

Dear Honorable Congressman Goldman,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Elizabeth Dookie and I am a social work student attending Alliance University, NY. I've noticed you cover District 10 which includes the Upper West side, Borough Park, Lower Manhattan, and areas of Brooklyn such as Park Slope and my residing area, Sunset Park. It caught my attention that you announced a bill to advance the fight for voting rights that would ensure 14 days of in-person voting for federal elections. I think this is a spectacular idea as it addresses the complications of long wait times for voters lining up to submit their ballots. Processing and scanning the ballots at least 14 days prior to election is also an efficient way to increase access in the voting process as well as meeting with the urgency of the movement with legislative action. I look forward to witnessing more successful proposals in advancing our actions to better serve our community. I was also wondering what further actions can we take to improve our District especially for lower-income and minority groups? I have been residing in Sunset Park, Brooklyn for 28 years and have witnessed gentrification rapidly increasing especially within these past few years. While this has provided newer stores in the area, increased job opportunities, and assists in keeping the area well and organized, this is also a conflict in finances. Rent prices in my neighborhood are skyrocketing due to inflation, cost of living increasing, meeting the criterias of the newer modernized homes being built, etc. Increased rent and high prices are also forcing many businesses to shut down as well as many of the diverse population being forced to look for more affordable housing elsewhere. How can we efficiently improve the structure/housing conflicts of our neighborhood while maintaining the average living cost at a reasonable rate? The admirable culture and diversity of Sunset Park has been departing because many minorities simply cannot afford to live in the area anymore. It has also been brought to my attention that the only library which was located in the neighborhood on 51st and 4th ave Brooklyn, NY 11220 has been rebuilt into housing. It has been heartbreaking witnessing our only neighborhood library get replaced. The increase of shelters/hotels converted into shelter homes in Sunset has greatly increased as well, which raises safety concerns. Many of those who reside in the shelters suffer from unstable mental disorders, use excessive drugs, behave violently, etc and can potentially cause a rise in danger, harm, and increase in criminal rate. How can we continue to house those who need shelter without overcrowding of homelessness in the area? How can the high population residing in shelters afford to live in an area that is suffering from increased prices? Also, is there any way a new library can be provided in Sunset Park? I've been informed that you are a man of equality and integrity; I have faith that you will continue to progress in improvement to the community and district. I look forward to witnessing changes take place for the better. Thank you for taking your time to read my letter and concerns! Hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Dookie
Social work intern

