

Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 580331, Station A
Flushing, NY 11358
August 21, 2012

New York City Districting Commission
Attn: Jonathan Etricks
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

To the New York City Districting Commission:

My name is Henry Euler and I am the First Vice President of the Auburndale Improvement Association, Inc. My civic organization has over six hundred members in the Auburndale, Flushing and Western Bayside communities. We have been in existence for over one hundred years.

We have examined the proposal for new district lines for the 19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council districts that has been submitted to the Queens Civic Congress. My organization is a member of the Congress.

The new proposed lines are attempting to keep communities and/or neighborhoods with similar zoning designations in the same district. This should be a major goal when forming council lines for new districts. According to Commission guidelines, it is expected that new lines will "keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other" considerations. Forming districts with similar zoning designations complies with Commission goals.

In the 19th district, it makes sense to extend the boundary of the district westward to include one and two family neighborhoods in North Flushing. Those areas have similar interests to Broadway-Flushing to the east, a neighborhood of one and two family homes. The two areas should be united in one district.

As advocates for the Auburndale community, we do have concerns that Auburndale is cut in half with the proposed plan. The southern portion of the community as well as a small portion of central Auburndale (see two asterisks on attached proposal map) are placed in the 20th Council district, which is a district of mostly multi-family homes and apartments. Those two asterisked parts of Auburndale are made up of mostly one and two family homes, which is not consistent with most of the rest of the 20th district. If the Commission approves this proposal, some tweaking is needed for these two areas. Perhaps, southern Auburndale would be more appropriately placed in the 23rd Council district and the central portion that was asterisked should be in the 19th Council district.

Thank you for the opportunity to give this testimony and thank you for the important work that you are undertaking. Your job can not be easy, given all of the components a viable district must possess, however, we are confident that an appropriate districting plan will emerge from your work that will be fair to everyone and appropriate for the concerns and needs of all communities.

Henry Euler 

19th, 20th, 23rd and 24th Council Districts
Proposed Boundaries and Population

