

[Westiders for Public Participation, Inc.](http://www.westsiders.org)

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To the New York City Districting Commission:

NEW NORTHERN UPPER WEST SIDE DISTRICTS
ARE ARBITRARY AND NOT COMPACT

I was one of the persons who testified on August 16, 2012, in favor of a compact and geographically contiguous Upper West Side district to the north of District 6. The Upper West Side is historically agreed to extend between 110th Street and 59th Street to the north and south – corresponding to the boundaries of Central Park. As Councilwoman Brewer testified before you on the same day, **Upper Westsiders know who we are**, and such a prevalent self-identification alone is sufficient to bind us all into a single community of interest. We shop together along the same central commercial corridors and travel together along the same central public transit corridors. We are active colleagues at meetings of Manhattan Community Board 7. Several daily news blogs are exclusive to our local concerns. Our devotion to diversity of all kinds is both legendary and sincere. We are personally interconnected just by virtue of our shared Upper West Side identity.

Little did I expect to see a **new** map proposed that partitions the northern Upper West Side arbitrarily between the proposed new Districts 7 and 9, along an elongated and irregular north-south line that's **even more** unmeaningful to northern Upper West Side residents than the illogical distinctions of the current map. This **new division** of a strongly self-identified community of interest is impossible to justify under the Commission's chartered mandate to **maintain communities of historical interest and association**. *N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1)(c) (2004)*.

Furthermore, the proposed new Districts 7 and 9 fit no definition of the term "compact." They are the **most overlong and narrow** districts proposed for all of Manhattan. The district offices would be literally miles away from many constituents, and not necessarily connected by any central public transportation corridor. Both of these new districts violate the Commission's chartered mandate to create districts that **cannot be more than twice as long as they are wide**, in a manner that **minimizes** the sum of the length of their boundaries. *N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1) (d)(g) (2004)*.

HISTORICALLY UNITED PARK WEST VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD
MUST NOT BE DIVIDED

Westiders for Public Participation was founded in 2008 by long-term stakeholders of the Park West Village neighborhood of Manhattan. Park West Village proper was founded under Title I of the 1949 Housing Act, and continues to this day as a single, strongly bonded community of interest, despite four of its seven buildings having been converted to private

condominium ownership about 25 years ago. Park West Village is comprised of two superblocks bounded by West 100th Street and West 97th Street to the north and south, and by Amsterdam Avenue and Central Park West to the east and west.

The recent infill development of Columbus Square along Columbus Avenue between the two superblocks has not altered the traditions through which the residents of Park West Village have been historically interrelated. The residents of Columbus Square are our neighbors now, too.

The residents of the buildings along the south side of West 97th Street have become close community colleagues over many years, and we consider them, too, to be an integral part of the Park West Village neighborhood.

Irrespective of which redistricting plan is ultimately decided now, please do not divide the Park West Village neighborhood, a community of historical interest and association that has thrived together and worked collaboratively with **all** of its legislative representatives for more than 50 years.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Bunten
President, Board of Directors
Westsidiers for Public Participation, Inc.

Westsidiers for Public Participation, Inc., is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of New York and exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our mission is to improve the quality of debate and level of community involvement in public life on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and throughout New York City.