

"Working for the Future of Our Community"

**KACE**

Korean American Civic Empowerment

**시 민 참 여 센 터**

**KACE.ORG**

NY: 3520 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2D, Flushing, NY 11354

NJ: 144 Main Street, Suite 203, Hackensack, NJ 07601

Tel. (718)961-4117 Fax. (718)961-4603

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Good evening. My name is Chae No of the Korean American Civic Empowerment (KACE). KACE is a nonpartisan non-profit community education and advocacy organization devoted to empowering Korean American and Asian American community in New York City.

On behalf of the Korean Americans in Queens County, KACE urges the Redistricting Commission to keep the Korean American community in Bayside undivided and their votes undiluted by recognizing the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's Unity Map for which many Asian American community organizations provided information about each ethnic community's social, economic and geographic boundaries to draw the neighborhood maps.

A Community of Interest (COI) is where residents have "actual shared interests" or some "common thread of social, economic or political interests." Keeping a COI together is one of traditional districting criteria. Also the New York City Charter mandates the Redistricting Commission to keep COIs intact.

Among COIs, KACE and the Korean American community are especially interested in two neighborhoods: Flushing and Bayside, where Korean Americans are concentrated. Most parts of the Flushing Asian American COI is included in Council District 20.

However, the Bayside Asian American COI is divided into Council District 19 and 23. On August 21, 2012, KACE and other Asian American organizations recommended that the Bayside COI be placed into Council District 19. We especially urged that a neighborhood, Oakland Gardens, situated between Long Island Expressway and 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in between Cunningham Park and Alley Pond Park should be included in Council District 19. The residents in the neighborhood consider the neighborhood as a part of Bayside and they often use their mailing address as "Bayside." They send their high school children to Cardozo High School. They also shop across Long Island Expressway.

However, the map proposed by NYC Districting Commission proves that the commission didn't listen to what the community members requested. The proposed map not only failed to keep the Asian American community together but also made the situation worse by allowing more parts of the community to be included into District 23.

KACE strongly urges the Redistricting Commission to keep Bayside undivided and include the neighborhood having boundaries of Cunningham Park, Alley Pond Park, Long Island Expressway and 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave into Council District 19.

Should you need more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 718-961-4117 or [info@kace.org](mailto:info@kace.org).

Thank you for this opportunity to deliver the opinion of the Korean Americans community.

Chae No

Program Coordinator, KACE