

APAVOICE

— Redistricting Task Force —



MINKWON CENTER
For Community Action



Caribbean
EQUALITY PROJECT
ADVOCATING FOR CARIBBEAN LGBTQ+ VOICES IN NYC



ADVANCING OUR
COMMUNITY



Chinese
Progressive
Association



EMBRACING
THE HOPES AND
ASPIRATIONS OF
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICANS



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THE KOREAN COMMUNITY
SERVICES OF METROPOLITAN
NEW YORK, INC.
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chhaya CDC
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Strengthening Communities



亞洲人平等會
ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUALITY



Academy of Medical
& Public Health Services



Asian American
Bar Association
of New York



CACF
Coalition For Asian American
Children+Families



WOM **Woodside**
ON THE MOVE



May 4, 2022

Hon. Patrick F. McAllister
Steuben County Supreme & County Court
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810

Re: Tim Harkenrider, et al. v. Gov. Kathy Hochul, et al
Steuben County Index No. E2022-0116CV

Dear Judge McAllister:

On behalf of the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force, the largest APA coalition on redistricting in New York City, we respectfully request that Special Master Dr. Jonathan Cervas, who is appointed to redraw

New York's congressional and state senate district maps, review **all** the testimonies, maps, and comments submitted by the public to the New York Independent Redistricting Commission. We understand these documents are part of the court's record in this case. Throughout 2021 and in accordance with the State Constitution, the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) gathered an enormous amount of citizen input from stakeholders and voters across the state. Hundreds of people testified in two dozen public hearings or submitted their maps and comments. That input is essential to inform the composition of redistricting maps concerning the constitutional requirement to consider the maintenance of communities of interest during the drawing of districts (NY Const, art III, § 4 [c]).

Further we are pleased that the hearing will be livestreamed and request that it also be simultaneously translated in languages mandated for New York by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. However, we were disappointed to learn that your Honor could not grant the option to appear virtually before Special Master Dr. Cervas for the May 6th hearing due to technical problems in the courtroom. We respectfully urge the Court to find a technological solution that would allow such remote participation to occur. Thousands of New Yorkers must have meaningful access and an equal opportunity at this critical stage to weigh in on a process that will impact their lives for the next ten years. In light of the number of stakeholders who have testified before the Independent Redistricting Commission and the difficulty many New Yorkers have accessing the Steuben County Supreme Court by car and/or public transportation, we believe there would be substantial interest in providing input virtually. Moreover, those who testified at the IRC hearings never had an opportunity to comment on the maps the New York State Legislature subsequently drew and that input is critical to a democratic and fair process. Alternatively, we respectfully ask that you hold hearings in person and/or virtually in New York City with translators provided, similar to what the Independent Redistricting Commission did.

Respectfully submitted:



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