

May 6, 2022

Prof. Jonathan Cervas
Special Master
Institute for Politics and Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

RE: Proposed Map for NYS Senate District 30

Dear Special Master Cervas:

This is a letter in support of retaining Community Board Number 2, Manhattan (CB2), and Community Board Number 4, Manhattan (CB4), in the same proposed NYS Senate District 30 along the West Side of Manhattan. We are writing in our individual, not official, capacities as people who have a deep knowledge of the West Side of Manhattan as the NYC Council Member representing parts of CB2 and CB4 and as the Chairpersons of CB2 and CB4.

CB2 and CB4 are organized along a North-South axis, which is the general organizing principal of government in Manhattan, including the proposed NYS Senate District 30. Additional government jurisdictions organized on the North-South axis that span both CB2 and CB4 are Community School District 2, the local public school district, and overlapping police precincts and Precinct Community Councils. CB2 and CB4 are largely represented by the same NYC Council Members, U.S. Congressman, and NYS Senator, whose districts are primarily on a North-South axis. This should remain unchanged to provide for cohesive and effective representation of this part of Manhattan.

Community Boards are the official municipal body in New York City whose primary mission is to advise elected officials and government agencies on matters affecting the social welfare of the district, including land use and zoning, the budget process, and the delivery of social services. They are non-partisan and each comprised of 50 members who serve in a voluntary capacity.

CB2 is comprised of the neighborhoods of Greenwich Village, including the South and Central Village. CB4 consists of the neighborhoods of Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen. It is important that these community board districts remain connected and as contiguous as possible within the lines of NYS Senate District 30 because the effectiveness of our community boards depends on the collaboration and support of our local officials.

CB2 and CB4 also share a number of important public infrastructure elements, including the Hudson River Park; a myriad of North-South subway lines (N/Q/R/W; A/C/E; B/D/F/M and 1/2/3) and MTA bus lines along major avenues along the West Side leading to the Penn Station and Moynihan rail and subway stations; the Highline park; and State Route 9A, also known as the West Side Highway. Also, the PATH train runs through CB2 and CB4 from Christopher Street to 33rd Street.

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In addition, CB2 and CB4 have similar demographics which unite them. Both have among the largest populations of Jewish and LGBTQIA+ populations. CB2 and CB4 span historic and large populations of artists and performing venues, including the New York Public Theater, Broadway theaters, Madison Square Garden, and Lincoln Center. Both CB2 and CB4 have one of the largest number of rent-regulated tenants, as well.

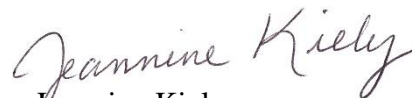
There are similar industries in both the CB2 and CB4 corridors. As mentioned above, both CB2 and CB4 have shared arts and cultural institutions, including the Whitney Museum of Art, the Children’s Museum of the Arts and the American Folk Art Museum. CB2 and CB4 both have a large number of historic districts, too, including the Greenwich Village Historic District, the Chelsea Historic District and the Gansevoort Market Historic District, which spans both community boards, and newly created State Historic district, Paddy’s Market in Hell’s Kitchen. CB2 and CB4 are united by the large number of small businesses in the hospitality industry. CB2 and CB4 have a large number of higher educational institutions, including New York University, Cooper Union, New School, Cardozo Law School, Fashion Institute of Technology, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice.


The technology company Google has a large presence in CB4 at 111 Eighth Avenue and in the nearby Chelsea Market. Google will be opening new space in CB2 at 550 Washington Street, 315 Hudson Street and 345 Hudson Street, in addition to new space in CB4 at Pier 75, making the planned 15,000 corporate employees the largest number outside of its California headquarters. Other technology companies in CB2 and CB4 include Facebook, which has a presence in both districts, along with IAC Interactive, Facebook, Amazon, Twitter and Microsoft.

For these reasons, we believe that CB2 and CB4 are united by common interests. We strongly urge you to keep CB2 and CB4 in the same NYS Senate District when considering reapportionment.

Sincerely yours,


 Erik Bottcher
 NYC Council – District 3


 Jeannine Kiely
 Chairperson
 Community Board Number 2, Manhattan


 Jeffrey C. LeFrancois
 Chairperson
 Community Board Number 4, Manhattan