



JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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March 10th, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Redistricting Maps

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) at its March 1, 2023 Full Board meeting, voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, and 0 Present Not Eligible to recommend to support this letter, we provide the following observations on the preliminary district maps the Commission has issued.

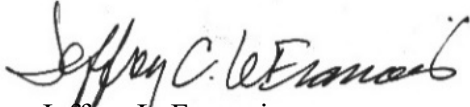
The paramount issue for MCB4 in reviewing these maps is that our community district (which is bordered on the south by 14th Street, on the west by the Hudson River, on the north by 59th Street and on the east, by 6th Avenue from 14th to 26th Streets and by 8th Avenue from 26th to 59th) be kept intact, so that neighborhoods are not divided by Assembly districts. The Commission prioritizes keeping towns in rural and suburban areas intact within single districts when new district lines are drawn. Manhattan’s District 4 should receive the same treatment and be considered a Community of Interest, since our board advocates for the residents of District 4 and coordinates with city agencies on the provision of their services within our boundaries. Additionally, the population growth of minority communities in District 4 as reflected in the new census has occurred predominantly in Hell’s Kitchen; the proposed division of Hell’s Kitchen at 53rd Street bifurcates the minority community that lives there.

To this end, the proposed version of the Assembly map comes closest to being coterminous with the Community District lines. The southern border of the Assembly district is pushed south (from the border of the current 75th AD) to 14th Street, matching the district line. While the eastern edge does not exactly follow the district line, tracking Seventh Ave, then Sixth Ave at West 30th Street and finally Irving Place from 14th to 20th Streets, does keep our district whole.

MCB4 would prefer that the northern edge of the Assembly district be pushed to 60th Street, both to track the community district border and to keep the entirety of Hell's Kitchen neighborhood (including the Coliseum Apartments) intact, instead of dividing the northern edge of Hell's Kitchen between Assembly districts. One other aspect of this map that it is helpful that the entirety of Hudson River Park north of 14th Street is contained in a single Assembly district.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey C. LeFrancois". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeffrey LeFrancois

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: Hon. Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly
Hon. Tony Simone, New York Assembly
Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, New York Assembly