

Testimony for Redistricting Council District Boundaries

16th November, 2021

Good Afternoon County Councilmembers,

I am Kaushambi Srivastava – resident of North Bethesda for 9 years; urban planner & designer by profession; mother of two boys age 3 and 6; and moderator of 2 local groups – Windermere Moms & North Bethesda Parents.

According to **all our members** the recommended map is **NOT GOOD** for the **NORTH BETHESDA community**.

- 1) The proposed district is a bow tie shape – neither compact, nor contiguous with adjoining territories as required by law.
- 2) We are closely linked with our Route 355 corridor neighbors, and the new map segregates us from them.
- 3) We are feeling marginalized – with 100,000 people in the Silver Spring/Tacoma Park end of the bow tie, and just 50,000 people in North Bethesda.
- 4) Our children attend preschools and schools in – Bethesda, Potomac, Rockville and North Bethesda. The Council makes funding decisions for our local schools, and we are deeply concerned that the Councilmember will prioritize Silver Spring and Takoma Park due to their majority in the district.
- 5) Due to geographic proximity and like-minded concerns, we have naturally come to form strong bonds within the *Bethesda Potomac Rockville Moms* group - which is over 14,000 members strong. In this group, we exchange local resources like - doctors and dentists, music and art classes, sports clinics and leagues, daycares, and the list goes on.

Some argue North Bethesda is Rockville, and others argue North Bethesda is Bethesda. Nobody has ever argued that North Bethesda belongs to Silver Spring or Tacoma Park!

The recommended map does not preserve communities of interest as required by the Commission's ground rules. Our voice will be muted and our residents will be disenfranchised.

We need to align ourselves with neighbors along the Route 355 corridor. **We need to create a NEW MAP.**

Thank you,

Kaushambi Shah-Srivastava