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Battle over Cape  
May landmark. **B4**

Measles in  
Bucks? **B2**

B



CLEM MURRAY / Staff Photographer  
s recently named one of 85 winners  
ceived an aeronautics group's award.

## l theme

d for Excellence in Mathematics and Sci-  
Teaching. Each year, the award alternates  
en teachers of kindergarten through sixth  
and those teaching seventh through 12th  
s.  
ipients receive \$10,000 and a trip in mid-  
to Washington to pick up their prize and  
with members of Congress, and possibly  
resident at a White House photo op.  
was very surprised and honored, because  
ery competitive," said Glackman, who has  
at Merion for 21 years and lives in Ard-  
e was nominated by Lower Merion's sci-

## Latino coalition: We need a district

The group says Hispanics, who  
make up 12 pct. of the city,  
deserve more representation in  
this year's district remapping.

By Bob Warner  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A coalition of city Latino leaders says  
this year's remapping of political bound-  
aries should lead to one City Council dis-  
trict and two state House districts where  
Hispanics make up more than half the vot-  
ers.

"In the last census, Philadelphia grew  
because the Hispanic community grew,"  
said Angel Ortiz, the first Hispanic mem-  
ber of City Council and one of those who  
organized the coalition. "Now we need our  
voices to be heard.... We deserve one  
[Council] district."

New census figures released in March  
showed Philadelphia's Hispanic popula-  
tion grew by nearly 60,000 people from  
2000 to 2010, climbing from 8.5 percent to  
12.3 percent of the city's overall popula-  
tion.

But the Hispanic community's numbers  
among elected officials haven't kept pace.  
Out of 17 City Council members, just one is  
Hispanic, Maria Quiñones Sánchez. Out of  
26 state House seats, just one is filled by a  
Latino, Angel Cruz.

The new coalition, calling itself Latino-  
Lines, says it will closely monitor the cre-  
See **REDISTRICTING** on B10

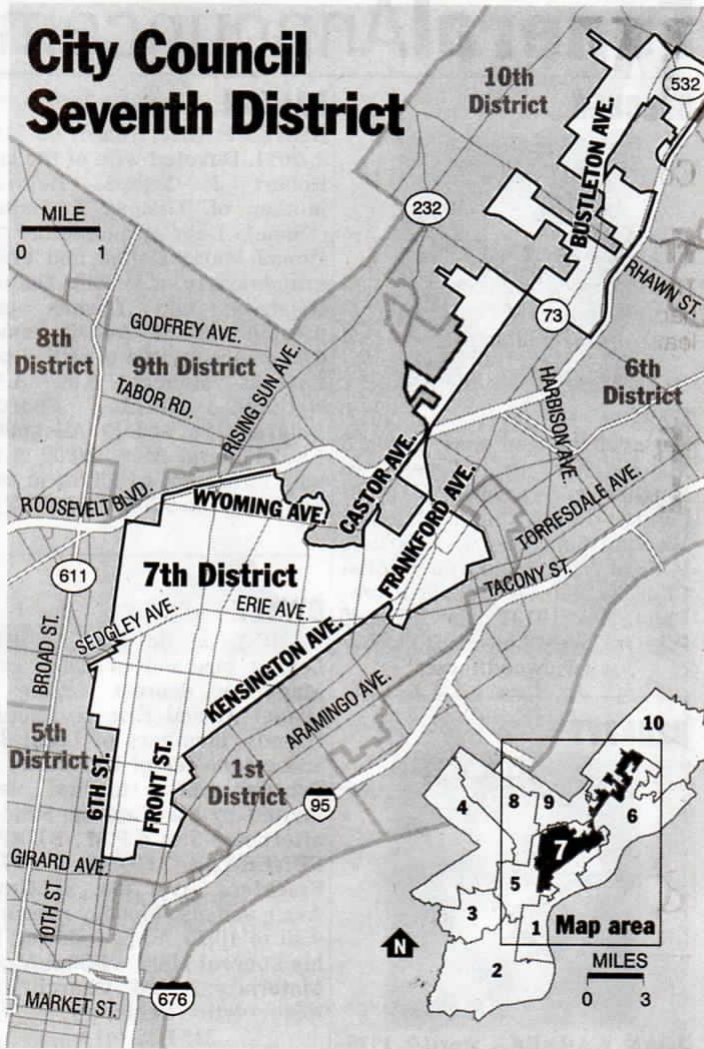
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## City Council Seventh District



The Philadelphia Inquirer

# Latino coalition says Hispanics deserve district

**REDISTRICTING** from B1  
ation of new Council and leg-  
islative districts while “de-  
manding that Latinos finally  
have the representation in  
this century that they did not  
have in the last,” according to  
a statement issued Thursday  
at a news conference.

Patricia DeCarlo, longtime  
leader of the Norris Square  
Civic Association, said the  
purpose of the coalition is not  
to support particular politi-

the most gerrymandered elec-  
toral district in the country  
by Azavea Inc., a Philadelphi-  
based software-development  
firm which studied political  
boundaries in more than 50  
U.S. cities.

“That wiggly, wiggly dis-  
trict is perfect evidence of  
gerrymandering,” said DeCarlo.  
“It’s outrageous, the kind  
of thing that makes you won-  
der, do we really live in a de-  
mocracy?”

# Latino coalition says Hispanics deserve district

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**REDISTRICTING** from B1  
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have in the last," according to  
a statement issued Thursday  
at a news conference.

Patricia DeCarlo, longtime  
leader of the Norris Square  
Civic Association, said the  
purpose of the coalition is not  
to support particular politi-  
cians, or even to support Lati-  
no candidates over others.

"I don't think it's that a Lati-  
no would represent Latinos  
better, although that's gener-  
ally perceived," she said. "It  
is that the Latinos have the  
power and the right to elect  
who they choose. ... So if we  
choose to elect someone pur-  
ple, that's our choice. But you  
don't stifle our voice by mak-  
ing it impossible for us to de-  
cide who best represents us.  
That's the difference."

Ortiz, who served in City  
Council from 1984 through  
2003, was famously threat-  
ened with ejection from a  
City Hall window during  
Council's last redistricting  
battle, 10 years ago.

The threat came, Ortiz said,  
from then-Councilman Rick  
Mariano, who tried and ulti-  
mately succeeded in diluting  
the power of Hispanic voters  
by shedding Latino neighbor-  
hoods and extending the Sev-  
enth Councilmanic District  
for nearly nine miles into pre-  
dominantly white areas of  
Northeast Philadelphia.

The Seventh District seat —  
now held by Sánchez — was  
subsequently described as

the most gerrymandered elec-  
toral district in the country  
by Azavea Inc., a Philadelphia-  
based software-development  
firm which studied political  
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of thing that makes you won-  
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mocracy?"

The Seventh District was  
about 43 percent Hispanic  
when those lines were drawn  
and is now just below 50 per-  
cent Hispanic, according to  
the new census data.

With technical support  
from Latino Justice, a nation-  
al legal defense fund based in  
New York City, the local coal-  
ition drafted new boundary  
proposals for the Seventh Dis-  
trict that would make it more  
compact and roughly 58 per-  
cent Hispanic.

But Ortiz was unable to say  
how the proposal would im-  
pact other Council districts.  
"It's a starting point," he said.

Under the City Charter,  
Council has six months from  
the receipt of new census fig-  
ures to devise new district  
boundaries, or face the sus-  
pension of Council salaries  
until the redistricting job is  
done.

But there's been no public  
discussion of how or when  
Council will handle the issue.  
Outside groups have urged  
more public meetings and  
transparency.

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