

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
2065 MORRIS AVENUE,  
BRONX, NY 10453  
**TEL:** (347) 590-2874  
**FAX:** (347) 599-2878

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1725  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
**TEL:** (212) 788-7074  
**FAX:** (212) 788-8849

District14@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BRONX

**CHAIR**  
HOUSING AND BUILDING  
-----  
**COMMITTEES**  
EDUCATION  
FINANCE  
IMMIGRATION  
LAND USE  
PUBLIC HOUSING  
RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS  
-----  
**TASKFORCE**  
TWIN PARKS CITYWIDE TASKFORCE  
ON FIRE PREVENTION

## **TESTIMONY OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ AT THE NEW YORK CITY INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**JULY 6, 2022**

Good evening, my name is Pierina Sanchez and I am the City Council Member representing District 14, encompassing the Northwest Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Fordham, University Heights, Mount Hope and others – presently home to about 170,000 people. I want to thank members of the New York City Independent Redistricting Commission for the time to testify today about the District where I was born and raised, and have the distinct honor of representing.

Since taking office this January, and opening our brick and mortar office in March, we have welcomed and served nearly 2,000 constituents – I’d wager that rivals many of my colleagues. ~30 or 1% came by email, ~450 or 23% by phone, and ~1,400 or 70% in person.

That’s right, 1,400 individuals have come to our office this year in person, during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Allow me to place that in context.

First, the Bronx has the highest percentage of residents without home broadband of any borough at 38%, and our community has one of the lowest rates of all.<sup>1</sup> Thus, many of our low-income residents and seniors without access at home rely on in person services. This is how they interact with and relate to government.

Next, with 45% of our community foreign born, language access is critical. District 14 is over 70% Latinx, including from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico and other countries in Central and South America, 20% of African and African American descent, and 3% of Asian/Pacific Islander descent. In this district, 94% of residents are renters, our median worker earns just \$21,000 per year (vs. \$36,800 citywide), and a full 33% of our families live below poverty, compared to 16.2% citywide, and with lower rates of formal educational attainment.

These realities are reflective of decades of racialized disinvestment and blocked access to wealth building opportunities for people of color.

Yet despite these disinvestments, District 14 has been cohesive and moved together. Over the last 10 years, there has been a dramatic increase in the Latinx, African and Black populations. These communities share languages, places of worship (like Our Lady of Angels and the Islamic Cultural Center), schools, small businesses that offer community serving products, and healthcare providers that provide language access and culturally appropriate care. Drawing new Council lines must ensure the power of these communities – Latinx, African, African American – communities of interest, are protected.

<sup>1</sup> [https://tech.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/NYC\\_IMP\\_1.7.20\\_FINAL-2.pdf](https://tech.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/NYC_IMP_1.7.20_FINAL-2.pdf)

In my first six months representing this district, coupled with my life living in it, I know that across this district are shared interests, aspirations and goals for betterment and advancement. Our neighbors enjoying this district have spent a great deal fighting for further reinvestments as a community, for example at the Kingsbridge Armory and Aqueduct Walk. A largely immigrant District, coming from the Caribbean, South and Central America and Africa, this community learns together – at Bronx Community College and Lehman College -- and struggles together working so hard to make ends meet.

Thus, as the Commission commences its initial drawing of the NYC Council Districts, it is critical that lines are drawn to ensure that the power of these communities of interest are not diluted. As the Commission deliberates, please take into account the way voter turnout rates differ by race, ethnicity, geography, income as illustrated in Figures 1-4 on the subsequent pages. Even as community based organizations and grassroots leaders continue the difficult work of increasing civic engagement among historical marginalized communities, we know that lower turnout demographics and communities of interest cannot be paired with higher turnout communities without further diluting their already weaker power.

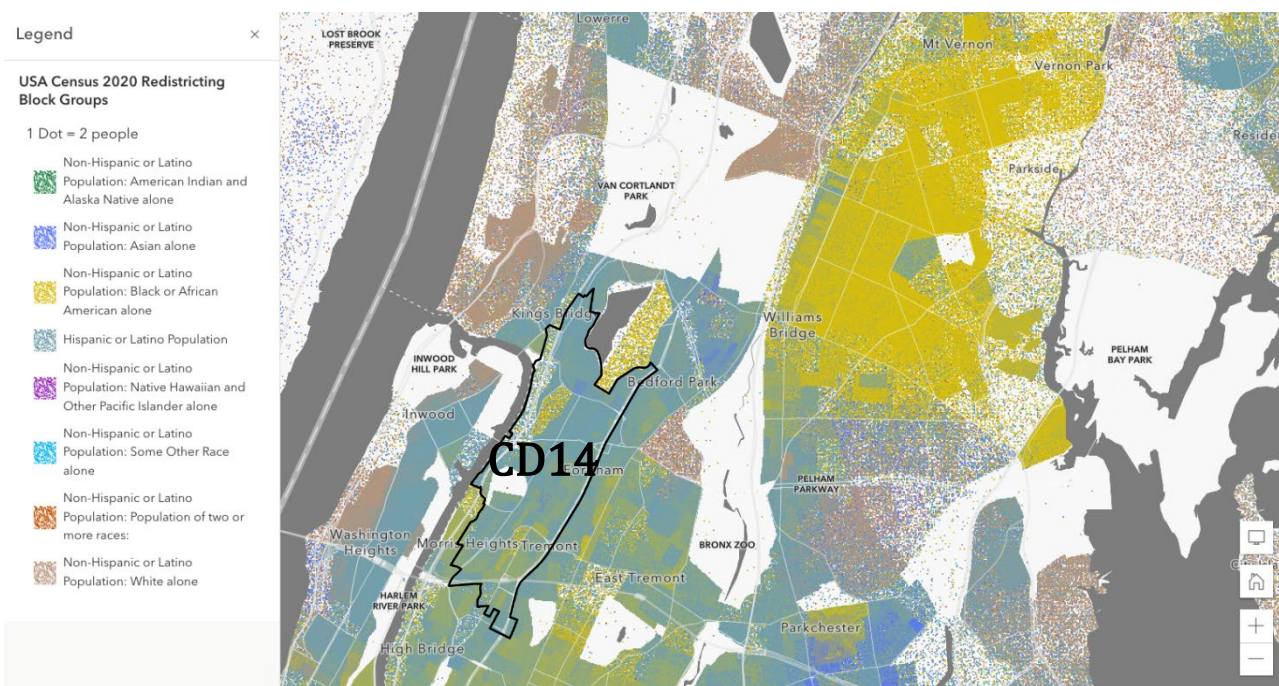
Fairness must be at the center of the redistricting process.

Thank you.

## Exhibits:

Figure 1: Racial Dot Density Map of the Northwest Bronx

- 1 dot represents 2 people
- *CM Sanchez note:* Map illustrating the racial composition of the Northwest Bronx, with Council District 14 being overwhelmingly comprised of a Latinx and African/African American constituency.

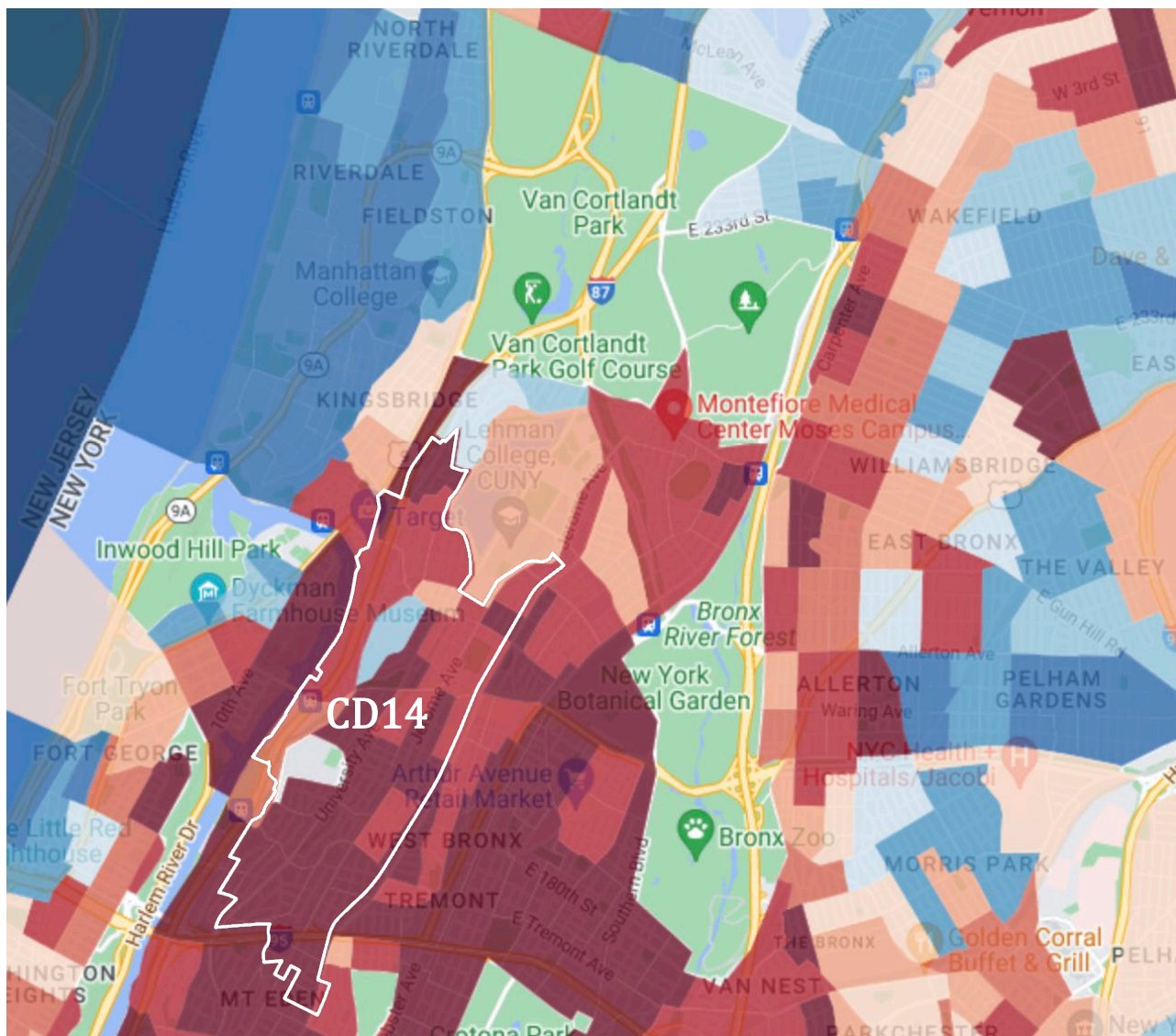


Data Source: US Census 2020, as mapped by Esri,

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=30d2e10d4d694b3eb4dc4d2e58dbb5a5>

Figure 2: Income Map of the Northwest Bronx

- *CM Sanchez note:* Map illustrating the income composition of the Northwest Bronx, with Council District 14 being overwhelmingly comprised of lower income households, with neighboring districts home to more affluent households at its northern boundaries.

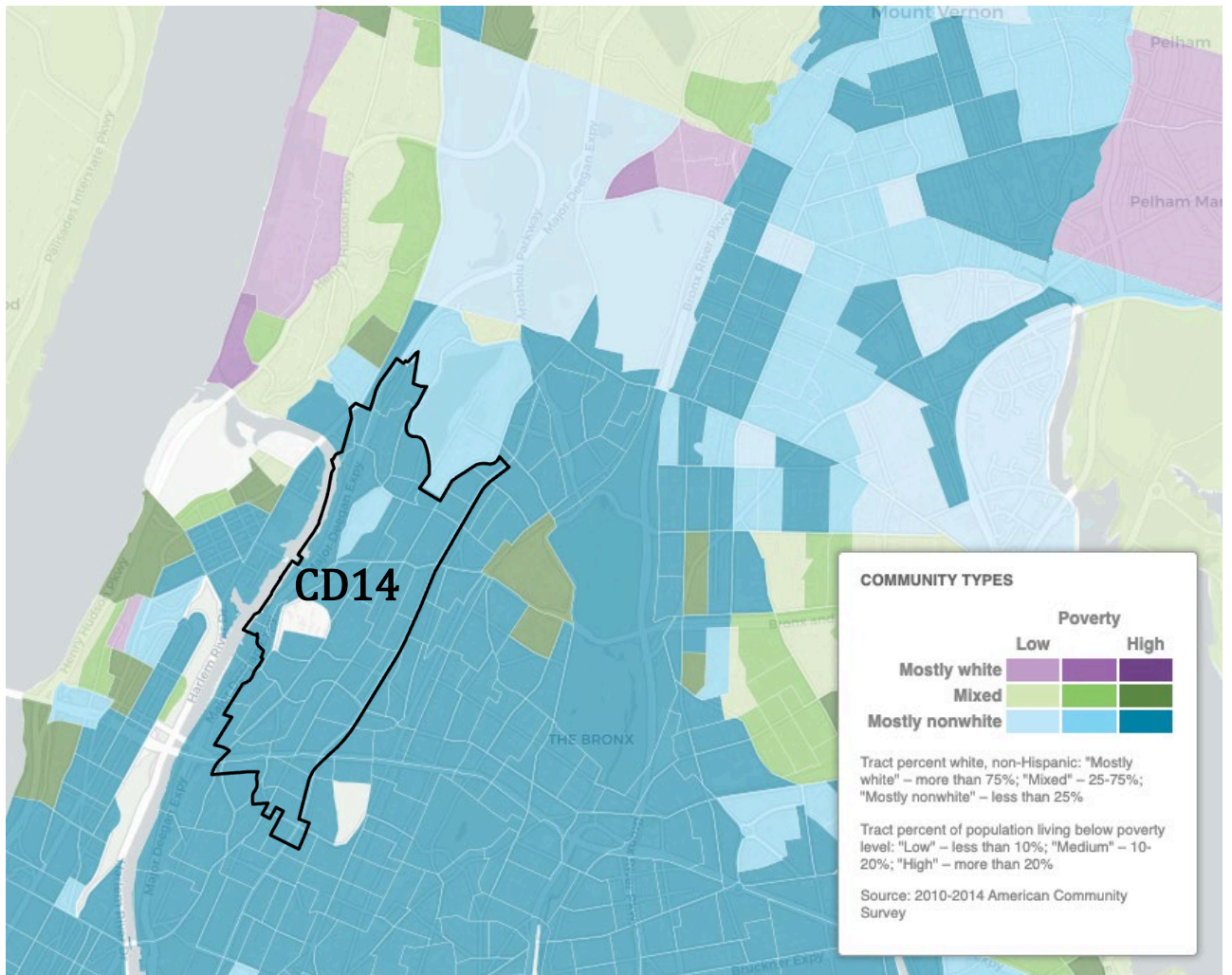


Data Source: 2020 Census, as mapped by <http://www.justicemap.org/>

Figure 3: Racial and Income Segregation in the Northwest Bronx

- *CM Sanchez note:* Map illustrating the segregation present in the Northwest Bronx, highlighting CD14 as a lower-income community of color, with neighboring communities comprised of higher income households.

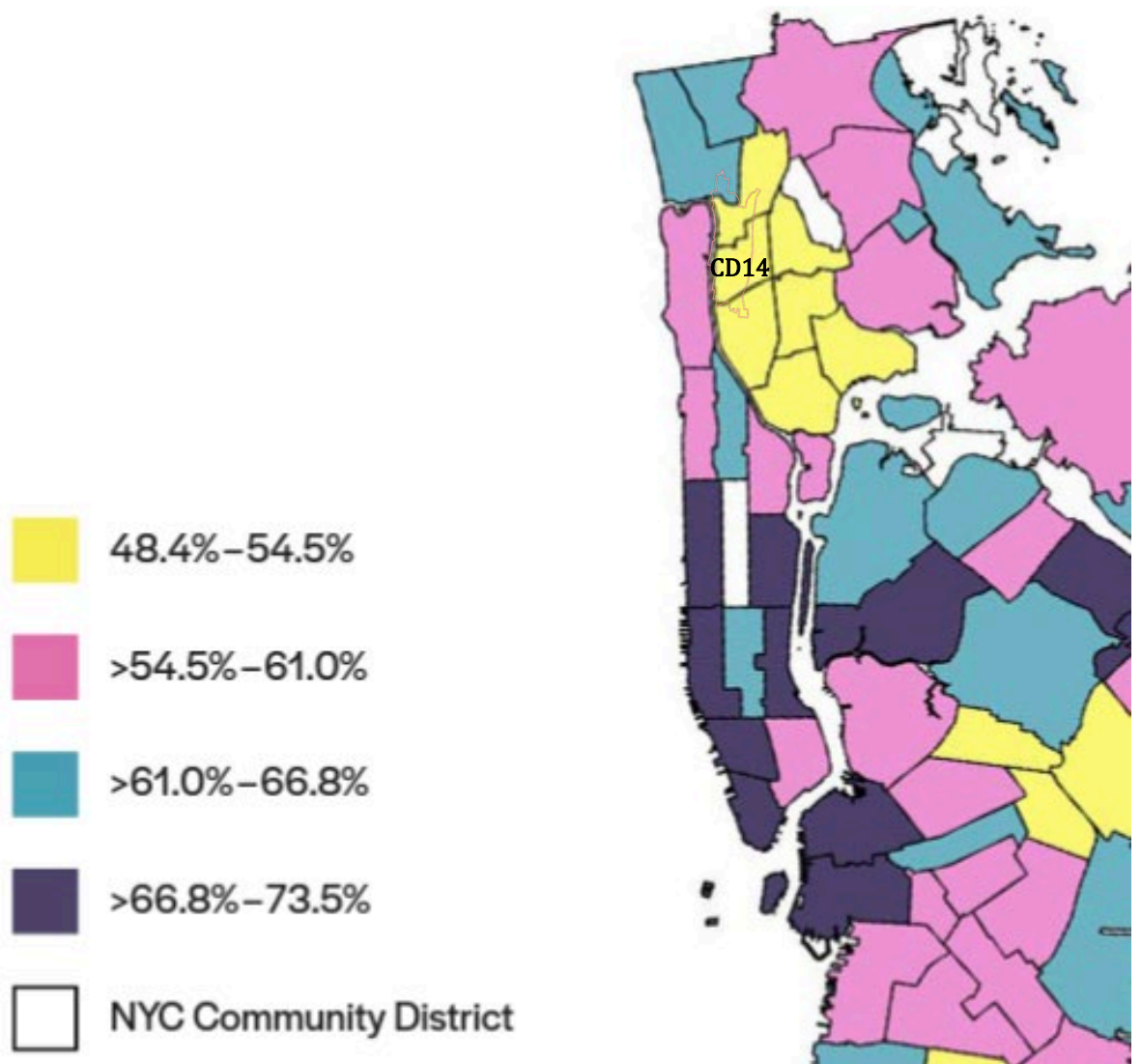




Data Source: American Community Survey 2010-2014, as mapped by Regional Plan Association, [https://rpa.carto.com/viz/a9ef1014-550a-11e6-bcfe-0ee66e2c9693/public\\_map](https://rpa.carto.com/viz/a9ef1014-550a-11e6-bcfe-0ee66e2c9693/public_map)

Figure 4: Voter Turnout by Community District in the 2020 General Election in the West Bronx

- CM Sanchez note: Map illustrating the low voter-turnout rates of the West Bronx.



Data Source: NYC Campaign Finance Board,  
<https://www.nycfb.info/media/reports/voter-analysis-report-2020-2021/>