

My name is Elliot Lowenstein and I reside in Kemp Mill, a neighborhood of Montgomery County. I write to you today in order to assure that the warm and wonderful community in which I live is not disenfranchised, as it would be in the proposed draft. In that draft, the community is split in two, particularly where the border between the Fifth and Sixth Districts run down Arcola Avenue.

Kemp Mill has a unique and common character as containing the largest Orthodox Jewish community in Montgomery County. It is my belief that it is the largest such community from Baltimore to southern Florida and from the coast to Chicago. For that reason, and those I describe below, the entire Kemp Mill community must be part of a single district and that district should be District 6.

The Kemp Mill community is made up of the northeastern portion of zip code 20902 and is between University Boulevard (south) and Randolph Road (north). It is bounded by the Northwest Branch trail (east) to Sligo Creek Park and Wheaton Regional Park (west). Notably the neighborhoods of Kemp Mill extensively use the Kemp Mill Center. Yet, the community and its heart are in different districts. At least one synagogue and one yeshiva (Jewish academy) are in different districts than the community they primarily serve. Moreover, University Towers and the Warwick play an important role in the Orthodox community but are part of this separate district. Despite being a community with a unique single cohesive minority religion and unique character and needs, the redistricting would split that community apart. Keeping Kemp Mill united is key.

It is also clear that it would be far better for Kemp Mill to be part of district 6. The primary school of the Orthodox community children is the Berman Academy, the primary major shopping area is the Wheaton Mall and the primary medical care is Holy Cross. All are in District 6. Candidly, it is very important the political leadership where Berman is located understand the crucial role of that institution. That means the the political leadership should have a relationship with where the student body resides... mostly in Kemp Mill. Moreover, a large portion of the other (smaller) Orthodox Jewish communities of Montgomery County are in District 6 as well. Keeping Kemp Mill out of District 6 will disenfranchise these individuals too.

Please correct the error of the original draft redistricting and keep Kemp Mill united and part of District 6.