

DISTRICT OFFICE
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THE COUNCIL
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CHRISTOPHER MARTE

COUNCIL MEMBER, 1ST DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

E-MAIL: District1@council.nyc.gov

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July 11, 2022

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I have attached a proposed map of approximately 177,007 people for City Council District 1 that reflects the population requirements and natural boundaries of Lower Manhattan: Tribeca, Chinatown, the Financial District, the Lower East Side, SoHo, the South Village, Little Italy, Civic Center, Two Bridges, Battery Park City, and Governors Island. District 1 is a great example of encapsulating the city's broad diversity and connecting otherwise insular immigrant communities.

The attached map solves for some pre-existing oversights that have caused confusion and frustration in the past, mainly:

- **Putting East River Housing Corporation in a single council district:** Currently, East River's four buildings are located in two different council districts. This complicates our ability to assist their board and constituents, who often do not know why some of their neighbors are our constituents, while others are in District 2.
- **Adding Vladeck Houses to District 1:** Almost every side of Vladeck's campus is in District 1, yet the apartment buildings themselves are in District 2. Adding Vladeck to District 1 does not counterbalance any demographics, but rather lets Vladeck, and it's neighboring NYCHA campuses (LaGuardia Houses, and Rutgers Houses) become more unified in advocating for NYCHA-related issues. The quality of life issues surrounding Vladeck are all part of a Council district that they do not currently live in, so their inclusion in District 1 will help their needs be better met.

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We strongly recommend that our district remains largely intact because our district's expansive diversity is its greatest strength. Lower Manhattan is the oldest part of the city, and has always been home to wave after wave of immigrants and new-comers. Our residents are accustomed to finding commonality between each other, and City services have long been structured to fit the needs of these communities as a unified Council district. Nearly one third of our district not just lives here, but also walks to their workplace here. Keeping our borders the same will protect this communal and close-knit lifestyle.

One of the most unique features of this district is Governors Island. It should remain a part of District 1 as resiliency projects will shut down much of Lower Manhattan's green spaces along its coastline for the better part of the next decade. Connecting the island to our constituents will help us maintain and expand Lower Manhattan residents' access to green space, and help support funding initiatives on the island that primarily serve our constituents.

I look forward to working with you as this process develops and engaging in further community outreach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Marte".

Christopher Marte
New York City Council Member
District 1, Lower Manhattan

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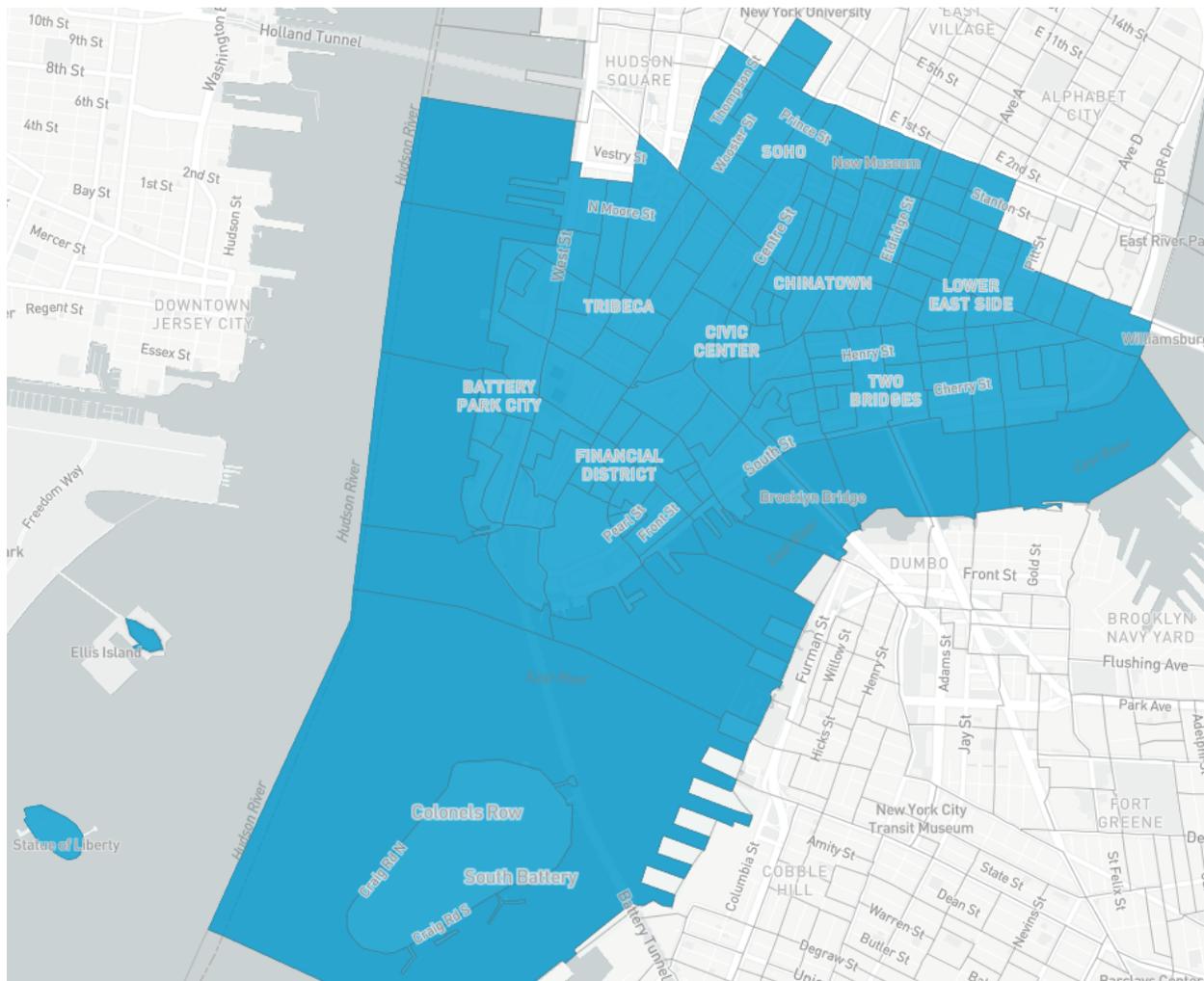


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Map population total: 177,007