

# NYC Districting Commission Public Hearing

## HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE–CUNY TESTIFY VIA ZOOM — INPUT FROM COMMUNITY WEDNESDAY– JULY 6, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.

---

Testimony to a PUBLIC HEARING prepared by

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

**Bernadette Ferrara**

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

My name is Bernadette Ferrara, born, raised, educated and still living in Van Nest, a diverse community in the East Bronx. Since 2008, I've served on Community Board 11 representing Van Nest and am a founding member and current President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance (VNNA) formed in 2010. Today I speak as a lifelong resident of Van Nest who has seen and experienced its many changes.

Van Nest's major community goals include a Community Center, a Middle School, Youth Programs, Senior Programs and more Senior Housing. Since 2010 Van Nest has been divided with two City Council Members, two State Assembly Members and two State Senators. One would think having two pools of funding from each would benefit Van Nest but no matter how many discussions, meetings and walk-thrus, these major goals have never been initiated or funded by any of our many elected officials. Van Nest sits on the "fringe" of both CD 15 and CD 13. With half of Van Nest being only a small part of both, Van Nest has been the low-man on the totem poll making it difficult to grab for crumbs with our major goals kept on the back-burners. For example, three other civic organizations in the heart of CD 13 have received large donation checks over the years. Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance is an active 501C3 in its 12th year and has yet to receive its first.

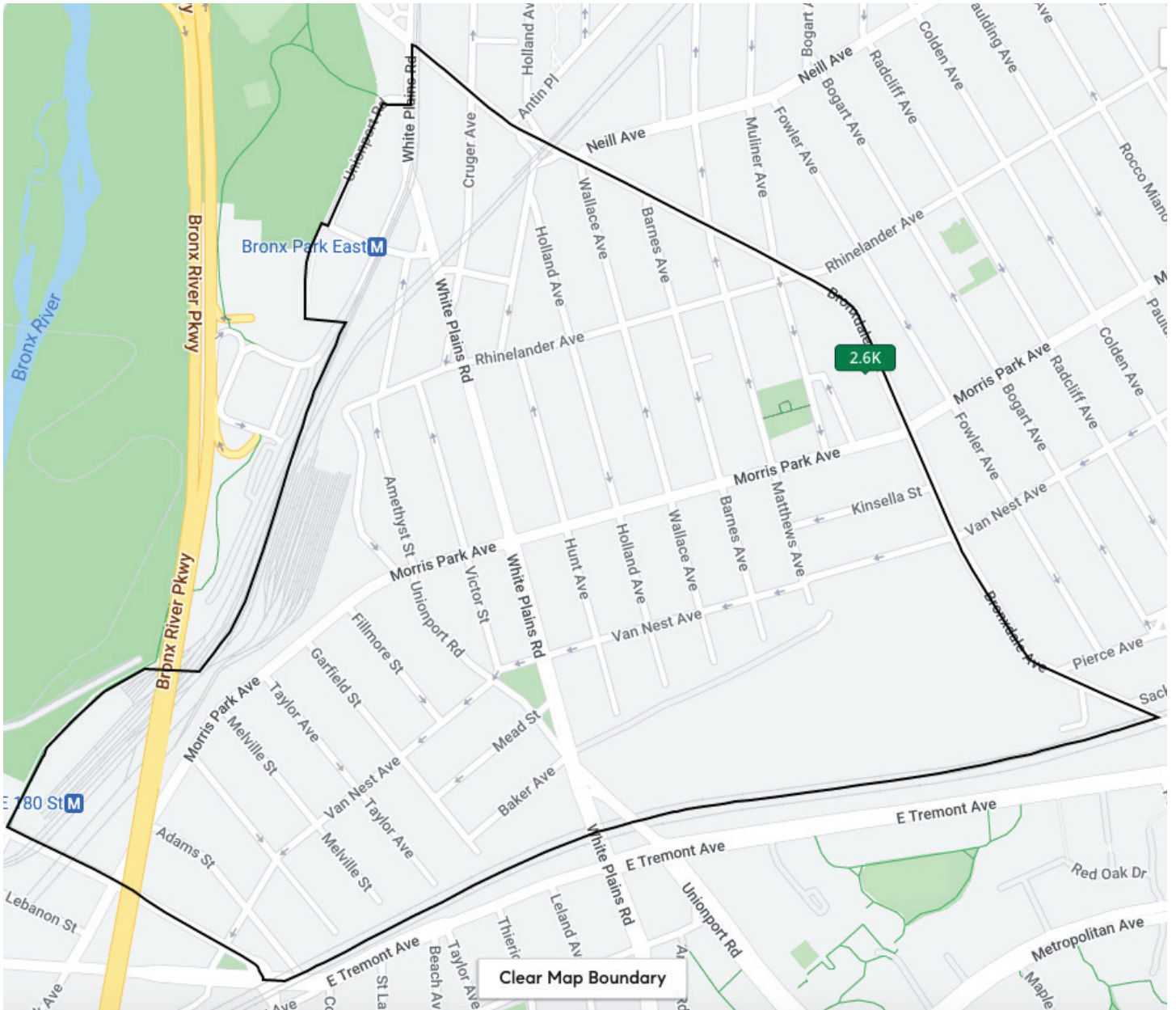
For the Van Nest Community to move forward and work towards receiving necessary funding to achieve our goals, **it must not be split in half**. We are asking the Commission to consider these two items.

1. The area of Van Nest currently in City Council District 15 needs to be united with the other half of Van Nest currently in City Council District 13. The Van Nest community aligns with the fabric of low-density community issues present in Community Board 11 and in the 49th Precinct which are both located in City Council District 13. **Please see the attached maps.**
2. Please unite the full neighborhood of Van Nest, Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, the majority of Bronx Park East, and the majority of Allerton into City Council District 13. These communities currently all work together in Community Board 11 and with the 49th Precinct on common community problems and events. **Please see attached maps.**

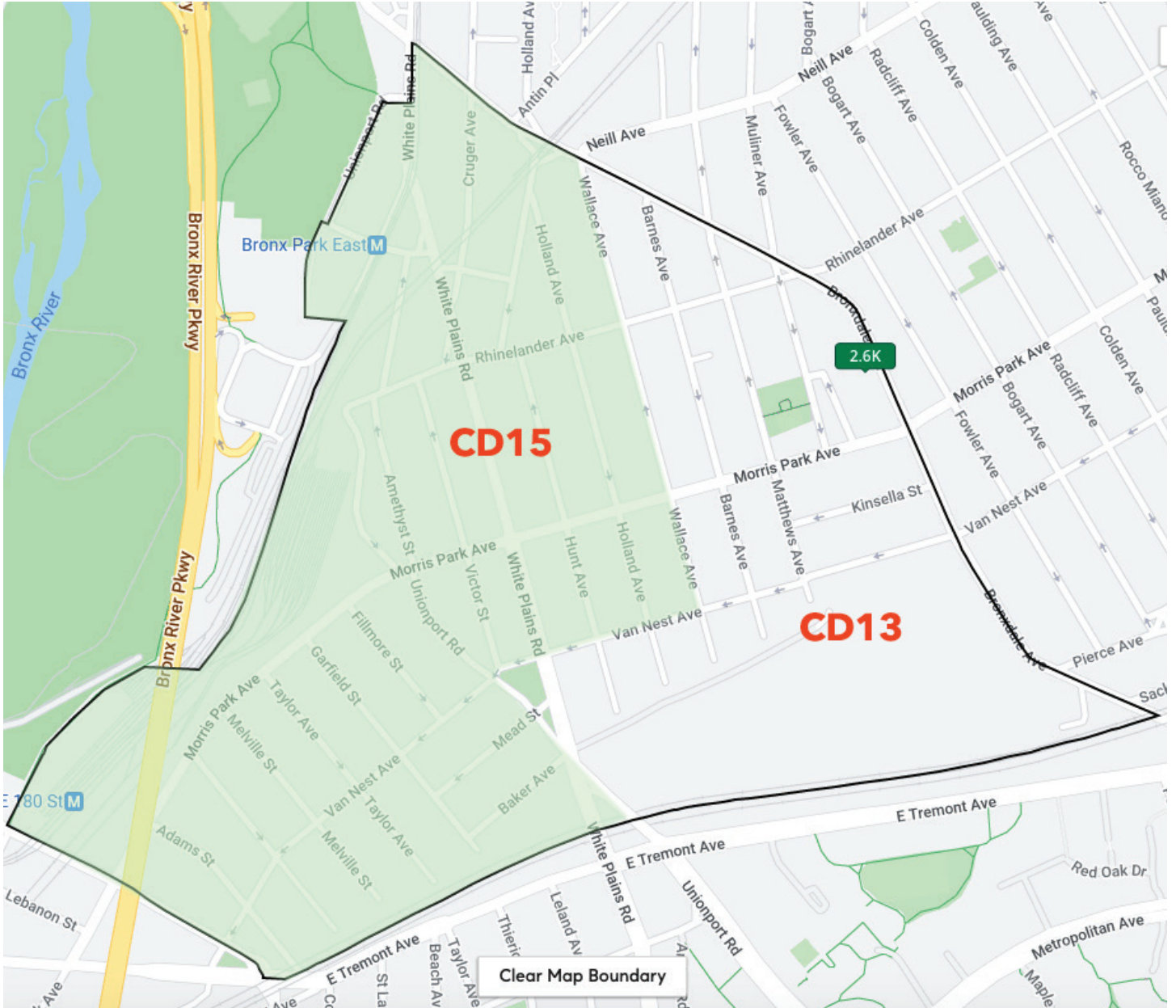
I truly appreciate the Commission for holding this final Public Hearing to receive additional community input for the **new** New York City Council district lines.

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 my 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.

## NEW City Council District 13

This map was created at [Representable.org](https://representable.org)

View this community at:

<https://www.representable.org/submission/a947fd85-89ca-4fd3-92ef-48a61a51014b?pdf=true>

