



Council Member Amanda Farías Public Testimony for NYC Redistricting Commission

I am Council Member Amanda Farías, representing the 18th District in the New York City Council. I am submitting testimony today with respect to the last drafted maps because of my deep concern for my immediate community.

We need to push back the line that is currently on Taylor Avenue to the natural border of the Bronx River Parkway. This community, historically known as Park Stratton and Park Versailles, is a part of the larger Parkchester community.

As it is drafted in the most recent maps, this triangle of Parkchester would become part of Council District 15, which is currently represented by Council Member Oswald Feliz. His district office is currently three miles away in a transit desert community and the residents of this area would have to take two buses for over 45 minutes - a generous estimate to a delayed bus system- to be able to have an appointment or ask a question in-person. My district office is only a mile and a half away and accessible from the BX 5, BX 4, BX 36 or BX 22 buses. My office is not only closer, but within their community.

I live on Theriort Ave and Archer St, which is directly parallel to the new line that was drawn on Taylor Avenue. The triangle shaped area that has been newly cut out of my district includes residents who have been my direct neighbors for the past decade. My neighbors in this part of the district have not had to visit my office because they know that they will catch me when I am on the way to the gym or at my bodega. I do so much vital case work in this area for people who have never had the kind of access to an elected official like they do now, and it is crucial that connection is kept. The Taylor Avenue line also directly cuts out a public school and polling location from District 18. This poll site will now have two councilmanic elections driving potential voter misinformation with lack of BOE education and less voter turnout because they do not have the same level of recognition with other members as they do with me currently.

I do want to reaffirm the messages from my last two testimonies that Council District 18 lines must continue to keep the Parkchester, Clason Point, and Harding Park communities whole, as

well as keeping Bronx River Houses in District 18. It is crucial we do not fragment communities who have already had a long history of underrepresentation and underfunding.