

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

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THE  
COUNCIL  
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**ERIC DINOWITZ**

COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 11, BRONX  
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**CHAIR**

Jewish Caucus

**CO-CHAIR**

Bronx Delegation

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I first want to thank the commissioners and the staff for the incredibly important and challenging task before you, and the work that has been done so far. The district lines the commission draws must take into account communities of interest, and these communities are not always reflected in the neighborhoods laid out in census maps. The draft lines are a good example of that reality.

In the commission's draft, the neighborhood of Wakefield was completely removed from the 11th district and added to the 12th district, and part of Kingsbridge Heights was moved from the 14th to the 11th. For reasons I will explain, this is the opposite direction in which the district needs to be remapped. I urge the commission to consider changes to their draft maps to meet the needs of the residents of the Bronx.

The first issue is the historic nature of the district. The northwest section of Wakefield has historically been part of District 11, and Kingsbridge Heights has historically been part of District 14. This history is a reflection of shared interests, and the newly drawn map should include Wakefield in District 11 and ensure that Kingsbridge Heights remains united within District 14. But it is not just history that dictates the importance of including Wakefield in District 11 and ensuring Kingsbridge Heights remain in District 14.

Beyond the historic nature of the district, District 11 is currently home to communities of interest centered on housing, which is the second issue pertaining to this map. District 11 contains neighborhoods that, in the North, are generally zoned R1 through R5. This means homes and buildings are generally lower in density than other areas in the Bronx and represent unique needs as it relates to property taxes, parking, cleaning services, public transit, and more. With the commission's draft, residents of Wakefield who share those same unique needs as other neighborhoods in District 11, like Kingsbridge, Riverdale, and Woodlawn, would be added to a district that includes a significant number of residents in large developments.

Conversely, parts of Kingsbridge Heights that were added to District 11 should be united with District 14. In contrast to Wakefield, Kingsbridge Heights contains zoning regulations and buildings that are more similar to those of District 14. To ensure that communities with similar housing are united, I urge the commission to consider these changes.

Beyond zoning, the third issue deals with renters and owners. According to census data, Wakefield has proportionally more owners than Kingsbridge Heights, which has proportionally more renters. Renters and owners each face their own unique needs, and the district lines must reflect these aligned interests. If the renters in the Kingsbridge Heights area are united with other renters in the 14th, they can mobilize their political power to fight for their shared interests.

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Similarly, owners and shareholders united in the 11th District can mobilize their political power to fight for their common needs. The owners in Wakefield have an aligned interest with the other owners in the North Bronx, while the residents in Kingsbridge Heights have shared interests with other parts of Kingsbridge Heights and University Heights.

Lastly, I would like to highlight that my colleagues in the adjacent districts have signed this testimony, indicating their agreement with this assessment.

Given these factors outlined above and the support from my colleagues in neighboring districts, I urge the commission to expand District 11 further into Wakefield, and reunite Kingsbridge Heights into District 14.

The attached maps indicated the specific border lines of districts 11, 12, and 14. The orange represents district 11, the green represents district 12, and the purple represents district 14. I thank you for your consideration, and look forward to the next round of maps that reflect the unique needs of Bronx Residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Dinowitz", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Dinowitz  
City Council Member, District 11



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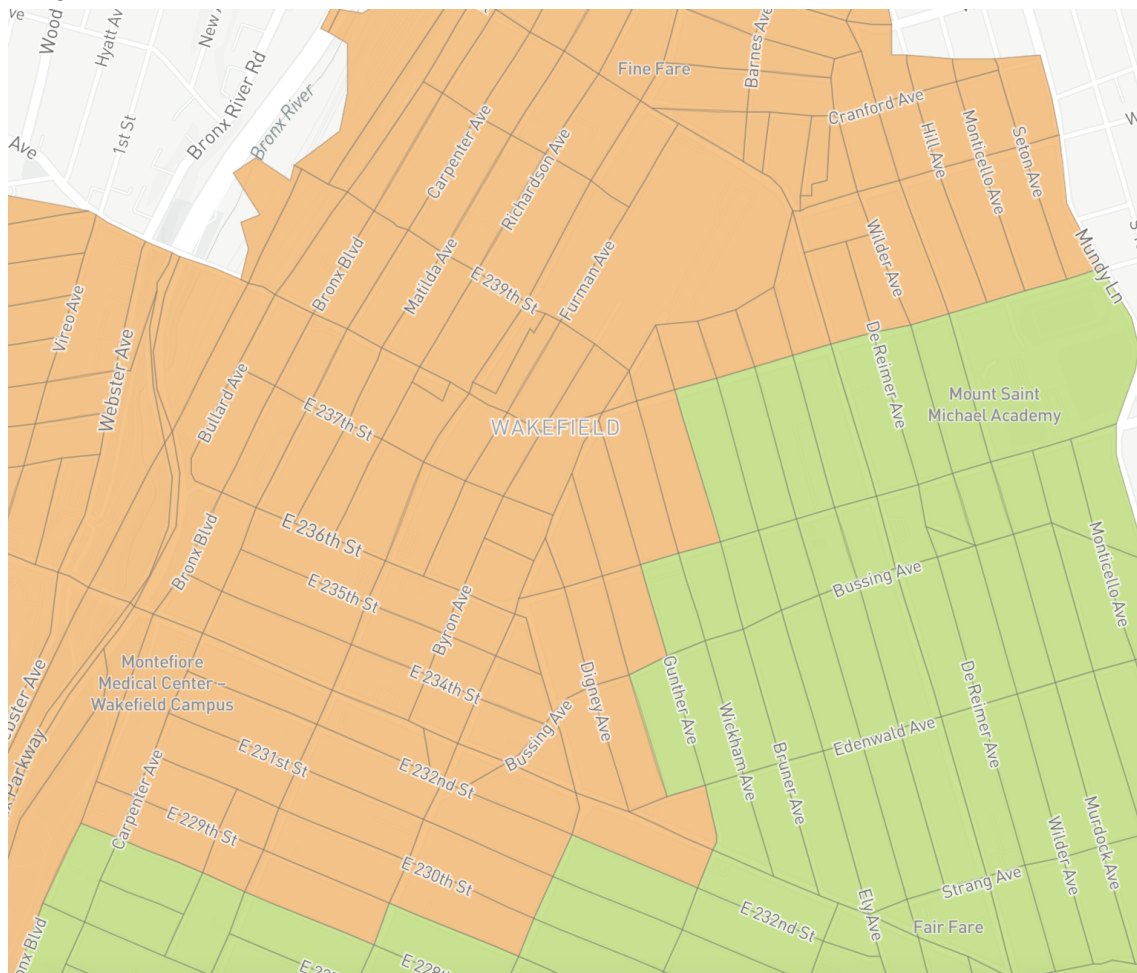
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Image 2: District 11 should extend farther into Wakefield.



*K. Riley*

Kevin Riley

Council Member, District 12



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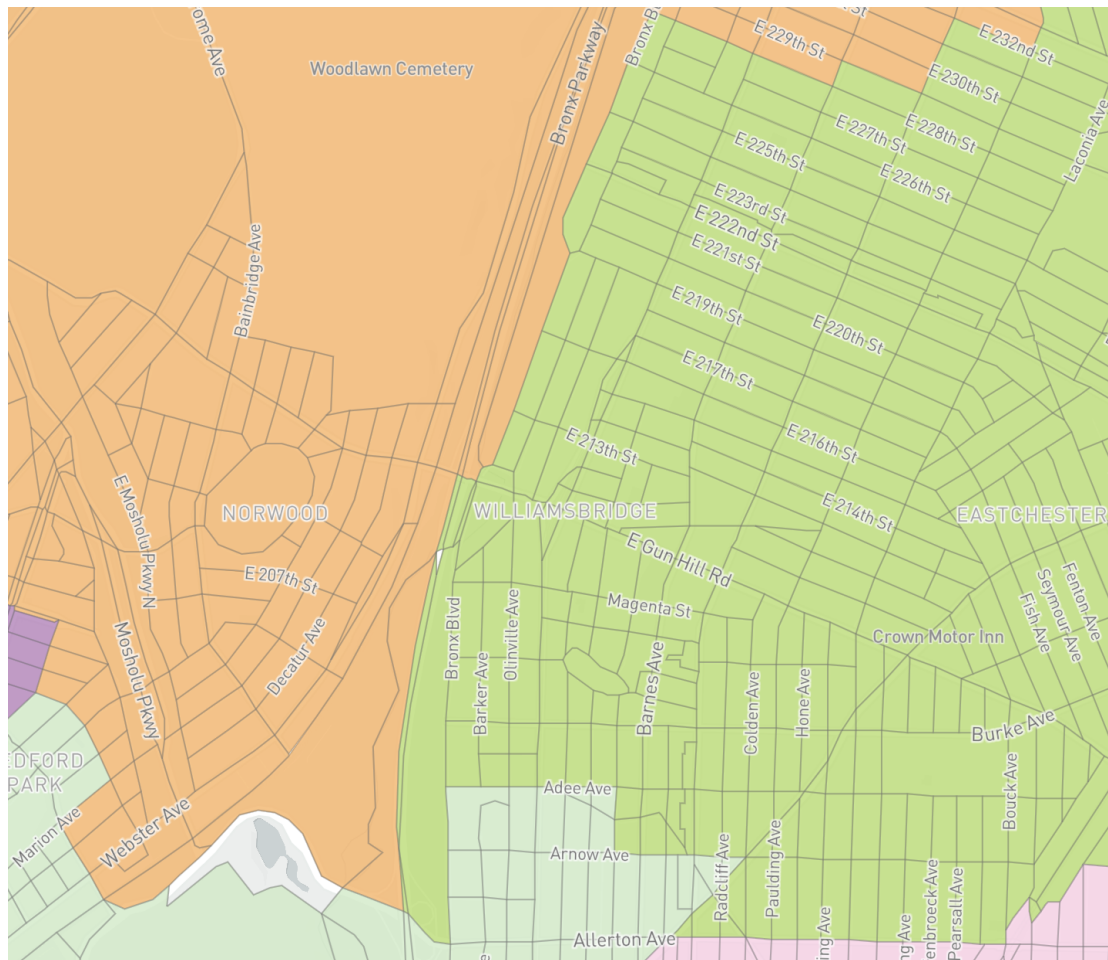
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Image 3: The rest of the boundary between District 11 and 12 should be consistent with the historical 2012 lines.



*K. Riley*

Kevin Riley  
Council Member, District 12