



January 12, 2012
For Immediate Release
Contact: Ari Gershman

MARK WEPRIN CALLS ON LATFOR TO USE 23rd COUNCIL DISTRICT AS GUIDE TO UNITE COMMUNITIES

Council Member Mark S. Weprin has long supported an independent redistricting commission as the best way to maximize public confidence in the redistricting process. In the absence of independent redistricting, Council Member Weprin has called on the New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) to draw district lines that are as clean and straight as possible, that follow intuitive boundaries, and that respect cohesive communities.

“In these times of public distrust of government, we need to establish clear, logical district lines whenever possible,” said Council Member Mark Weprin.

In a letter to LATFOR (copy attached), Council Member Weprin reiterates the importance of uniting communities. He offers the district he currently represents, the 23rd Council District in the New York City Council, as a model for both the 24th Assembly District, which covers many of the same areas, as well as for districts across New York State.

“I still believe independent redistricting is the gold standard. Without it, LATFOR should focus on drawing districts with neat, reasonable boundaries that keep communities together,” said Council Member Mark Weprin.

DISTRICT OFFICE
73-03 BELL BOULEVARD
OAKLAND GARDENS, NY 11364
TEL: (718) 468-0137
FAX: (718) 468-0178

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1807
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-6984
FAX: (718) 608-6382

THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MARK S. WEPRIN

COUNCIL MEMBER, 23RD DISTRICT, QUEENS

CHAIR
ZONING AND FRANCHISES SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
LAND USE
EDUCATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
TECHNOLOGY

January 10, 2012

Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, Co-Chair
Assemblymember John J. McEneny, Co-Chair
New York State Legislative Task Force
on Demographic Research and Reapportionment
250 Broadway, Suite 2100
New York, New York 10007

Dear Co-Chairs Nozzolio and McEneny:

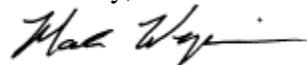
I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents in Eastern Queens regarding legislative redistricting. I want to reiterate a message I have spoken about for many years: the importance of uniting communities.

In today's environment, the public is often inclined to view government decisions with a heavy dose of skepticism. That is why I was a strong advocate for independent redistricting while I served in the New York State Assembly. Independent redistricting is the best way to maximize public confidence in the redistricting process. In the absence of an independent commission, I am calling on the New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment to draw district lines that are as clean and straight as possible, that follow intuitive boundaries, and that respect cohesive communities.

Legislative districts with confusing or convoluted borderlines weaken the public's confidence in government. On the other hand, running district borders along natural boundaries such as highways, county lines, and major thoroughfares helps to keep communities intact, engaged, and united. As you may know, I currently represent the 23rd Council District in the New York City Council. I am proud that the district has neat, clear boundaries that generally follow natural borders and keep communities together. I am hopeful that the 23rd Council District can serve as a model for the 24th Assembly District, where many of my constituents reside, as well as for districts across New York State.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



MARK S. WEPRIN Council Member
MSW: ag