



CENTRAL QUEENS REDISTRICTING COALITION

May 18, 2022

By E-Filing and E-Mail (cervas@cmu.edu)

Jonathan Cervas, Ph.D., Special Master
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Re: Harkenrider et al. v. Hochul et al., Index No. E2022-0116CV

Dear Special Master Cervas:

The Central Queens Redistricting Coalition has worked throughout this entire redistricting process to create districts that kept communities whole. By doing so, we remove barriers to civic engagement. Our coalition focused our work on the central Queens neighborhoods of Elmhurst, Rego Park, Forest Hills, Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill, Briarwood, and Jamaica Hills. Your initial New York State Senate Maps divide our communities and create more barriers for community members to engage with their elected officials than is necessary. For example, parents of children attending the same school are forced to engage with multiple NY State Senators to resolve a singular issue.

Here is the current breakdown of Senate Districts by neighborhood:

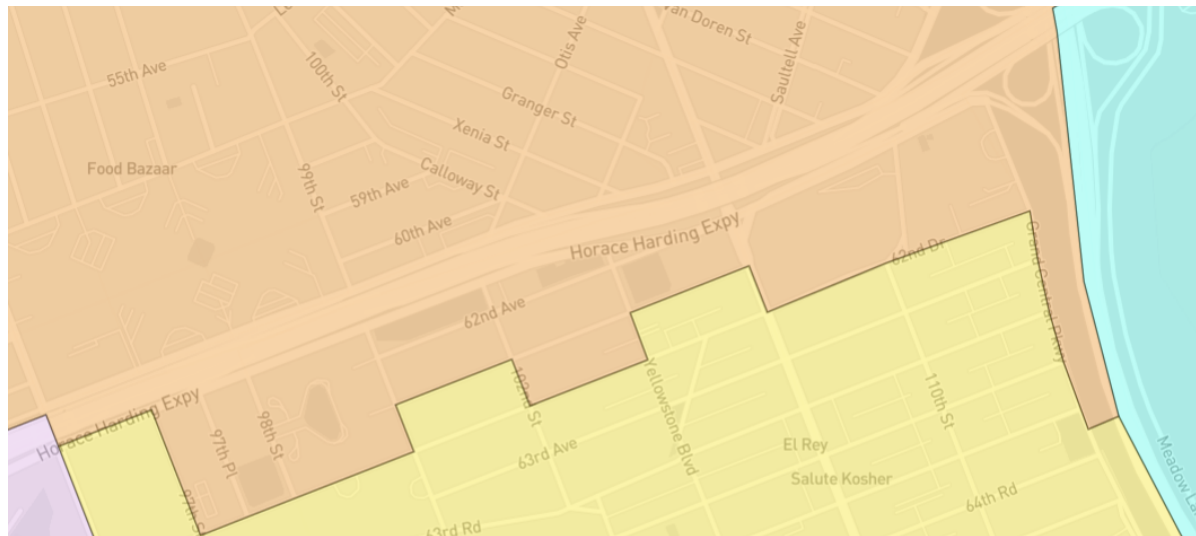
- **Elmhurst:** 2 State Senate Districts
 - District 12
 - District 13
- **Rego Park:** 3 State Senate Districts
 - District 12
 - District 13
 - District 15
- **Forest Hills:** 2 State Senate Districts
 - District 14
 - District 15
- **Kew Gardens:** 1 State Senate District
 - District 14
- **Richmond Hill:** 2 State Senate Districts
 - District 14
 - District 15
- **Briarwood:** 2 State Senate Districts
 - District 14
 - District 16
- **Jamaica Estates:** 1 State Senate District
 - District 16

Areas of particular concern are :

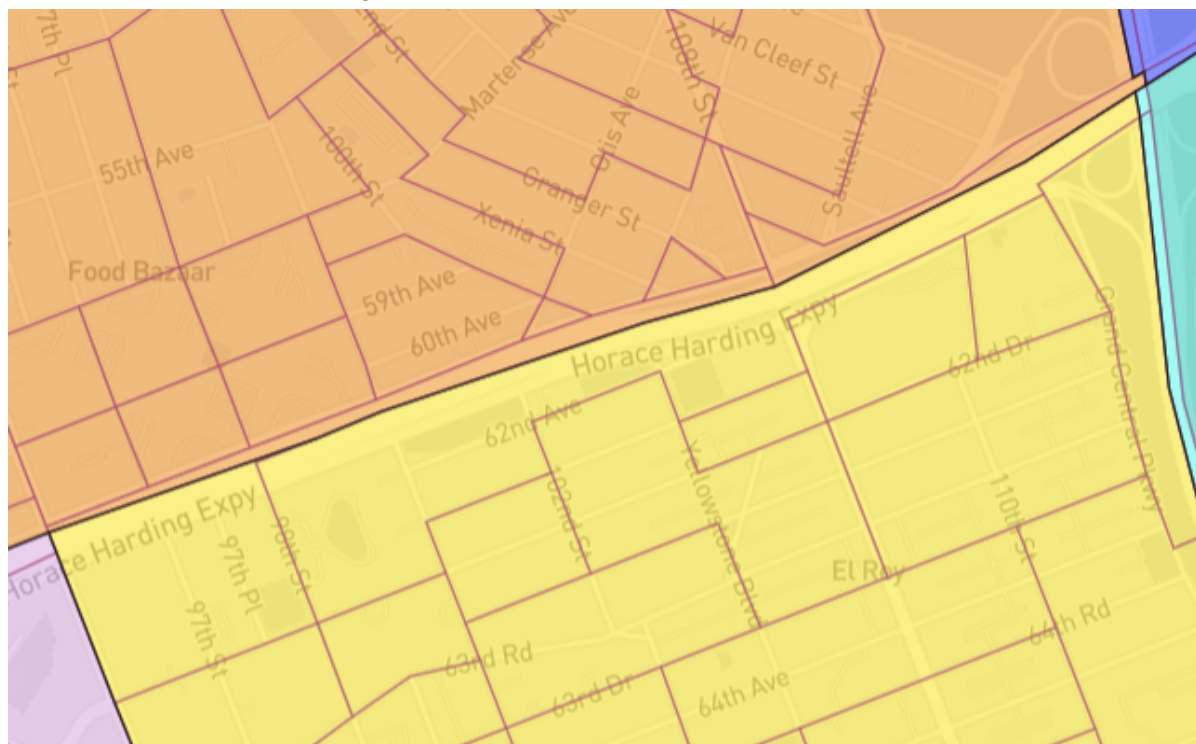
Horace Harding/Long Island Expressway I-495

There is a portion of Forest Hills that runs along Horace Harding from 97th street to the Grand Central Parkway service road that is in District 13. It should be in District 15. That part of the community sends their children to schools in District 15 and shares transit corridors with District 15. The Long Island Expressway forms a natural boundary between Forest Hills and the neighborhood of Corona to the north.

Your Proposed Boundary:



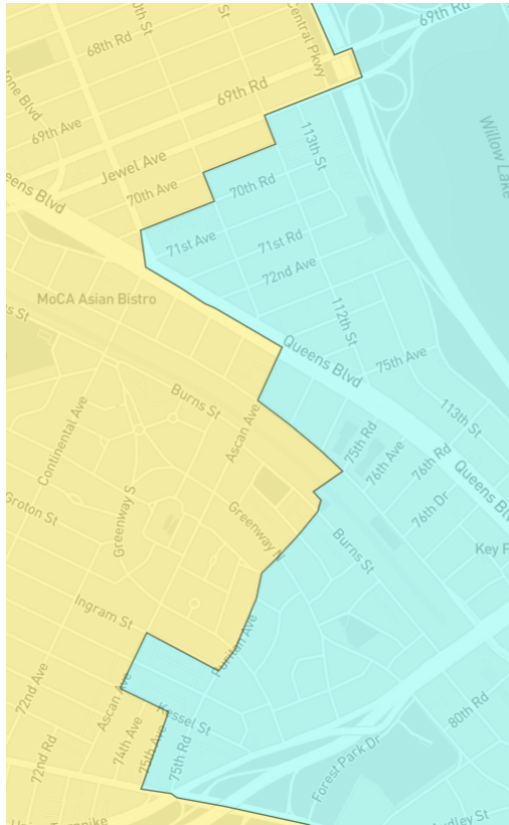
CQRC Proposed Boundary:



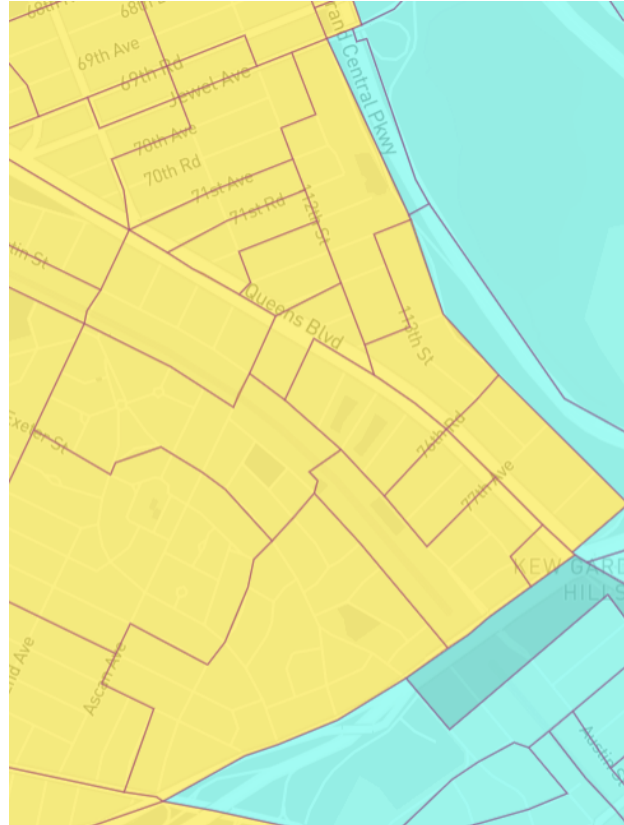
Puritan Ave

Forest Hills has a historic community known as Forest Hills Gardens. The boundary for District 14 and 15 cut right through that neighborhood. The border of concern starts on Ascan Avenue & Queens Boulevard, proceeds onto Puritan Avenue, 75th Avenue and ends at Union Turnpike. A more appropriate boundary would run from Queens Boulevard up Union Turnpike to the interchange with Metropolitan Avenue.

Your Proposed Boundary:



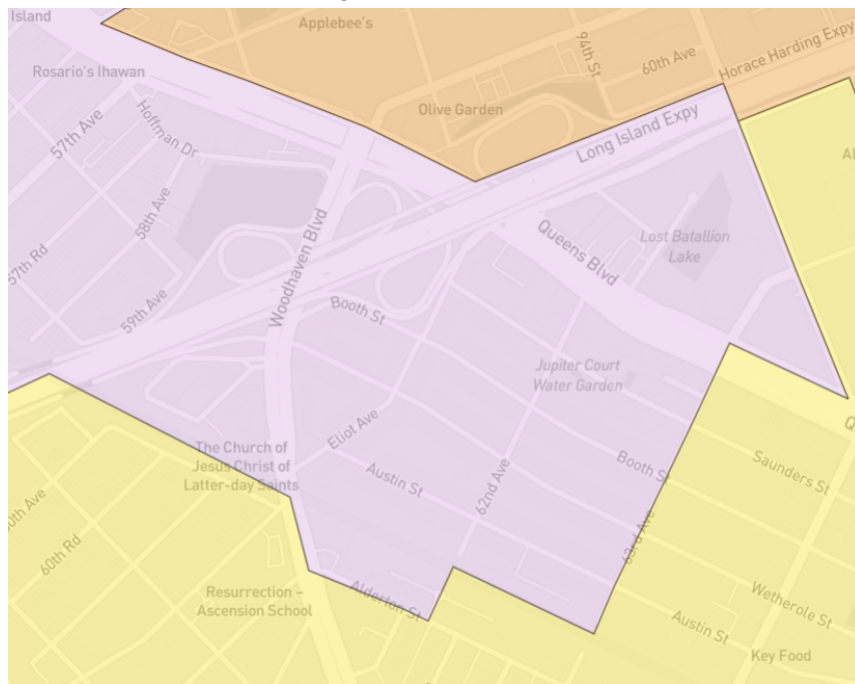
CQRC Proposed Boundary:



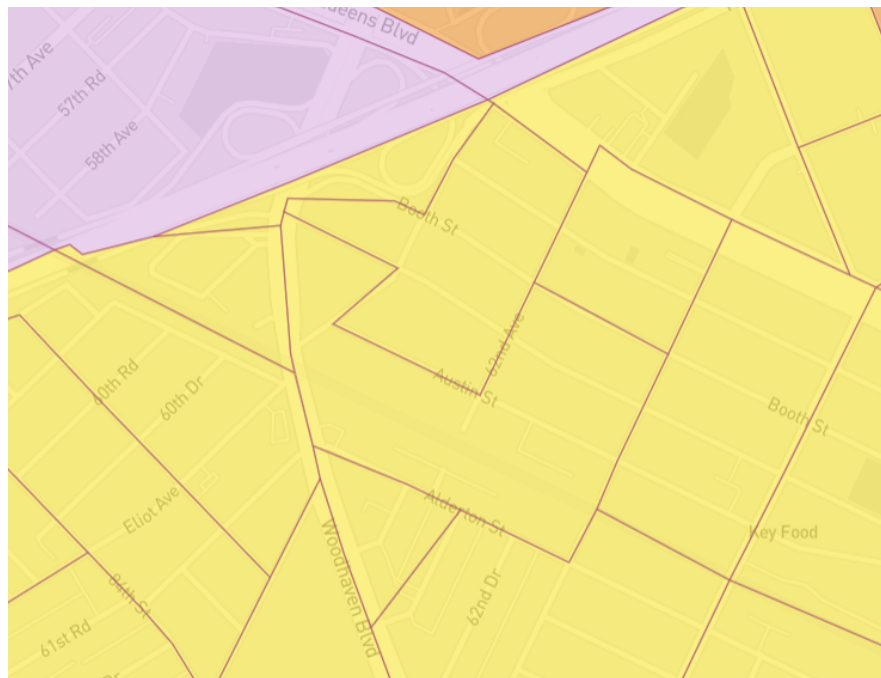
Rego Park Corridor Between Junction Boulevard and Woodhaven Boulevard

This area which you placed in District 12 should be in District 15. As with the other areas of concern it shares schools, transit, and a community district.

Your Proposed Boundary:



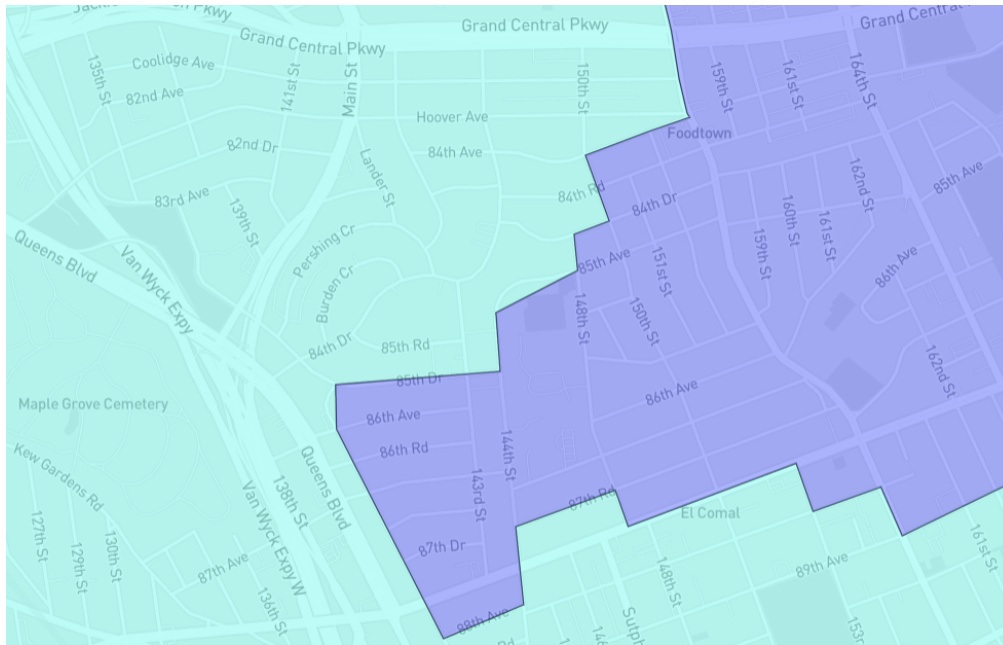
CQRC Proposed Boundary:



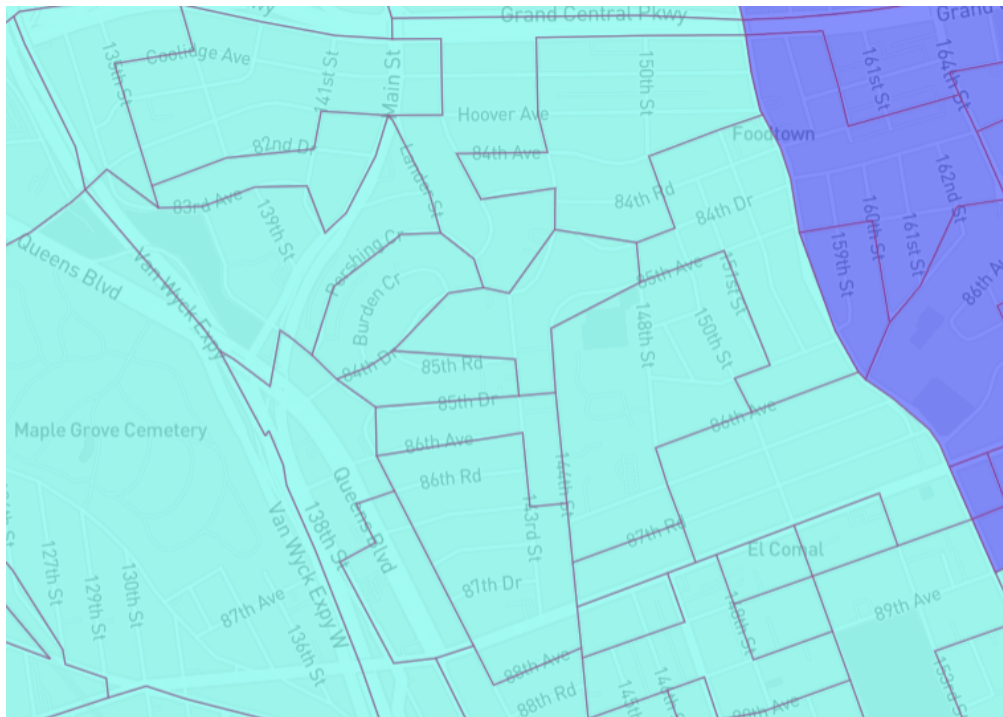
Briarwood

Briarwood is a cohesive, tightly knit community that has been split into two districts: 14 and 16. This neighborhood should be kept whole in one district. Its boundaries are the Grand Central to the north, Van Wyck to the west, Hillside Avenue to the south, and Parsons Blvd to the east.

Your Proposed Boundary:



CQRC Proposed Boundary:



* * *

Here is a modified version of your proposed map that incorporates the feedback above with very minor modifications along the boundaries of districts 12-16. It maintains the population deviation in your maps as well as the racial and partisan breakdown of the districts.

LINK: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5fad3d31-15f1-427d-9742-1e71a22d38f0>

We hope that our feedback and suggestions will assist you in drawing the final maps for Central Queens. We strongly believe that our communities are better represented when they are kept wholly in one district.

Thank you for your consideration of our feedback.

Very truly yours,



Heather E. Beers-Dimitriadis
Co-Chair CQRC



Raj Korpan
Co-Chair CQRC