

SOUTH QUEENS REDISTRICTING COALITION

124-06 Rockaway Blvd

Ozone Park, NY 11417

(718) 845-4000

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**Unanimous Approval of NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's
proposed Assembly District for Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South
Ozone Park Makes Strides in Addressing Community Concerns**

With the release of proposed map "AL," attached, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission demonstrated that they had heard the demands of the community to keep the longstanding, diverse and growing South Asian and Indo-Caribbean community in the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park together.

We thank you for listening, evaluating and doing your job-fairly and equally. We have been denied a seat in government at all levels, and it is time to bring this discrimination and apartheid to a stop. Elected officials ignore us, and pander to others. It is most un-American!

The proposed Assembly map "AL," really reflects the will of the community, and is compact and contiguous, and respects natural boundaries. Moreover, it reflects the large population of first and second generation of minorities and immigrants who have rejuvenated and improved this community here in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park.

For the past 30 years, over 3 redistricting cycles, we have been asking to keep our neighborhoods together so we can have a true voice in government, and access resources for our community. However, our pleas were ignored, so this is a landmark development for this community of interests. This is a great map, and we feel that our voices are being heard, as they should.

Another veteran community advocate and labor activist, Real Estate Broker Paul Persaud, of the Guyana American Business Group, has said, “We look forward to engaging this process to implement map AL that really reflect our neighborhood identity. We are grateful that our advocacy was heard at the Assembly level, particularly on behalf of the essential workers who abound in our community here.”

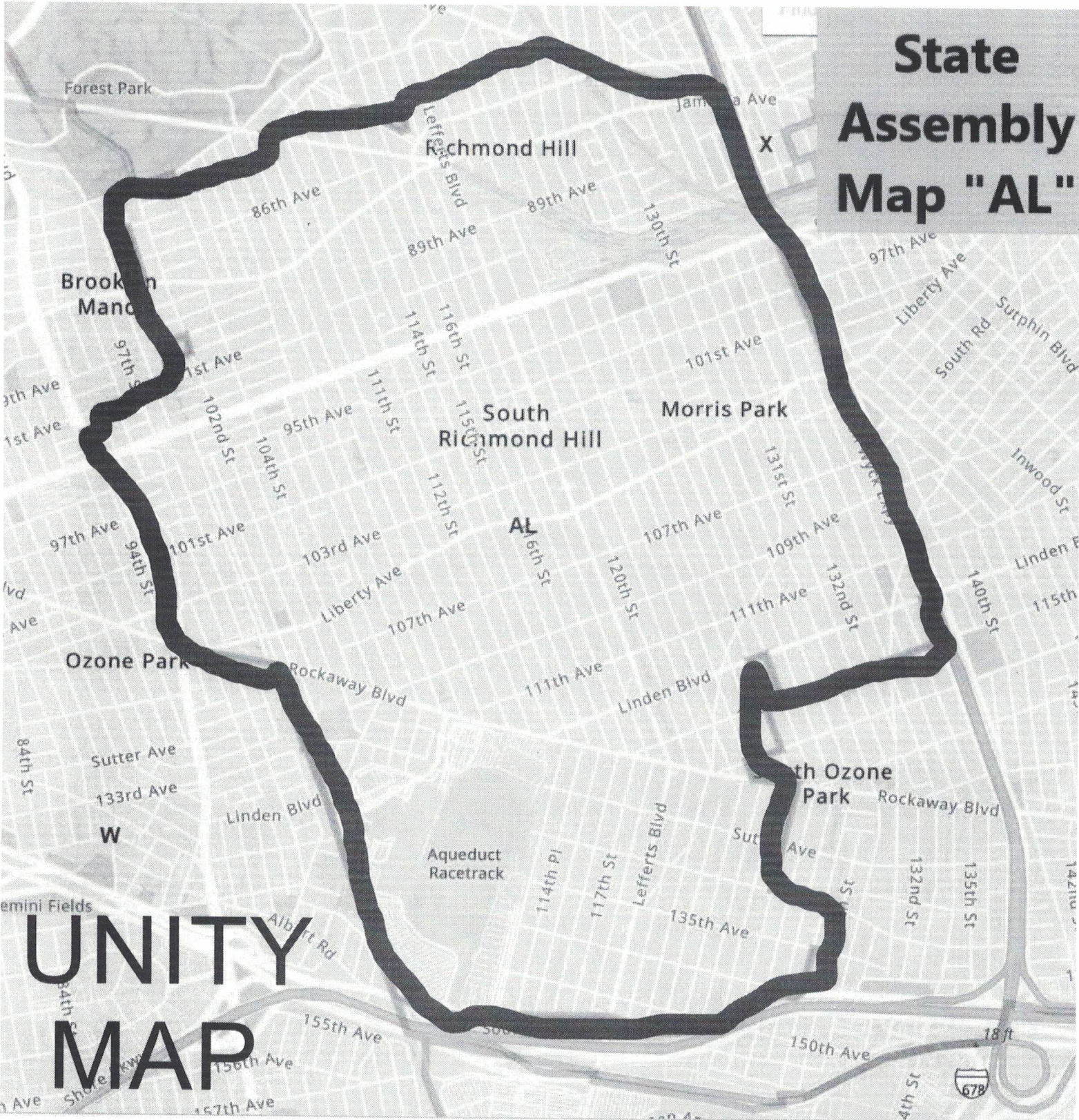
Garth Marchant of the South Ozone Park, Richmond Hill and Ozone Park United for Justice and Empowerment organization was also encouraged by the progress made. “We will continue to fight to keep these Assembly lines, to keep these minority communities of color whole.”

Mike Persaud, a teacher who has taught children in the district's schools since the 1980s, summed it up succinctly. “Our kids, and succeeding generations, will now get the educational funding they deserve to achieve a better life. Our businesses will get the help they need to survive. Our families will get the medical help they need. We can now achieve and preserve the American Dream in all respects.”

Sonny Ali, a restaurateur and businessman who runs a chain of roti shops, was grateful that his community of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park is finally being recognized. The City renamed Richmond Hill “Little Guyana” and “Punjab Avenue,” and it is only fitting that the State draw us a district we can relate to, continue to build, and prosper. The American dream must be attainable for everyone, and we pay a lot of taxes here, and contribute to the City, State and Federal levels. All we are asking for is to be treated fairly, and equally, with other groups.

The South Queens Redistricting Coalition is a group of community residents, organizers and organizations formed to correct the gerrymandering of the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park neighborhoods of Queens. This area is diverse and reflects the full range of the South Asian diaspora as well as a vibrant Latino community. The South Asian community is anchored by significant Indo-Caribbean, Indian, Punjabi and Bengali populations. These communities contribute indelibly to the significant growth of the Asian American population in Queens, NYS and in the broader USA, and stands in unity with the Pan-Asian community in asking for a greater voice in representative government.

State Assembly Map "AL"



UNITY MAP