

*Betsy Feist's Testimony at the NYC Districting Commission Hearing,
January 7, 2013*

My name is Betsy Feist, I reside in what is now the 5th City Council district, and I am president of the East Side Democratic Club. I and my club support the nonpartisan independent redistricting process and thank you for your efforts.

Although the club is a partisan organization, it prides itself in serving the entire community by providing information about the issues and concerns of our neighbors and serving as a link to governmental institutions. We live in a cohesive community and all residents have common interests and shared concerns about our infrastructure and amenities, including everything from transportation to housing to our parks, shops, and restaurants.

It is important that this community not be severed artificially, that we remain connected to each other and to the institutions that support us as individuals and our community as a whole. Therefore, the new district should conform as closely as possible to the existing one, and avoid jigs and jags that make it hard even to know what district one is in at a given moment. Specifically, in the area of 79th Street, it should include the three blocks that have been cut out at Second Avenue.

Thank you for your attention.

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