

Dear members of the Council,

We are providing written testimony for Bill 41-21 and the proposed redistricting map. As long-time residents of North Bethesda, we request that you please vote AGAINST the proposed map that splits North Bethesda from its surrounding communities of Rockville and Bethesda. North Bethesda's economic and political sensibilities lie with the Route 355 Corridor, so we should be in a district with others on the corridor. Whether that's Rockville or Bethesda is for the Council to decide, but it certainly shouldn't be Silver Spring and Takoma Park. The proposed bow-tie district that links North Bethesda to Silver Spring is neither naturally contiguous (the tiny sliver in the middle that "links" the borders of North Bethesda and Silver Spring is a very technical interpretation/stretch compared to the larger, more obvious common-border definitions linking other cities/neighborhoods in other districts) nor reflects the actual relationships and communities built between the North Bethesda residents and their sometimes-literally-a-stone's-throw-away neighbors in Rockville and Bethesda. From a technicality perspective, even the USPS considers us/our zip code part of the Rockville district/delivery area. We share the same schools, same parks and other public grounds, and same small businesses along the 355 corridor and to split our interests into competing districts is just non-sensical and divisive. In short, the proposed district map threatens our North Bethesda community's economic, political, and social ties and we believe merely checks the redistricting rules in technicality, but not good spirit—please vote against this map and create a revised one that incorporates NoBe into a district with either Rockville or Bethesda. Thank you for your consideration.

-Olga and Ben Gordon

North Bethesda, MD 20852

11/18/2021