Dear Committee Members,

What you have before you is my best attempt at a fair and responsible solution to the Erie County Re-Apportionment Issue. The controlling idea behind the drawing of my map rests on prioritizing the 4 Key Principals of Redistricting in the following order:

1. Meeting Population requirements
   1. This is in accordance with:
      1. The Federal & State “One Person – One Vote” requirements.
   2. The overall Reason for the redistricting of legislative jurisdictions with the denial census is to preserve equal representation within that legislative body.
      1. Therefore, meeting the Mean Population requirement (83, 549) was first priority.
      2. All of my proposed 11 districts are within 10% variance in either direction from the Mean.
2. Communities of Interest and Demographic Representation
   1. This is in accordance with:
      1. Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
   2. Communities of interest are defined as groups of people living in close proximity that share common interests, views, or social problems. In an Erie context, it could refer to anything from the Allentown Historic District of Buffalo to the Rural Farming Communities of the Municipalities of Sardinia and Holland in the South-East Region of the county. Any demographic that shares common goals and issues is considered a community of interest.
      1. Minority Populations of Buffalo’s East (predominantly African American) and Lower West (Hispanic) sides are combined to increase the overall voting power of those communities.
         1. These are also two of the largest districts. The reason for these districts being within 107-109% of the allowed variance is because without making them that large, there wouldn’t exist the possibility of having two minority districts.
3. Compact and Contiguous
   1. This is in accordance with:
      1. Federal and State laws and statures
   2. The Compact and contiguous issue is one that I believe is mostly common sense. Communities adjacent to one another generally share common geography, neighborhoods, and demographics.
      1. For this reason, I have grouped Grand Island with Tonawanda as compared to another part of the county.
      2. In addition, there is no municipality has been divided into more than two districts, with the exception of the City of Buffalo and Town of Amherst.
4. Preserving Municipal Boundaries
   1. This is in accordance with:
      1. State stature emphasizing that municipalities not be divided if it can be avoided.
   2. Preserving Municipal boundaries is generally priority one in outlying rural and suburban communities where towns and villages are generally very similar.
   3. That being said, Erie County contains a large metropolitan city in the form of Buffalo.
      1. In the metro area, focus needs to be on neighborhoods and greater communities rather than municipal boundaries that often bisect these communities.
      2. Because of this, **the immediate peripheral suburbs are subject to possible division based on community/neighborhood boundaries.**
         1. ie: Cheektowaga, Tonawanda, Lackawanna, Amherst, ect.

I hope you will consider my final product when drawing the new Legislative Boundaries. Also, I have all of my previous work (maps, demographic break-downs, ect) on electronic file and would be happy to share them with the committee if they desire more information. Thank you.

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