

VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N. Y. 11571-0950

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May 18, 2022

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

Special Master Jonathan Cervas
Supreme Court, Steuben County
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810

Re: Harkenrider et al. v Hochul, et al.
Index Number: E-2022-0116CV

Dear Justice McCallister and Special Master Cervas:

I have been requested by the Village of Rockville Centre, an incorporated Village in Nassau County with a population in excess of 26,000, to write to you to express the Village's deep concerns regarding the proposed new boundary lines for New York State Senate District 9. The proposed boundary lines would divide the Village for the purposes of representation.

The Village of Rockville Centre is a coherent unit, which provides comprehensive services to all of its constituents. The Village is one of only three Long Island villages which own and operate their own electric utility, which serves the entire Village. The Village also has its own police department, the largest volunteer fire department and emergency ambulance service in the State, and its own municipal water utility, all of which serve the entire Village. It also provides a myriad of other municipal services to all of its residents, including sanitation, parks, recreation, and regulation of building, zoning and planning.

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Nearly the entire Village is located within the boundaries of the Rockville Centre School District.

The proposed Senate district boundaries would divide the Village and make it part of two different Senate districts. Portions of the Village which are in the Rockville Centre School District would be divided along boundary lines which do not match the School District boundary lines. Separate portions of the Village would be placed together with nearby unincorporated areas which have no common interests with those of the Village, and with which the Village residents have little in common. The facilities of the Police Department and Fire Department, each of which serve the entire Village, would be separated such that their facilities would be in different Senate districts.

This proposed map, while presumably well-intentioned, would divide the Village, dilute representation for Village residents, and diminish their ability to influence their State Senator to act in accordance with Village interests.

One of the cardinal rules of redistricting is to seek to maintain existing community boundaries. This proposed map would violate that rule by dividing a community which was incorporated with its current boundaries in 1893, and fracture it.

We urge each of you to recognize these concerns, reconsider this proposed map, and establish district boundary lines which would place the entire Village in a single Senate district.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A T L', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A. THOMAS LEVIN
Village Attorney

C: All Counsel