

Hello,

I have lived in the Van Nest community for all of my life, and have been active in community and civic groups for years.

The neighborhoods of Van Nest have been traditionally split at all levels of government districting – the council, the assembly, the senate and congress. This has lead to fractured representation, because we are literally at the ends of almost everyone's districts! With every elected having just a little piece of our neighborhood, it has been hard to get the funding and attention Van Nest deserves. It is hard to get government to coordinate services when the park my neighbors' children play in across the street is in someone else's district!

At the Council, we have been traditionally split between two districts, the 13th and the 15th. Just as Van Nest and its leaders have learned how to make this arrangement in recent years, we get a new map that splits our district not two ways, but three.

In the current map, we are now split between the 13th, the 15th and the 18th district. While we have worked well with the Council Member from 18 on some issues, it nonetheless means we now have to engage three Council Members on every issue for our community while many communities have just one.

The border between Van Nest and the 18th is a clear line down Tremont Avenue and the Amtrak train line, which separates Parkchester and Soundview from Van Nest. These lines crossed that natural community boundary to add just a handful of blocks to the 18th.

Please reconsider how you split the community of Van Nest. I think its better to be in two districts, not three.

Also, I have heard some folks from Pelham Parkway North and Parkside Houses complain of a similar problem of being split between 4 Council Districts. I share their concern, because it is similar to mine about my own neighborhood in Van Nest. They have been at the edge of every district for years, and are cut off from the majority of the 11th district by the Bronx River and the Bronx River Parkway.

I ask the commission to do their best to unite these communities or at least limit how chopped up they are among districts.

Thanks.

Joseph Bombace
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EMAIL: [REDACTED]
Resident of 13TH Council District

Jonathan Ettricks
Director of Outreach
NYC Redistricting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

January 25, 2013

Dear Mr. Jonathan Ettricks:

I am writing to express my concerns and suggestions regarding the 15th City Council, which overlaps into the West Farms and Van Nest communities of the 87th Assembly District.

In the current proposed lines for the 15th City Council District, the southern portion of the West Farms community is being separated resulting in the loss of some vital and historical parts:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church & Elementary School, Elementary School #6, Intermediate School 318, Public School 211, Fairmount Playground, Miracle Garden Park, West Farms Square Train Station, West Farms Center and other community establishments.

To separate such important parts of a neighborhood is disadvantageous to my West Farm constituents. I respectfully suggest that the south district line of the 15th City Council District be redrawn from East Tremont Avenue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, as is the southern district line of Community Board #6.

Thank You,
William Rivera
State Committeeman
87th Assembly District

