



The Honorable Michael Nutter
Mayor of the City of Philadelphia
215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

June 27, 2011

Dear Mayor Nutter:

As you are probably aware after the considerable press coverage on May 5 and 6, 2011, LatinoLines is a coalition of Latino leaders, formed to demand justice and a fair redistricting process that remedies decades of what we believe has been a long history of voting rights violations stemming from voting districts that do not serve the community. For too long, the Latino community in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has been gerrymandered, diluting its voting strength and in many instances, eroding its viability as a community of interest. The existing redistricting legislation, at both the city councilmanic and state house levels, has seriously impeded the rights of the Latino community to freely elect members of their choice.

As the current legislative process on redistricting develops, brought about by the release of the 2010 census numbers, the LatinoLines Coalition is demanding that Latinos finally have the representation in this century that they did not have in the last.

The latest 2010 census numbers show an impressive growth in the Latino community, particularly in Philadelphia's Seventh City Councilmanic district. For years, voting districts in Latino neighborhoods have been "fractured" or "packed" to benefit politicians and political parties. Now, LatinoLines is demanding that the new lines be drawn to benefit and reflect the viable and growing Latino communities in our city with the ultimate goal of bolstering this community's political voice to take its natural course among the leadership of the City of Philadelphia.

Mayor Nutter, recently while campaigning at the Bethel Temple Community Bible Church, at 228 East Allegheny Avenue, you recounted your political ties, initiation, warm relations and long history in the Latino community. Therefore, we trust you will understand completely why we are respectfully asking that in the event that city council approves a redistricting plan for Philadelphia which the leaders find is inconsistent with the tenets of the voting rights act, that you will veto that city council plan and ask them to draw lines that correct the four decades of voting rights injustices suffered by the residents of the Seventh Councilmanic District.

Given the calendar realities and timelines in which mapping decisions have to be made, we look forward to hearing your timely response in this matter.

Meanwhile on behalf of LatinoLines, we extend our warmest wishes.

Sincerely,

The LatinoLines Coalition Steering Committee

LatinoLines.com

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cc: LatinoLines Coalition members

LatinoLines

WHEN YOU PURPOSEFULLY DILUTE OUR VOICE, YOU TAKE AWAY OUR RIGHT TO HAVE A CHOICE