

To Members of the Board of Representatives Special Redistricting Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting map. I'd first like to thank Co-Chairs Andreana and Cacace and the members of the Redistricting Commission for their hard work getting us to this stage. The map that they have submitted to your committee is well thought out and does a great job in shifting the districts to account for growth without significantly disrupting the neighborhood representation structure we have had these last ten years. And I want to thank you all for participating in this committee in addition to your other roles and responsibilities on the board.

I have one minor comment regarding the proposed boundaries of District 6 (Downtown) and District 3 (South End) where I'm sure all of your challenges originated. There are several non-residential properties in the city's core that likely factored less into the Commission's analysis because they didn't contribute to the population totals. Though not relevant for resident count, I do think that their location has importance. Specifically, I do not think that it is appropriate to place the Stamford Transportation Center into District 2 (Waterside). This state facility is crucially important to the future of the properties that surround it and, though not directly within the control of the city, the Board of Representatives members whose district includes it should be strong advocates for its improvement and the connectivity radiating out from it. It is appropriate that the station facility bounded by Washington Boulevard to the west, Station Place to the South, and Atlantic Street to the east be placed in District 6 (Downtown). Additionally, Atlantic Street is a crucial connection between Districts 3 and 6. In order to not orphan a section of District 2 to the east, the block from Atlantic Street to Pacific Street could be added to District 6 or District 3 and the small handful of units on Manhattan Street shouldn't skew the populations of either of those districts significantly. The block from Pacific Street to Canal Street could remain in District 3 given the importance of Canal Street to the South End's connection to Downtown and I-95.

Though the population in this area is miniscule, members of the Board of Representatives often advocate for infrastructure and other public improvements in their district that are important to their constituents. The infrastructure within the small corridor along the railroad from Washington Boulevard to Canal Street is most relevant to the residents of Districts 3 and 6 and I fear will not be given the priority it deserves if relegated to the extreme periphery of District 2. The Representatives from District 2 will be rightfully prioritizing projects more directly impactful to Waterside.

Please consider realigning the boundaries of Districts 2, 3, and 6 to something akin to those in the map presented below so that there is better alignment between these non-residential sites and infrastructure and the Representatives who will be working to advance the priorities of their residents and constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

David Kooris
Resident, District 11
President, Stamford Downtown (Districts 6 and 10)

Proposed Minor Amendments to Boundaries of District 2, 3, and 6

