

Officers

President

Jane Carroll McGroarty

Vice Presidents

Alexandra Bowie

Martha Dietz

Donald Fraser

Tom Van den Bout

Treasurer

Daniel Watts

Secretary

Susan Shepard

Board of Governors

Kerith J. Aronow

Martha Atwater

Alexandra Bowie

Donald Brennan

Neil Calet

Sandra Cornwell

Martha Bakos Dietz

Jen Donaker

Donald G. Fraser

Meredith Hamilton

Patrick Killackey

Philip Magnuson

Brian McGorry

Jane Carroll McGroarty

Diane R. Miller

Christopher Neville

Steve Rothman

Alexandra H. Russello

Susan E. Shepard

Tom van den Bout

Daniel Watts

Christopher Wright

Inger Yancey

Executive Director

Judy Stanton

Office Manager

Irene E. Janner

Favors, et. al., v. Cuomo, et. al., Docket Number 11-cv-5622, Pub-Brooklyn Heights Assn-objection

March 14, 2012

REENA RAGGI, United States Circuit Judge

GERARD E. LYNCH, United States Circuit Judge

DORA L. IRIZARRY, United States District Judge

The Brooklyn Heights Association, founded in 1910, has been actively involved in community affairs in our community for over one hundred years. We respectfully submit our objection to the published reapportionment of Congressional District #7 contained in Judge Roanne Mann's Report and Recommendation to the Court.

The proposed Congressional District #7 approximates the current 12th Congressional District held by Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez. However, Judge's Mann scheme creates a district without Brooklyn Bridge Park and the land adjacent to Brooklyn Heights west of the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. For over thirty years the Brooklyn Heights Association, together with Brooklyn local elected officials, Brooklyn community groups and organizations have worked to create a park on the former land and pier structures formerly owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. This park, partially completed, drew tens of thousands of visitors last summer, most of whom live in Brooklyn. We believe that it will be detrimental to the communities in the new 7th Congressional District if their Congressperson does not have Brooklyn Bridge Park in his/her district.

One of the mandates of the plan prepared by Judge Mann was that the "Districts shall be compact, contiguous, respect political subdivisions, and preserve communities of interest." It our opinion that Brooklyn Heights and the adjoining waterfront is part of an existing political subdivision since it lies within the same State Congressional (25th) and State Assembly (52nd) Districts as well in the same New York City Council District (33rd).

The rationale for having Brooklyn Bridge Park included within the new 7th CD is strengthened by the fact that there is also new residential development at 360 Furman Street. Without a change, those constituents will be represented by a different official with a district that bears little relationship to downtown Brooklyn. The families at 360 Furman Street consider themselves residents of

Brooklyn Heights and they deserve to be represented by the same Congressperson.

We have experienced times when an elected official has too many pieces of different neighborhoods; this can affect their ability to serve constituents and understand the local issues. At the present time Brooklyn Heights is represented by two different Congressional representatives. The bulk of the community is in the current 12th Congressional District with smaller pieces in the 10th District. We applaud Judge Mann's plan because it does make the district more compact and places all of Brooklyn Heights (except the waterfront) within one Congressional District.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Brooklyn Heights Association, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Jane McGroarty, President