

Written Comments for June 30th Public Hearing
Zachary Simpson <zacharyemmottsimpson@gmail.com>
Thu 6/30/2022 4:26 PM
To:

- Redistricting Commission <RedistrictingCommission@albanycountyny.gov>

Cc:

- Janel Carver <janelcarver@hotmail.com>;
- Michael OBrien <twelfward@aol.com>;
- Karen Cunniff <kcunniff@nycap.rr.com>;
- Bernice Aviza <blaviza@verizon.net>;
- Edward Clarke <ehclarke@albanyny.gov>

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept the following written comments on behalf of the Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association and Common Council Member Hyde Clarke for today's joint public hearing. Kindly acknowledge receipt via return email.

Dear Albany County Redistricting Commissioners and Members of the Majority Minority Districting Subcommittee,

We write on behalf of the Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association (UWANA), local leaders, neighbors and Stakeholders to express our deep concern regarding the redistricting map set forth in the newly proposed District 3-2021.

We are concerned that the proposed map was developed without UWANA input and disregards the unique neighborhood needs and alliances that strengthen our individual community within the City of Albany. And, most crucially, will weaken our community voice at the County level by grouping our neighborhood outside the City of Albany and into Loudonville and Menands.

The newly proposed District 3-2021 negatively impacts UWANA in that will inhibit progress and safety in our neighborhood. For example:

- *The division of the Upper Washington Neighborhood, into this new District 3, will hinder collaboration between Wards 10, 11, 12 and 13 for traffic safety, business collaboration and maintaining our proud urban landscape.*
- *Moving UWANA out of a district shared by Beverwyck, Melrose and Pine Hills Neighborhood Associations fails to understand our neighborhood and recognize UWANA as a community of interest in our corner of the City of Albany.*
- *As the Albany County Redistricting Commission needs to create Majority Minority Districts (MMDs), they are also required by law to maintain communities of interest. These include schools, parishes and particularly neighborhood associations.*
- *Additionally, our urban neighborhood's concerns, values and needs may not be in alignment with those in a more suburban environment.*

Due to these critical flaws in the newly proposed district, we oppose the proposed map and urge you to instead call for the 13th district to remain intact as it is today with established neighborhoods in Albany.

Sincerely,

*Zach Simpson, President
Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association*

*Janel Mirel, Vice-President
Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association*

Hyde Clarke, Common Council 12th Ward Representative