

Good afternoon to all members of the Commission who are present today,

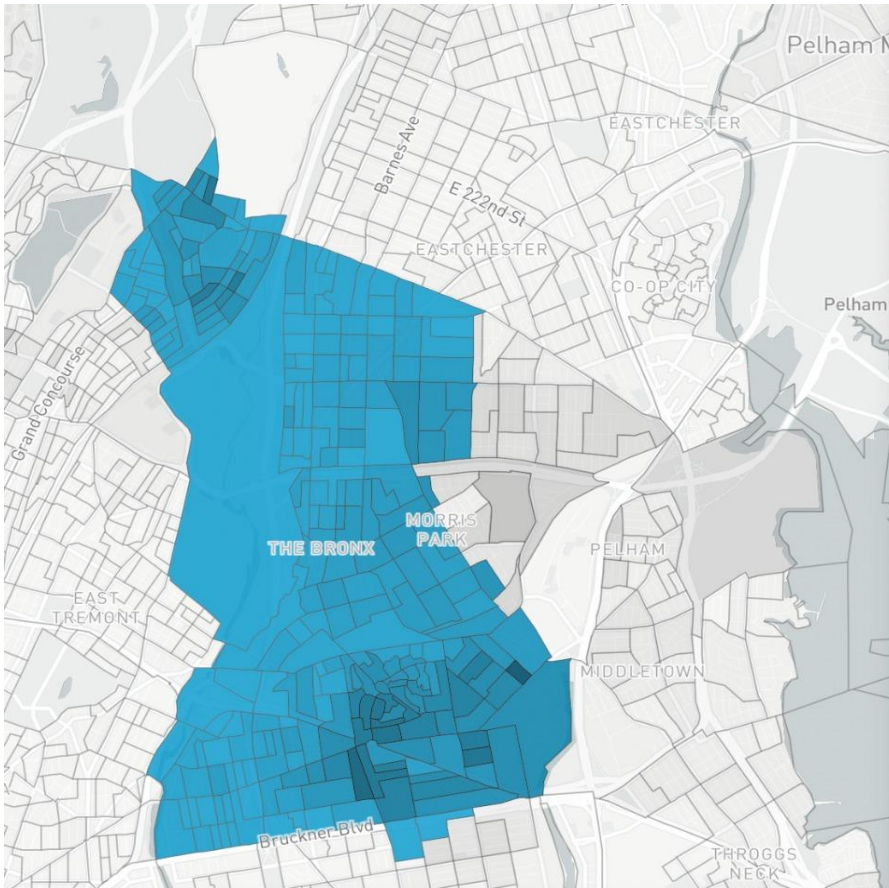
My name is Wali Ullah and I'm a lifelong resident of Pelham Gardens in The Bronx. I was born and raised in the Bronx.

For nearly a century, the Bronx has served as a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities, much similar to its sibling boroughs. Traditionally these have included European Jews, Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans, Latin-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and African-Americans. Over the past 25 years, however, our borough continues to diversify, adding Bengali, Dominican, Albanian, Pakistani, Yemeni, and Indo/Afro-Caribbean, and West African immigrants and families to its ever-burgeoning melting pot of diversity. Though many of the proposed Congressional, Senate, and Assembly district boundaries reflect shifting demographics well enough already, I would like to propose a different district map for one of the Senate districts which is situated within the heart of Parkchester. For too long, Parkchester has been gerrymandered strangely in a fashion that the entire neighborhood itself is split into three different Senate districts, currently Districts 32, 33, and 34.

What I would like to propose is that one of the Senate districts in Parkchester, which shares a large population of Asian-Americans (specifically Bengali Americans) and Hispanics, be expanded into the Little Yemen portion of the Van Nest neighborhood as well as Norwood, which shares a growing population of Bengali Americans as well. I believe these boundaries, though different from the ones proposed by the IRC, will allow the Bronx to better reflect its growing Muslim and Asian-American populations, as well as provide better government support and resources to those ethnic groups, which are predominantly first-generation families. Such support can look like increasing language and social service support to Bengali and Arabic speaking Bronxites in the district as well as the borough by and large.

I hope you take my testimony into consideration. (See next page for proposed Senate map)

Yours Truly,
Wali Ullah



Population

Data Layers

Evaluation

Population by Race

COMPARE Asian population

WITH Hispanic population

AND Black population

	Asian	Hispanic	Black
1	12.3%	52.7%	21.5%
2	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%
13	0%	0%	0%