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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

LETITIA JAMES

COUNCIL MEMBER, 35TH DISTRICT

CHAIR
SANITATION & SOLID WASTE

COMMITTEES

CONTRACTS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING & BUILDINGS
SMALL BUSINESS
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March 14, 2012

The Honorable Gerard E. Lynch &
The Honorable Reena Raggi
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Dora L. Irizarry
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judge Lynch, Judge Raggi, and Judge Irizarry,

On behalf of the communities of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Prospect Heights in central Brooklyn, I want to express my gratitude for the latest congressional maps released by the court and applaud the court's efforts to ensure that our "communities of interest" remain whole¹.

These neighborhoods have benefited from existing within the same congressional district. They share an overlapping or adjoining school district, police precinct, community board, commercial corridor and means of transportation, all of which have strengthened our neighborhoods for over thirty years. Keeping these "communities of interest" together will ensure that traditionally African-American neighborhoods, such as these, will have a voice in the halls of government.

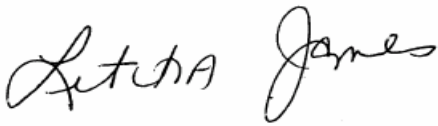
The Federal Voting Rights Act plays a central role in elections that help determine the fair and judicious allocation of congressional and legislative representation around the country. Last week, the court instructed us on how to voice our concerns regarding the proposed maps. Residents of central Brooklyn responded in great numbers to express that we are one community.

¹ Since 2003, I have represented the 35th district in the New York City Council including the communities of Clinton Hill, Fort Greene; parts of Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Bedford Stuyvesant.

The recommended maps released late Monday did much to correct the earlier problems we had cited.

The court's hard work over the last month is an admirable testament to the critical role the Federal bench plays in our lives. We once again thank you for stepping in to fairly apply the law and to protect the interests of central Brooklyn communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Letitia James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Letitia James
NYC Council (D-35th)