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THE COUNCIL OF
 THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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 COUNCIL MEMBER • 27TH DISTRICT • QUEENS

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July 11th, 2022

Dear Districting Commission—

First, thank you for your volunteer service and commitment to ensuring our new city council lines reflect the best interest of all communities in New York City.

The nature of redistricting itself is to uphold the fundamentals of our democracy, voting. As the elected representative for the 27th Council District, a majority Black community I urge you to keep the contiguous nature of our district as a means of protecting our voting power. While Black people in New York City, remain a marginalized demographic our ability to be best served in the 27th Council District lies in our strong voting power which should be preserved.

The neighborhoods of Cambria Heights, St. Albans, Queens Village, Hollis, parts of Jamaica and Springfield Gardens share many cultural, landscape, socioeconomic, and institutional similarities and should remain intact. Even through our diversity we have more shared values than differences. The 27th Council District is also home to many valuable institutional assets such as Roy Wilkins Park, York College, JCAL/JCAP, and the larger downtown Jamaica area that are critical to the lived experiences and opportunities for our residents. Southeast Queens at large has always been a community that focuses primarily on what unifies us versus what divides us. That said, keeping our district integral and considering the expansion of the 27th Council District to cover the entire downtown Jamaica area, more specifically both sides of the Jamaica avenue strip and 165th street is ideal and will further unite us.

Southeast Queens has been considered by many as the Black jewel of New York City, a sign of upward mobility for many Black New Yorkers who have worked hard to own a home and live the “American Dream”. We must maintain this legacy, by not diluting the Black voting power within the 27th Council district during this redistricting process.

I urge the commission to consider the legacy of Southeast queens and the vital role the 27th Council District has played in safeguarding fair and effective representation for Black New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Nantasha Williams
 Councilmember (27th District)