

Danielle Gillespie

From: Zachary Simpson <zacharyemmottsimpson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Reapportionment Commission
Cc: Janel Carver; michael obrien; Bernice Aviza; Karen Cuniff; Edward Clarke
Subject: Written Comments for August 24th Public Hearing

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Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept the following written comments on behalf of the Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association and Former 12th Ward Common Council Member Michael O'Brien for today's public hearing. Kindly acknowledge receipt via return email.

Dear Albany City Redistricting Commissioners and Members of the Reapportionment Commission,

We write on behalf of the Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association (UWANA), local leaders, neighbors and Stakeholders to express our deep concern regarding the redistricting map, specifically the changes to the 12th and 13th Wards in the City of Albany.

We are concerned that the proposed map was developed without UWANA input and disregards the unique neighborhood needs and alliances that strengthen our individual community within the City of Albany.

The newly proposed district negatively impacts UWANA in that it will inhibit progress and safety in our neighborhood. For example:

- The division of the Upper Washington Neighborhood, into the new 12th and 13th Wards, will completely eliminate a business corridor in the 12th Ward.*
- The division will diminish traffic safety and business collaboration as long established relationships will have to be transferred.*
- Splitting UWANA essentially in half fails to understand our neighborhood and recognize UWANA as a community of interest in our corner of the City of Albany.*
- As the Albany City Redistricting Commission is tasked with creating Majority Minority Districts (MMDs), they are also required by law to maintain communities of interest. These include schools, parishes and particularly **neighborhood associations**.*

Due to these critical flaws in the newly proposed redistricting map, we oppose the proposed map and urge you to instead call for the 12th and 13th Ward boundaries to remain largely intact as they exist today.

Sincerely,

Zachary Simpson, President

Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association

Janel Mirel, Vice-President

Upper Washington Avenue Neighborhood Association

Michael O'Brien

Former Common Council 12th Ward Representative