



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

NATHALIA FERNANDEZ
Assemblywoman 80th District

ALBANY OFFICE:
Room 540

Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
518-455-5844

FAX: 518-455-5598

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2018 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, New York 10461
718-408-0109

FAX: 718-408-0431

fernandezn@nyassembly.gov

CHAIR
Subcommittee on
Effective Treatment

COMMITTEES
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
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Mental Health
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September 1, 2022

Re: NYC Council Redistricting

Dear NYC Contributing Commissioner

At the hearing that took place on August 17th at Lehman College, the community of Pelham Parkway in the Northeast Bronx came up with great concern. I write to you today to express that same concern and urge that we keep Pelham Parkway united.

In the currently proposed maps, Pelham Parkway has been separated down the middle with the community on Pelham Parkway North in District 15, and the community on Pelham Parkway South in District 13. The community and neighbors of Pelham Parkway work cohesively in solving social and environmental issues that have come about in Pelham Parkway. Splitting Pelham Parkway North, and Pelham Parkway South, east of Eastchester Road, into two separate districts would create strong potential to reverse much of the advocacy that this community has built. It would diminish the sense of community brought together over the years. This is an area with the same common interests and issues and lie in the same community board.

Pelham Parkway is the heart of the 80th Assembly District, to which I have the honor of representing. This district is beautifully diverse as it is complex. There are various needs to every neighborhood and the communities along and around Pelham Parkway, between Williamsbridge Road and White Plains Road share similarities and partnerships that could create a segregation that we don't need to enhance. There is a real risk of one side of Pelham Parkway to be underrepresented more than the other side.

Our beautiful green parkway should be what divides this community. Letting the lines stay as they are would literally do that. Empower them and let the North and South side continue to work together, support each other, and fight together for the prosperity of their community.

Respectfully,

Nathalia Fernandez
New York State Assemblywoman
80th Assembly District