

**Council Member Marjorie Velázquez**

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31st August 2022

**Districting Commission**

253 Broadway, 3rd Floor

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Dear Districting Commission:

When considering new City Council District lines in the Bronx, it is essential that we unite communities of interest, and also ensure our districts are reflective of our diverse neighborhoods.

In 13<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic it is necessary to maintain the communities along Pelham Parkway South and Pelham Parkway North to Bronx Parkway as communities of common interest as defined by the New York City Charter. This section of the Bronx has long been part of the 13<sup>th</sup> City Councilmanic District, and it is tied together by its current lack of transit options. Additionally, the 13<sup>th</sup> District should maintain its border to the north with Westchester County as this section has a long history of being part of CD13's community.

It is also important that 13<sup>th</sup> District lines are representative of a diversifying area of the Bronx. As a natural line to the west, Bronx Park East should meet Adee Avenue to the north, to keep the diverse communities around Parkside Houses together in Council District 13. Additionally, it is important that the Pelham Parkway Houses are kept whole and included in CD13. The preliminary maps divide up this NYCHA development into two Councilmanic districts which fractures their power to effectuate public policy. Further, it is also vital that we listen to Bronx constituencies; the Van Nest community has requested to be maintained as whole, as such they should be part of the 15<sup>th</sup> District to the west.

The Districting Commission must ensure the new City Council District lines in the Bronx reflect population and demographic changes. The 13<sup>th</sup> New York City Councilmanic District should represent its diverse demographics, while also making sure our unique communities remain whole.

Sincerely,

Council Member Marjorie Velázquez