

Washington Park Neighborhood Association
Shadi Khadivi
427 State Street
Albany, NY 12203

Re: Public Hearing with MMD Plan D: Testimony to the Albany County Redistricting Committee Public Hearing: August 4, 2022

Statement of Washington Park Neighborhood Association Board

Washington Park Neighborhood Association is following up with the previous letter sent on June 30, 2022. In addition, we'd like to make the following comments.

- The redistricting committee seems to have ignored all public testimony and moved forward with maps with a predetermined end goal of 2 new minority majority districts without necessarily the population increase to substantiate them. Specifically, two of the new districts have under 50 percent voting population that is considered minority.
- The latest map completely splinters the community. Neighborhood Associations in half, the Bid in half and then half again and Park South from Washington Park and Washington Park into 3.
- Communities of interest are extremely important and need to be represented accordingly. These maps ignore that, and the 5th legislative district specifically includes several communities of interest that are being divided.
- It is odd that the committee has created minority voters as a monolith who always vote together regardless of contrary communities of interest or geographic/political boundaries (Cities/towns/villages) An obvious example of this is combining North Albany with Loudonville.

Below is the original letter written on June 30, 2002:

The Washington Park Neighborhood Association is in a unique location working within the legislature Districts 2 & 5. We have a great working relationship within both boundaries, and we have several key landmarks in our community that tie us together. However, within the Washington Park Neighborhood Association, half the community lives in District 2 and the other half lives in District 5. While we have a good working relationship with both communities, and it is important to consider that we are bound together by key landmarks and communities of interest. We are in a unique position where we celebrate Washington Park Townsend Park, the Lark Street Business District. These areas within our area bridge our district together as a community. Simultaneously, we work closely with the Center Square Association, Hudson Park Neighborhood Association, and the Park South Neighborhood Association on key issues that impact us at the county and the city level.

We believe that the proposed configuration does not consider the impacted community holistically. We as a group focus and encourage walkable communities. We utilize and celebrate our mixed-use commercial corridor on Lark Street while celebrating the historic Washington Park and Townsend Park. We focus and celebrate the architectural buildings in a local historic district. We believe that these

elements tie our community together as one voice. The proposed configuration in hand, separates and expands the boundaries and splits, Hudson Park, Center Square, Park South and Washington Park and this is not in the best interest of our immediate community. Simultaneously its important to realize that Washington Park Neighborhood Association needs a stronger Lark Street bid corridor and further dividing that in three will hurts all communities of interest.

Please consider rejecting the proposal to bifurcate the 5th LD and consider adopting a proposal that thinks more unified neighborhood.

Thank you,

Shadi Khadivi
President, WPNA

Bill Pettit,
Vice-President, WPNA

Mark Brogna
Treasurer, WPNA

Julianne Burnham
WPNA, Secretary