

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

BRONX COUNTY VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING — INPUT FROM COMMUNITY TUESDAY— NOVEMBER 9, 2021 – 3:00 P.M.

Testimony to a PUBLIC HEARING prepared by
Bernadette Ferrara, President of Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

The Van Nest Community is an East Bronx neighborhood with a diverse population of Hispanics, African-Americans, Muslims and Caucasians. It is a part of the 49th Police Precinct, the 49th Clergy Council and Community Board 11 in the East Bronx. Community Board 11 has 51 Board Members with four representing Van Nest for the last thirteen years. I am one of those Board Members and am also the President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance (VNNA) formed in 2010. VNNA has reached many accomplishments for Van Nest in a few short years but our major community goals including a community center, middle schools, Youth Programs, Senior Programs and more Senior Housing are still outstanding. While we are working hard to raise the bar on quality of life concerns, these major goals are still out of reach.

Over the years it has been abundantly clear that the division of our community damages our ability to receive financial support from our elected officials. Since our neighborhood is always “on the fringe” of many districts so is our funding.

We have gone over the proposed lines and are requesting the following:

- **State Senate District 32** — The proposed lines have 2/3 of Van Nest within SD32. We are asking for that small portion in SD34 to be part of SD32 to keep our Van Nest community as a complete neighborhood. **Please see the attached map.**
- **Assembly District 80** — That the five blocks of Van Nest: 1600 block of Taylor Avenue, 1600 block of Melville street, the 1600 and 1700 block of Van Buren Street and the 1600 and 1700 block of Adams Street be included in the new proposed district of AD80. **Please see attached map.**

I want to thank the Commission for holding these Public Hearings. Your proposed lines are apparent that you are listening to community concerns and that is truly appreciated.

MAP OF VAN NEST NEIGHBORHOOD:

1. Local boundaries of Van Nest neighborhood in the East Bronx:



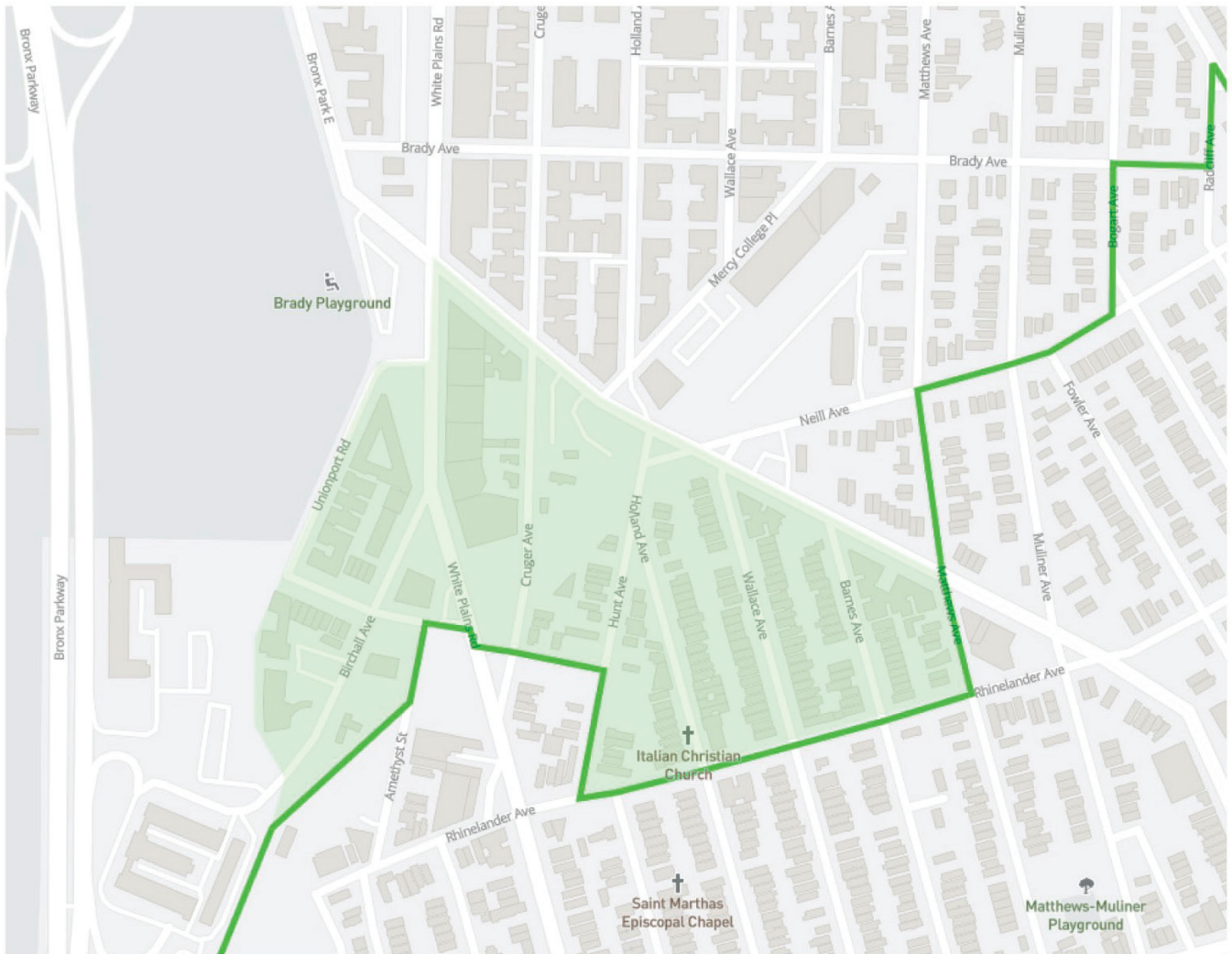
2. State Senate District 32 with inclusion of small portion of Van Nest presently in SD34:

APPLICATION DEVELOPED BY THE CENTER FOR URBAN RESEARCH AT THE CUNY GRADUATE CENTER



REDISTRICTING & YOU

Current Districts & Implications for Post-2020 Maps



Counties

CURRENT DISTRICTS:

State Senate

District selection

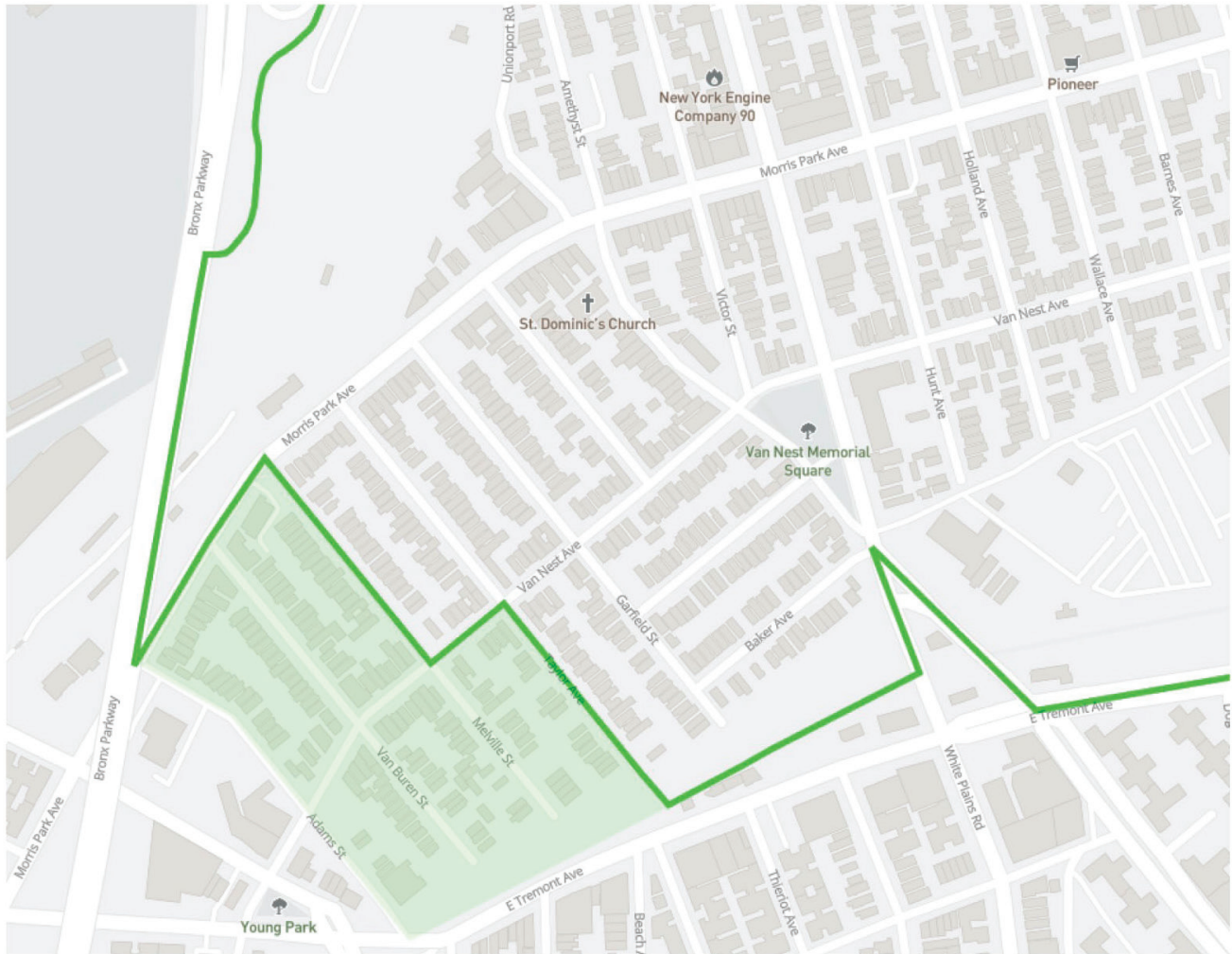
2. State Assembly District 80 with inclusion of small portion of Van Nest presently in AD87:

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Counties

CURRENT DISTRICTS:
State Assembly

Apportionment selection