, a maximum promotion and outreach to communities of long-standing need. Harlem, the most famous neighborhood in the world, warrants one of the public hearing locations because of its racial and historic characteristics.

In as much as the release of any preliminary or final maps are still pending, I will offer only general guidelines now and as follows:

- Redistricting is more than number crunching by academics—it is really about the continuity of neighborhoods and communities.
- Heavy local participation is imperative, especially in the creation of The City Council district lines, to avoid the disastrous results in the recent case of the New York State Senate and United States Congressional district lines.
- The appointment of an entity, outside of the representative body (The City Council and The Commission), in their drawing of lines, could unintentionally pit communities against each other and excising areas of common interest. This must not happen in the level of government, i.e., The City Council, which is the closest to the people.
- Avoiding the loss of black representation in New York County (Manhattan) is critical.
- Traditional, indigenous communities, with natural borders and demarcations, should be kept together --- based upon natural consideration as well as micro-data from blocks and neighborhoods.

I reserve the balance of my comments, until such time you make your preliminary and final maps available with their logic for review and comments. I know that you deeply care about Harlem having a solid voice in this historic process.

I thank you for your proactive attention in this matter. As always, I am reachable at 212-222-7315 (office) and/or 646.342.0761 (mobile).

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cordell Cleare".

Cordell Cleare
Senator | 30th District