

Remarks by Johnny Rivera
Resident of East Harlem/El Barrio
(1/31/13)

Today, what brings me here is the **PASSION** I have for my beloved community, East Harlem/ El Barrio—a place where I was **BORN, RAISED**, and where my family and friends call home.

- It's a place of **MEMORIES**.
- It's a place of **SHARED EXPERIENCES**.
- It is, after all, a **COMMUNITY OF INTEREST**.

We're fighting for the **FUTURE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION** of our community and we want the electeds to understand our unique challenges.

The current proposal by the redistricting commission **DILUTES OUR POLITICAL VOICE** and **CARVES UP** our community, spreading us into every surrounding community.

It will be very difficult for a representative from another community to best represent our **COMMON INTERESTS**.

This division threatens to divide our community, a community that my **ANCESTORS** worked toward making a **PLACE TO LIVE OUT OUR DREAMS**. It may not be perfect, but it is home. It's a place where we share:

- We share places of worship.
- We share recreation.
- We share schools and nonprofits.

It's a place we call **our home!**

On the **South Side** of our district, we see a housing development like Carver Houses being **SWALLOWED** into another district.

On the **Westside**, we see many blocks being **SWALLOWED UP**.

On the **East Side**, we see Randall's and Wards Islands **SWALLOWED** by **Queens**.

And on the **North End**, our community is being **SWALLOWED** by the **Bronx**.

We, the voters of East Harlem, feel like we being **CARVED UP**, at our expense, to help preserve surrounding **POLITICAL KINGDOMS**; this is unacceptable.

Instead, We want to see our **COMPACT COMMUNITY** continue to honor the **PRINCIPALS OF "ONE PERSON ONE VOTE"—**

FAIRNESS IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

We want assurance that our community is going to be **RESPECTED** and that our **POLITICAL VOICE** is not going to be ignored or subjected to the **POLITICAL WHIMS** of others.

This is why we, the people, the residents of East Harlem/El Barrio, are releasing our own **SENSIBLE REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL.**