



Hill and Harbour Neighborhood Association
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Rep. Robert Phillips and Sen. Stephen Archambault
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

December 10, 2021

Dear Rep. Phillips and Sen. Archambault,

It has recently come to our attention that the Rhode Island Redistricting Commission is currently proposing splitting up District 30. District 30 currently encompasses voters on both sides of Main Street, East Greenwich, in what is known as the “Hill and Harbour” neighborhood. The “Hill” section includes the triangle bordered by First Ave, Division St., and the western side of Main St, and the “Harbour” section extends that triangle to the east of Main St., down to our town waterfront. The proposed changes would effectively split our federally recognized National Historic District in two, forcing those in the Harbour (also locally known as the area “below Main”) to join a district associated neither with the interests of our neighborhood, nor with the interests of our town as a whole.

As the HHNA, an organization that represents the interests of the entire Hill and Harbour Neighborhood, we would like to express in the strongest possible terms our opposition to this redistricting proposal. In fact, we would petition for a gubernatorial veto if such redistricting were approved against our wishes.

In the HHNA, our goal is to bring both sides of Main Street together in our historic downtown area. Our events are designed to unify our neighborhood as a single entity with shared interests. We have been working diligently on projects to bring about this goal, such as fostering improvements to the London Street Underpass, a dilapidated pathway that crosses under the railroad tracks and serves as a primary conduit for pedestrian traffic between the Hill and the Harbour. We are concerned about a future when residents of the Harbour do not share the same representative as those of the Hill. This could make it that much harder to achieve support from the state for projects like the Underpass, or other issues that affect our residents, such as funding for our local public schools, or support of local historic preservation.

Voters from both sides of Main Street vote at a shared location, at the Swift Community Center. We join together at our annual Community Yard Sale, Plant Swap, Block Party, and Community Cleanup. Scout troops from both sides of Main Street march in the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades and salute the flag together. Residents from both sides of Main Street

join to honor servicemen and women on our Town Hall steps, and our Town Council stands with our State Representative, who represents the entire historic center of town.

In moments like these, our community comes together, and we can rest assured that our shared interests are represented by our shared representative in the General Assembly, someone who we know, someone who is familiar with the needs of East Greenwich, and someone we can always call, who will understand and respect our ideas and concerns. The current redistricting proposal will drive a stake through the heart of East Greenwich and force Harbour residents into a new district that will not best represent their cares and needs. This will do a significant disservice to our voters.

We would respectfully ask you and the members of the Redistricting Commission to reject the current proposal, and we would ask that any future proposals keep our Hill and Harbour Neighborhood and our National Historic District intact.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Hill and Harbour Neighborhood Association (HHNA)

Camile Specca, *Chair*
Kristina Stark, *Vice Chair*
James Gorham, *Secretary*

Residents & Neighbors

Kim Edge Ambler	Rebecca Ginsburg	Ann Metzger
Linda Battista	Kate Elizabeth Glass	Lew Rakowsky
David Berger	Debra Gold	John Santilli
Leslie Berger	Rebecca Gorham	Laura Santilli
Jonathan Berman	Kate Beardsley Grant	Swarna Sen
Nicole Bucka	Aimee Heru	Tania Sen
Erinn Calise	Lynn Homburg-Rakowsky	Bridget Zech Shapiro
April Davidson Cambre	Robert Jordan	Judi Mccullough Sheldon
Donna Marie Castellone	Hart Kelley	Dan Specca
Ashley M. Corrigan	Kyle Knowlton	Matt Stark
Matt D'Amato	Shareen Zaki Knowlton	Maria Thompson
Nicole D'Amato	Denise Wenzl Lopez	Erica Lawton Weinschenk
Abigail Ducharme	David Maloney	Lydia Curtin-Wilding
Shawn Ducharme	Gayle Menzies Maloney	
Nathaniel Ginsburg	Neal McNamara	