

By ECF and Secured Filing

March 6, 2012

Hon. Magistrate Judge Roanne Mann
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

Favors v. Cuomo, 1:11-cv-05632-DLI-RR-GEL/RLM
RAMOS INTERVENORS'
RESPONSE TO MAGISTRATE'S
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE, DATED MARCH 5, 2012

Dear Hon. Judge Mann:

Please find Ramos Intervenors' Response to this Court's Order To Show Cause regarding this Court's draft plan on Congressional Districts (hereinafter, "Proposed Plan"), released to the parties in the late evening of March 5, 2012.

The Ramos Intervenors' mappers and counsel reviewed the Proposed Plan and data files this day. We are very gratified that the Court's calculus in drafting maps has factored in the VRA Section 5 preclearance standard and that it heard the concerns raised by the Ramos Plan and Unity Plan sponsors as they relate to the City's covered jurisdictions.

We have no major objections to the Proposed Plan's districts in New York *except* we respectfully request that the Court take a second look at its proposed CD 7. This proposed district has anomalies which should be corrected. Here, the Court has migrated 64,152 residents from the

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Greenpoint and Central/Eastern Williamsburg sections of the original district into the southern flank of proposed CD 12, which includes the Lower East Side, Gramercy, East Midtown, Upper East Side, Yorkville, Astoria and Roosevelt Island.

This removed portion is known for its industrial corridor abutting the toxic Newtown Creek and has served as the City's primary area for siting solid waste disposal facilities. For decades, residents of Greenpoint/C-E-Williamsburg have united to seek redress over issues of remedial public health, environmental justice, affordable housing and similar challenges in a largely working class community. Their challenges, owing to their close proximity to this municipal backwater and major industrial area, have found a responsive House representative who has won their trust, secured Superfund clean-up funding and other assistance. Public member testimony at yesterday's public session attests to a loyal constituency from this unique set of neighborhoods.

As submitted under the Ramos Plan's proposed CD 12, Greenpoint /C-E-Williamsburg in Kings County are maintained as a distinct community of interest, where longstanding concerns over industrial pollution have mobilized a substantial portion of its residents to work with other parts of the district facing similar issues. These site-specific issues are indeed not the amalgam of issues that most residents of Manhattan or Astoria have dealt with in recent memory. Similarly, residents in Greenpoint and C-E Williamsburg utilize the same mass transit lines to commute to Manhattan (the J, Z and L subway lines, as well as, surface transit along Broadway, Grand, and Metropolitan Avenue.) Common commercial districts and services have emerged along these major North/South avenues bisect both communities.

Also, the Court's proposed CD 7 has apparently traded the loss of Greenpoint /C-E-Williamsburg by importing 63,468 residents from a compact section in South Williamsburg from the adjacent Congressional district. Many residents of southern Williamsburg typically take buses or other transportation to Central Brooklyn from which they then travel to Manhattan and the rest of the city. But, this latter neighborhood addition has no discernible ties or shared community of interest with the vast number of neighborhoods and residents in current CD 12. It has developed long term ties to their original Congressional district under Representative Edolphus Towns.

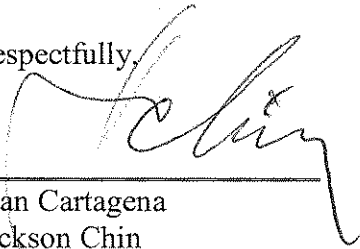
Two maps at the street level indicating the borders of these described neighborhoods as well as data chart are included. See, Exhibit.

For these reasons, we direct this Court's attention to the Ramos Plan's proposed CD 12 which has preserved these communities. Minor modifications to these identified communities can improve CD 7 as suggested by the Ramos Plan.

We express our utmost appreciations to this Court for its dedication, time and effort throughout this extremely expedited redistricting process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Cartagena', written over a horizontal line.

Juan Cartagena
Jackson Chin
Jose Perez
Attorneys for Ramos Intervenors, et. al.

Attachment : Exhibit

Cc: All counsel by ECF