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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org

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CB2 Equity, Race & Justice Committee

January • Minutes

The Equity, Race & Justice Committee of Community Board 2, Manhattan met on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 @ 6:30pm via Video Conference.

CB2 Board Members Present: Mar Fitzgerald (Chair), Patricia Laraia (Vice-Chair), Katy Bordonaro, Matt Metzger, Antony Wong

Committee Members Absent w/ Notice: Akeela Azcuy

Other CB2 Members Present: Jeannine Kiely, Carter Booth, Michael Levine, Donna Raftery, Brian Pape, Eugene Yoo, William Benesh,

Presenter: Steven Romalewski, Director, CUNY Mapping Service [CUNY Graduate Center](#)

Panelists: Elizabeth OuYang, coordinator, Redistricting Task Force [APA Voice](#), Mae Lee, Executive Director [Chinese Progressive Association](#)

Attendees: Ama Burnham, BW, Darlene Lutz, Dashiell Allen, Dattlysha, SimonEric Dickson, Fannie Ip, John Lee, Melanie Longenbach, Natasha Avanesians, P Yang, Pamela Parker, Pete Davies, Thomas Cristianni, Tom LeGoff, Victoria Hillstom

Attendance: 41

AGENDA

1*. **Redistricting Chinatown:** A review and discussion about the proposed Chinatown redistricting plan.

Presentation: Steven Romalewski - Director, CUNY Mapping Service

Redistricting & You: An interactive demonstration on the implications of redistricting on our communities

Resources:

Redistricting & You: New York

<https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

[\[https://www.nyirc.gov/plans\]](https://www.nyirc.gov/plans)

[*Advocacy Orgs LATFOR Letter requesting it hold a public hearing - January 25, 2022*](#)

[NY Independent Redistricting Commission Map](#)

[Redistricting & You](#) (Interactive Map)

[APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force](#) (meeting video)

[As NY Redistricting Forges Forward, Asian American Groups Push for 'Unity Map'](#)

(CityLimits)

[Redistricting Task Force Urges Governor Hochul to Adopt the Unity Map](#)

On Jan 25th @6:30pm ERJ discussed a proposed redistricting plan by the Independent Redistricting Commission that would effectively draw a line through Chinatown and break it into two different State Senate districts - and the potential impact on that community's political voice.

We began the meeting with a presentation: Redistricting & You, from Steven Romalewski, Director, CUNY Mapping Service. It was a demonstration of an [interactive online map](#) that illustrated the changes in area and demographics that would be caused by the proposed redistricting plans.

After the demonstration, panelists Elizabeth OuYang, coordinator, Redistricting Task Force [APA Voice](#), and Mae Lee, Executive Director [Chinese Progressive Association](#) explained the redistricted process as it related to Chinatown, specifically the unwanted changes to State Senate District 26. They also updated the committee on the redistricting process to date. As the Independent Redistricting Commission (NYS IRC) had failed to find consensus on any plan, the responsibility of drawing maps had fallen to the Legislative Taskforce on Demographics & Reapportionment (LATFOR), giving it the power to autonomously draw district lines.

Panelists were in support of the [Unity Map](#), a citywide plan created by over 60 NYC advocacy organizations, which received sustained public support across all five boroughs. The Unity Map would keep communities of interest, like Chinatown and the Lower East Side together, and allow those communities to retain their current, and vote for future political representatives jointly.

They asked that the Board support their call for further public engagement as the LATFOR maps would soon be adopted.

In Business Session ERJ committee met and discussed writing a letter to support further public engagement in the form of at least one public hearing before maps were completed. The ERJ Committee voted unanimously to write and immediately send a letter to LATFOR. (see attached)