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Distinguished members of the New York City Council Redistricting Commission.

I appear before you as a representative of the Williamsburg Jewish community,

My name is Gary Schlesinger. I'm the executive board chair of UJ Care, United Jewish Community Advocacy Relations & Enrichment which represents approximately 70-80 thousand orthodox Jewish residents, from Williamsburg, Clinton Hill/Ft Greene, and Bedford-Stuyvesant, Our organization is a not for profit Organization which assists, provides, and directs Service to people who have no other means, and depend on social services and also advocates for policy changes beneficial to schools and the community and the City as a whole.

I appreciate the fact that I have this opportunity to talk.

As a child of immigrants and Holocaust survivors, I can only say that only in the United States, we really had a chance to speak openly to lawmakers who write the laws and implement policy, and are ready and happy to hear what we have to say.

Over 60 years have passed since our parents, immigrants mainly from Eastern Europe, arrived here in this blessed country, after fleeing the Holocaust during World War II. They built from scratch new institutions, and poured millions upon millions of dollars into schools, synagogues, community centers. We are continuing to do exactly that to this day.

As of today, our new younger generations want to stay in the same communities. And because of that, we are one of the fastest growing community in New York State.

We are very worried that this will change, and we will be diluted and our influence as a community

United Jewish Community Advocacy Relations and Enrichment  
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will be diminished. As one community, we share the same culture, same religious beliefs, and our way of life. There's a certain ethnic sensitivity that should be considered when lines are drawn, because there are so many special needs.

A former disgraced assemblyman who I am ashamed to even read his name out aloud proposed the current draft for his own political agenda to create a so-called "Super Jewish District" which will change the current city council districts; we are currently represented in 2 districts, the 33<sup>rd</sup> and the 35<sup>th</sup>

We believe it is better for our orthodox Jewish community to leave the old lines Untouched, it provides us with an additional council member, in addition to CM Levin from 33<sup>rd</sup> council district who has approx. 80% of our community we have CM Letitia James from 35<sup>th</sup> council district with approx. 20% A "Super Jewish" district will dilute our community's strength and will choke our voice to be more effectively heard within the City Council,

It is important to have our voices heard, we believe we will prosper, and we will continue to be able to raise our children as great American citizens. I would ask you all to please review the district lines as best as you can, Take into consideration the needs of our community, a community that has stayed committed to the city of New York, that has pumped in millions of dollars into the neighborhood, a community that is committed to making our neighborhoods work.

Please look at these district lines carefully and PLEASE DON'T CHANGE OUR CURRENT DISTRICT LINES! Let our voices be heard and not the voice of a former disgraced assemblyman who wanted to change our current lines for his own personal agenda,

Thank you very much for listening.

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