



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
www.OANA-NY.org

August 21, 2022

Testimony: NYC Council Districts Redistricting Public Hearing

Following are OANA's thoughts on redistricting:

1. Manhattan should stay with Council District 5 in Manhattan. We feel that they will receive the best representation possible with a Manhattan Councilmember, who understands their needs and traditions best. Also, unlike Roosevelt Island, they have no connection to Queen's services

2. Roosevelt Island should be part of District 26. This will help right a long time wrong, as public services, from first-responders, sanitation, postal, etc are all Western Queens based. Therefore, Western Queens should have authority. Also, a tech sector is developing in Western Queens, and having Cornell Tech included would be an important step in advancing tech and life sciences capabilities. Also, Land Use decisions in Western Queens would directly affect Cornell Tech.

In previous testimony, residents of Roosevelt Island were worried that their homes would lose value if they become part of Council District 26. However, because the address and Borough will not change, this is not an issue. And we appreciate the comment that current services and security are great, for this is actually a complement to Queens service providers.

3. The northern border of District 26 should be 34th Avenue. The current waterfront finger that District 26 enjoys up to Halletts Cove should be returned to District 22. District 22 surrounds this small water front sliver making it obvious it should be part of District 22.

4. Woodside Houses should be in District 22, as public services such as schools are primarily in District 22. This would also mean that the 4 NYCHA Campuses would be split evenly between the 2 districts: Queensbridge and Ravenswood to District 26, Woodside and Astoria Houses to District 22.

Richard Khuzami

Presiden