



Share your thoughts about your neighborhood and your communities of interest.  
What should the City consider when reviewing district boundary lines?

Hello my name is Eva Mankarios. I am an Arab American that has many associations in the district 2 in the area unofficially known as "Little Arabia". I would like to request that the area between Crescent and Katella to remain the same District. There is a lot of coordination between different businesses and associations and it would be easier to keep this area in one district for the sake of community and relations.

Contact Information:

Name:

Email:

12 Phone Number:

Address:

Eva Mankarios

Oral testimony 9/16/21

- My name is Aneesah Muhammad, and I work in district 2 in Anaheim for work. I want to talk about the community of interest, which are Arabs and their neighborhood Little Arabia. It is located on Brookhurst between Crescent Avenue and Katella. It is a welcoming cultural and business area that attracts all people from different ethnic backgrounds, such as ethnic markets, restaurants, cafes, religious center, clothing stores, hair salons and much more. Growing up my family and I would drive down to Little Arabia not just eat the food but to feel at home. Over years it has turned into a cultural destination and a foodie location. In supporting the designation of Little Arabia, the Anaheim city council would empower the Arab American and immigrant-owned small businesses, hundreds of their employees and their families. We deserve to be recognized on the maps. It is important that Little Arabia, which is currently in district 2, be kept whole in the legislative districts you draw because of the shared social needs of the community and the needs of small business owners. We're to stay and we deserve to be represented like every other group. Thank you

9/16/2021

To whom this may concern,

My community of interest is my neighborhood, Little Arabia, which is the heart of the Arab community here in West Anaheim's District 2. It contains a significant number of Arab residents and around 100 small Arab-owned businesses on and around Brookhurst Street between about Crescent Avenue and Katella Avenue. This diverse community represents more than a dozen countries in the Middle East and North Africa regions. A community also diverse in its socioeconomic status, education levels, and immigration status. Some U.S.-born, others refugees / asylum seekers, or like my family, who immigrated from Mexico 4 decades ago, simply looking for better opportunities. What I've learned from decades ago, is that this part of West Anaheim was a place few people actually wanted to go. It was pretty neglected until local Arab immigrants and developers began to encourage people and businesses to move to the area. I've personally lived in Little Arabia for over 6 years and have felt welcomed, included and valued as a neighbor. I empathize with the need for a safe-space for newly-arrived immigrants integrating into American society. As someone who's family has also received assistance from the services offered at their community center just down the street here, I can personally Attest to the fact that Little Arabia is not only for the Arab community, but for all of our residents regardless of origin. I've often asked why this part of Anaheim, after decades of hard work by its community, still is not a part of Anaheim formally recognized by our city as a Community of Importance. I will continue to pray they open their eyes to their hypocrisy as they speak of inclusion and equity for all of Anaheim's residents/minority groups, yet continue to display an undervaluing of this community by under-representing them at the council. They refuse to provide assistance via recognition/official designation as well as continue to appoint leaders who refuse to support our efforts which holds us back as the rest of our city continues to move forward out of its pandemic-related financial difficulties. I hope that I've been able to express just how important it is that our Arab community be taken into consideration in the new district maps. The shared social needs of our residents and small business owners bind us and bring us together also making it crucially important that Little Arabia be kept WHOLE in the legislative districts you draw. We will continue to pray for respect, understanding, recognition for Little Arabia and that God will bless and guide you in this process. Though I'm here tonight intent on advocating for thoughtful redistricting for my Community of Interest, I will continue to speak out for my Community of Interest to take its rightful place as a Community of IMPORTANCE in our city. Thank you.

Gratefully,



Fred Sigala Jr.  
Resident, District 2

## Jennifer L. Hall

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**From:** nizar milbes  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 11:18 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** redistricting

Hello my name is Nizar Milbes. I live in Anaheim . I would like to request that you take into consideration that the area between Crescent and katella, which parts are known unofficially as little Arabia to stay within the same district. I have a few business interests in that area and belong to associations and organizations and there's a lot of coordination between the community, businesses and these org it would be a lot easier to navigate our concern and business through one district and one council member. Thank u