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October 14, 2021

Danise C. Wilson, MPH
Chairwoman
Erie County Advisory Committee on Reapportionment
92 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Erie County Advisory Committee on Reapportionment Scheduling

Dear Chairwoman Wilson:

Last week, Commissioner Mohr sent you a letter that detailed some concerns regarding the ability to produce thoughtful and legal district maps by the October 15th deadline you imposed. As a remedy, we proposed using the scheduled meeting on October 15th to discuss a modification to the current timeline we are working under, as opposed to utilizing the meeting as the deadline to propose new district maps. In your reply, dated October 12th, you interpreted the request as solely a deadline extension rather than a request for a thoughtful discussion about a more reasonable timeline to produce map proposals.

The Minority's concerns, as stated in Commissioner Mohr's October 8th letter, remain. Moreover, and perhaps most importantly, we aren't certain that the Majority and Minority members of the Committee are working off of the same set of data or population numbers to draw maps. As you know, adjusted final redistricting data for Erie County was released on October 4th, after our Commission's process commenced. It is unclear to the Minority whether the Majority's appointments are using data released on August 12th or October 4th to draw your maps. We feel strongly that we should be using the same set of data. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Majority Chief of Staff distribute the October 4th adjusted data to *all* members of the Committee, as he did with the August 12 data, as soon as possible, and that the Committee discuss a scheduling modification together on October 18th.

Furthermore, as you are aware, there is legislation that has passed both the Senate and the Assembly that, if signed by Governor Hochul, will significantly impact the drawing of new districts. As originally requested, we would like to discuss these concerns and how they impact the current deadlines under which we are being asked to operate. Extending the current deadline you imposed by one business day does not assist in mission accomplishment. To the contrary, it likely creates additional scheduling challenges for members who made themselves available for the previously scheduled and noticed October 15th meeting.

In conclusion, as Minority appointments on the Advisory Committee for Reapportionment, we intend to come to the newly scheduled October 18th meeting to discuss our stated concerns with the hope of agreeing on a more reasonable timeline to accomplish our goal of submitting a thoughtful, accurate, and legal map proposal.

Sincerely,

Scott Allen, Jr., Esq.

Joseph Burns, Esq.

Michael Cimasi, Esq.

James P. Domagalski

James Domagalski, Esq.

Christina Holdsworth, Esq.

Brandi LoBianco

Ralph Mohr, Esq.
Commissioner (R), Erie County Board of Elections