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ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINORITY CONFERENCE

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Members of the Albany County Redistricting Commission:

I write regarding the confines of my 27th Legislative District as included in the draft map approved on November 26th. Specifically, I have concerns regarding the representation of two hamlets along Central Avenue, Maywood and Stanford Heights, which are both divided in the currently proposed draft map.

The hamlet of Maywood is easily identifiable along Central Avenue for its state-named streets to the south of Central Avenue, such as Michigan, Massachusetts, and Maryland Avenues. This is an area which I grew up in and know very well. Most of the area is included within the 28th Legislative District up through Van Heusen Street, but parts of Maywood south of Central Avenue were included within the 27th Legislative District, specifically places like Alta, Marjorie, and Ruth Roads. It would be best if the entire neighborhood south of Central was kept together, even if that means including it in the 28th District. Accordingly, if possible, I propose moving the line between the districts from Van Heusen Street to Lisha Kill Road south of Central Avenue. This will include the area mentioned above and adjoining streets within the 28th Legislative District, ensuring neighborhood cohesion is maintained.

The hamlet of Stanford Heights sits in the southwest corner of the Town of Colonie along the Schenectady County line. This area along Central Avenue includes the westernmost portions of Albany Street and a residential neighborhood emanating off of it. On the southern side of Central Avenue, it is bounded by Morris Road to the south and the County line to the west. In the proposed draft map, this area is divided, partly along residential streets. The area along Cordell Road to the west of Albany Street is included within the proposed 28th District while the remainder is in my 27th Legislative District. If the census blocks permit, I ask that this line be changed to a boundary running from the County line along the CSX Railway to Morris Road, then down to Albany Street and to Lisha Kill Road south of Central Avenue as discussed with my proposed changes in Maywood.

When drawing the map, the Commission determined Central Avenue to be a point of division for the 27th and 28th Legislative Districts. Implementing changes to the hamlets to Maywood and Stanford Heights would respect this decision while ensuring neighborhoods remain together for purposes of representation. I understand the difficulties census blocks can cause in drawing neighborhoods cohesively, and I appreciate anything that can be done to improve the situation south of Central Avenue. Thank you.

Best,

Frank A. Mauriello
Minority Leader
Albany County Legislature