

# NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing

BRONX COUNTY

TESTIFY VIA ZOOM — INPUT FROM COMMUNITY

THURSDAY— MAY 26, 2022 – 3:00 P.M.

---

Testimony to a PUBLIC HEARING prepared by

Thursday, May 26, 2022

**Bernadette Ferrara**

Van Nest Resident / CB11 Board Member / Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

My name is Bernadette Ferrara, born, raised, went to school and still lives, in Van Nest, a diverse community in the East Bronx. Since 2008, I am one of the three Van Nest residents on Community Board 11 representing Van Nest. I am a founding member and current President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance (VNNA) formed in 2010. More importantly as a lifelong resident of Van Nest, I've seen and experienced its many changes. Over the decades as a resident now community leader, there are many unresolved issues that are still extremely needed especially when it comes to our children, their education, religious unification and our seniors.

The major community goals include a Community Center, Middle Schools, Youth Programs, Senior Programs, more Senior Housing and unification of the Yemeni Muslim community. While VNNA is working hard to raise the bar on quality-of-life concerns, these goals are still out of reach due to Van Nest always being located "on the border" of a district resulting in Van Nest's lack of funding from our elected officials to achieve these important resources.

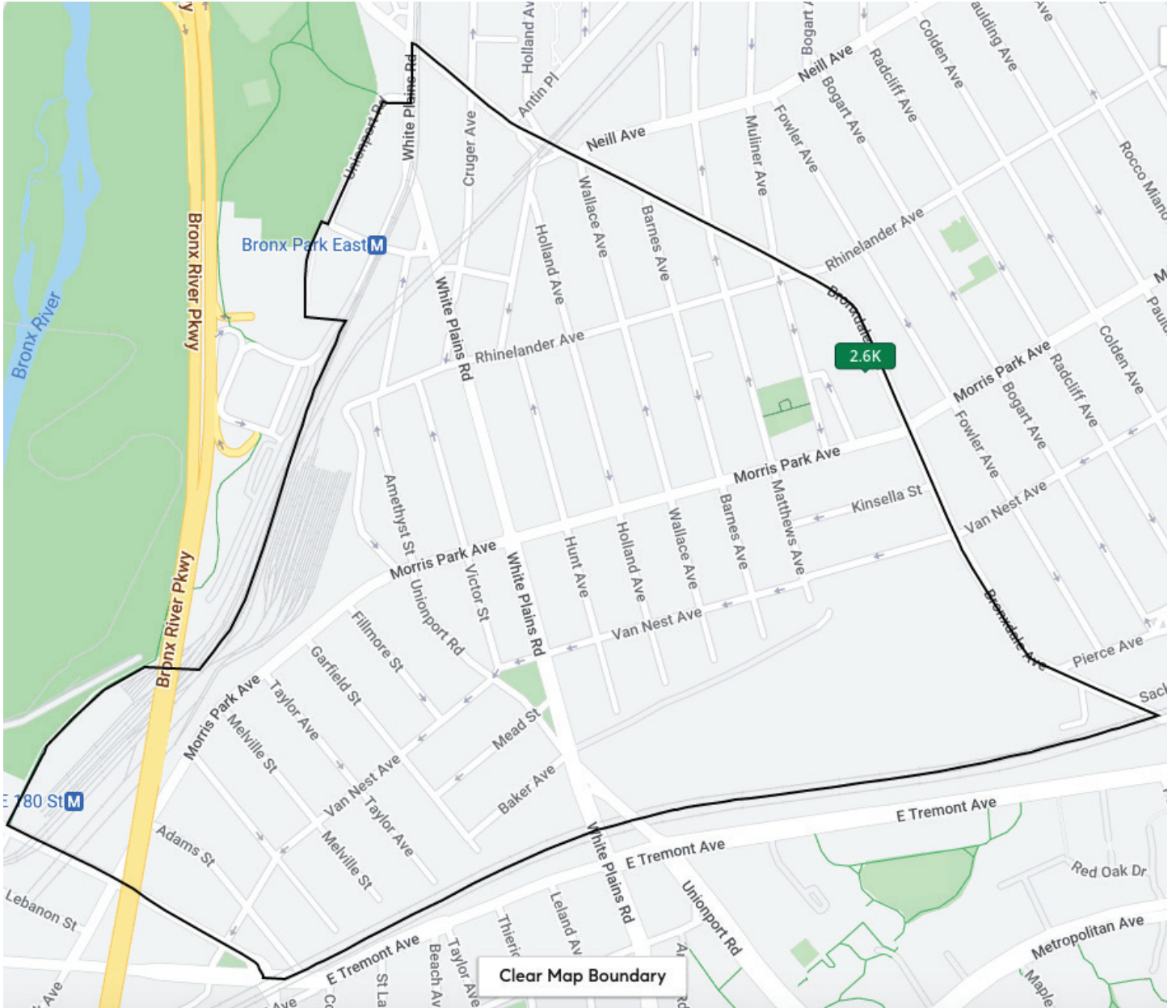
For the Van Nest Community to move forward and receive needed funding, it must not be split. We are asking the Commission to:

- The area of Van Nest presently in City Council District 15 needs to be united with City Council District 13 which aligns more with the fabric of Van Nest's low density community concerns, Community Board 11, the 49th Precinct and unification of the Yemeni Muslim community. **Please see the attached map.**
- Unite the neighborhoods of Van Nest, Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Bronx Park East, and Allerton that presently all work together in Community Board 11 sharing common issues into City Council District 13. **Please see attached map.**

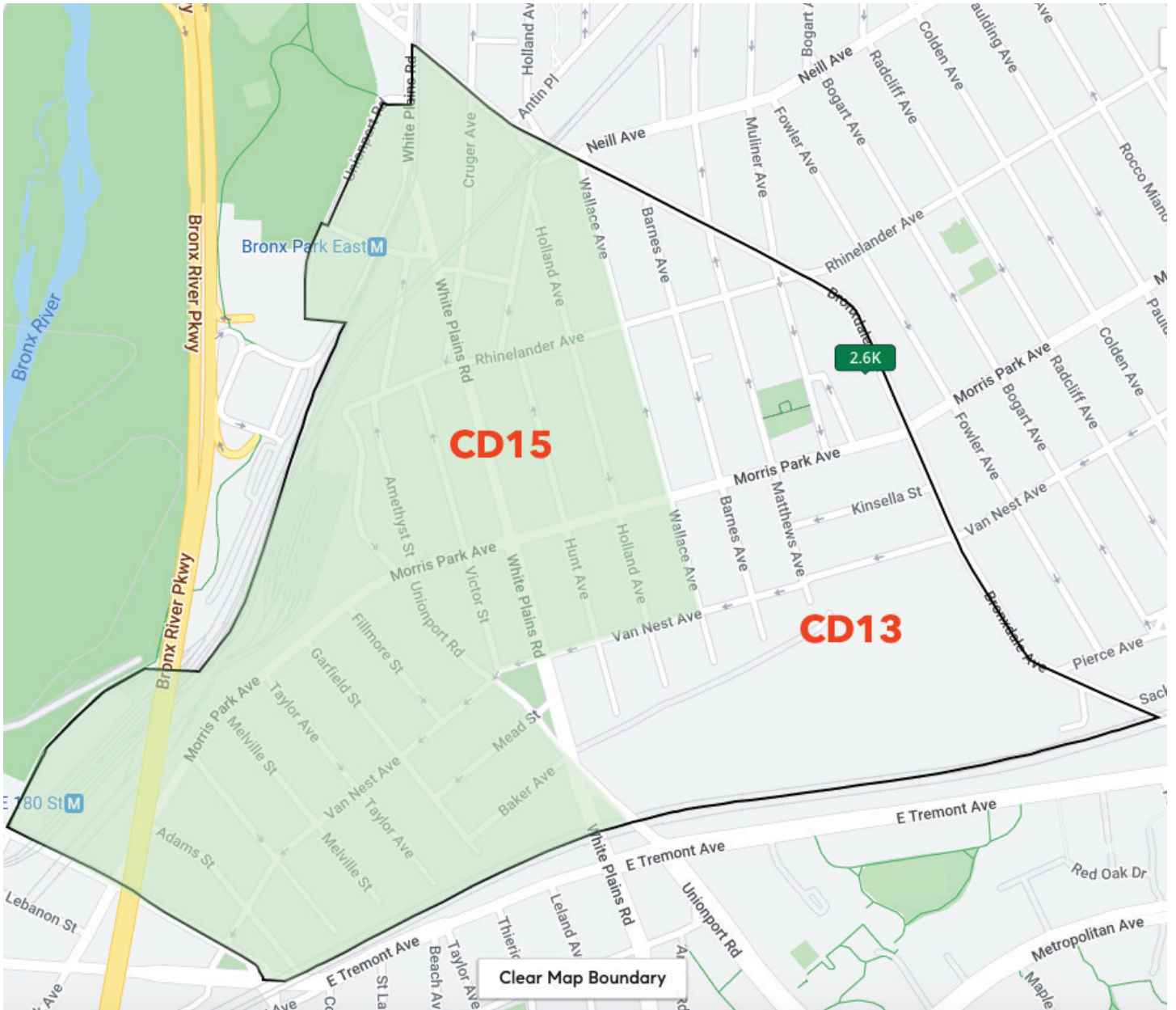
I want to thank the Commission for holding this Public Hearing and listening to our community concerns. It is truly appreciated.

MAP OF VAN NEST NEIGHBORHOOD:

1. Local boundaries of Van Nest neighborhood in the East Bronx:



2. Green shaded area shows the part of Van Nest presently in City Council District 15 with the other part of Van Nest in City Council District 13:



3. Green shaded area shows the new map of City Council District 13 unifying the neighborhoods of Van Nest, Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, majority of Bronx Park East, and majority of Allerton:

