

**HON. ALBERT BALDEO
DISTRICT LEADER
RICHMOND HILL, OZONE PARK & SOUTH OZONE PARK
106-11 LIBERTY AVENUE
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February 7, 2023

To all members of the NY State IRC:

Please accept our deepest gratitude for Map “AL,” which unites Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, for the first time. (Old and new versions attached). In configuring this map in accordance with the principles of redistricting, fairness and equity, you deserve our highest thanks and commendations. Well done!

The fact that this is the product of a bipartisan effort makes Map “AL” even more inviolate and compelling, and must be seen as a model of how Commissions should work for the greater good! We resubmit the data, statistics and evidence which justifies your decision, compellingly, for your consideration-if needed.

We respectfully ask that you preserve it, and help pass it into law. The future of our families and democracy, and overcoming decades of gerrymandering, cronyism and special interests’ stranglehold, lies in your hands. For over 3 decades, we have fought for some form of representation and inclusion. We got nothing. This is it.

Fiat jūstitia ruat cælum. “Let justice be done though the heavens fall.” Incumbent politicians, rogues and special interests have been boasting that they will reverse your good work, and continue to slice and dice us to preserve the *status quo!*

However, the Courts have thrown out their self-serving maps, drawn in the backrooms of Albany, secretly and perversely, where they choose who they will represent, instead of the other way around. Beware of these maneuvers!

Let the word go forth that we will defend your historic work in drawing a map to unite us, and will expose this evil gerrymandering and self-serving attempts to continue to slice and dice us, even if it means going back to Court!

The record confirms that there is overwhelming evidence from the countless religious, civic, business and community leaders and organizations, who have ALL testified to keep Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park as one community of Interest as the Redistricting Draft “AL Map” (Assembly District) confirms: https://www.nyirc.gov/storage/archive/Queens_Redacted.pdf

PLEASE KEEP INTACT, AND SIGN OFF ON THIS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PUBLIC MANDATE, OATH AND SWORN DUTY.

Millions of people, not only in NY, but across America and the world, are depending on you to show that bipartisan commissions can deliver justice, fairness and equity, and rise above narrow-mindedness and partisanship.

Thank you for your courtesies and consideration.

Albert Baldeo

Hon. Albert Baldeo

President of ASAAL (Richmond Hill Chapter)

Chairman of the United Communities Alliance

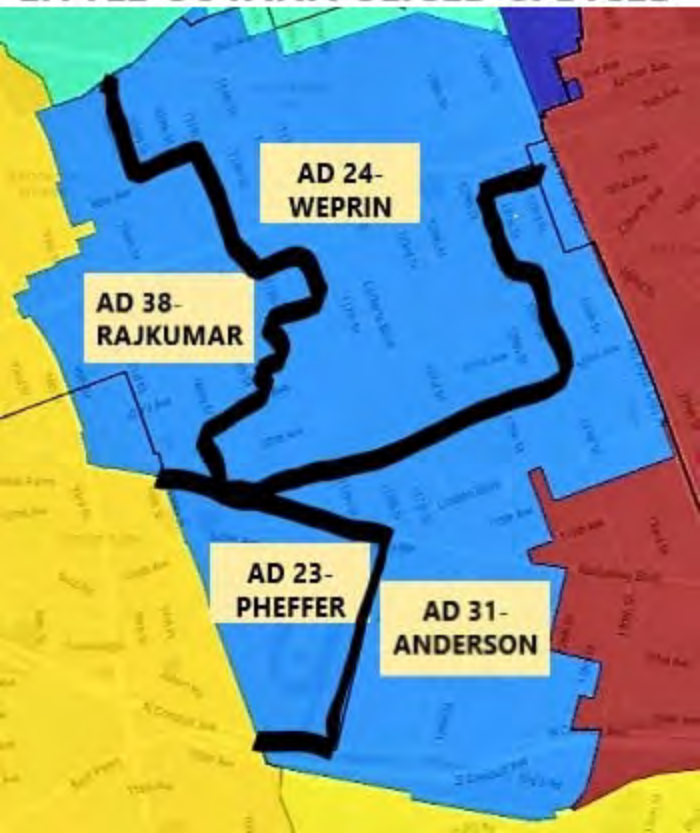
**State
Assembly
Map "AL"**



AL

**UNITY
MAP**


LITTLE GUYANA-SLICED & DICED



Liberty Stated United Communities Alliance

UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

106-11 Liberty Avenue, Suite 102
Ozone Park, NY 11417



STATEMENT OF ALBERT BALDEO, FMR. DISTRICT LEADER CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE & REDISTRICTING COALITION

TO THE NYS INDEPENDENT DISTRICTING COMMISSION

July 22, 2021

I am a former elected Democratic District Leader of the 38th Assembly District, a Community Advocate and retired Attorney-at-Law. I am also the Chairman of the United Communities Alliance and Redistricting Coalition, an organization that empowers and improves the quality of life of all residents-regardless of race, religion or national origin living in Queens, the place that best defines us all as “a nation of immigrants.”

Our goals are to consolidate residents of the district into active participation for the betterment of the district, to fight for fair redistricting and social justice, to develop coalitions of neighborhood organizations and groups, to foster a greater civic voice for the community, and to solve the common issues and problems confronting the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, which should constitute one City Council District: **Exhibit “A.”**

In addition to running for public office several times before, my interaction with residents in these communities as an attorney, community organizer and leader, has given me a deep understanding of the common issues, problems, concerns and solutions that impact us collectively.

Gerrymandering has cracked these natural “communities of interest” into unrecognizable portions, with concomitant suppression from participation in even the most basic structures of government. The issues, problems, solutions and allocation of resources confronting them are overpowered and overlooked in preference to those confronting communities like Rochdale Village, Glen Oaks Co-ops, and the Jamaica Housing Projects over the Van Wyck Expressway-a natural divide.

These communities should not be lumped together. They all deserve separate attention. We ask you, “How can you continue to lump these Mitchell Lama, Co-ops and Housing Projects together, with Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park, which consists of only one and two family homes, or vice versa?” Indeed, the Supreme Court of the United States requires that districts be redrawn to encompass communities of common interest. See *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 920 (1995).

Like all of the esteemed members of this Commission, we are proud and patriotic Americans. We, our children and relatives have died fighting to preserve America's freedoms, and we have collectively shed our blood, sweat and tears for our great country. And so we have to ask you, "Why are we being relegated to second class citizens?"

Consequently, the present divisions fundamentally prohibit "fair and effective representation to these communities of interest," precipitate an ugly apartheid system no different than South Africa's with concomitant hate crimes and oppression, and is contrary to our greatest American jurisprudence and values. We are presently split, and diluted, into 4 Assembly Districts: Districts 23, 24, 31 and 38. Unequivocally, these gerrymandered districts emasculate what the Federal Courts and US Constitution have articulated as factors which establish a community of interest. **Exhibit "B."**¹

Common problems abound, common issues are ignored, and common solutions are impossible to achieve. The death of small business, COVID tragedies, rampant home foreclosures, closure of hospitals, medical centers and schools, kids being subjected to filthy, overcrowded trailer parks and locker rooms for classrooms, spiraling unemployment, increased taxes, neighborhood quality, public safety, immigration, language assistance and the cost of living have marginalized these communities of interest from government services and funding. Our need for representation at all levels of government has never been more compelling.

Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park are a single neighborhood comprised mainly of Bangladeshis, Indians, Sikhs, and Indo-Caribbeans. The residents are homeowners and the neighborhood is zoned for single and multi-family homes. There are many extended families living together, reflective of their communities "back home" in South Asia and the Indo-Caribbean communities. Most residents are dependent upon public transportation and utilize the A train and J train subway lines for transportation services. There are a high number of senior citizens that reside in Richmond Hill, but the only senior center is in Ozone Park on Sutter Avenue.

The neighborhood of South Jamaica, east of the Van Wyck Expressway, should not be grouped with Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park because the home property values are significantly less, the high school population is not comprised of students from any of Richmond Hill's, Ozone Park's or South Ozone Park's middle schools. Moreover, the population in South Jamaica is not comprised of many immigrants like Richmond Hill/Ozone Park, South Ozone Park; and the population of South Jamaica is mostly African-American who have settled in that neighborhood for a long time and who rely on different public transportation lines, mainly the E train subway line to Jamaica Center. It is also unfair for them to be annexed to us.

Our plight is best understood when you consider that we suffered from the highest COVID infection rate, our area hospitals and sole high schools Richmond Hill High and John Adams face constant threats of closure, and we have the highest rate of COVID infections, unemployment, highest home foreclosures and small business closures in our district. Zip codes 11417, 11419 and 11420, covering Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and

¹ Jonathan P. Hicks, In District Lines Critics See Albany Protecting Its Own, N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 2, 2004, at B4

South Ozone Park, had the highest positivity rate in all of Queens, at 15.81%. Even if you want to designate us as a COVID disaster district, similar to leper colonies, we will take that! Just stop gerrymandering us out of existence! Exhibit "C."²

We do not even have health clinics, community centers, day care centers, senior centers, social services centers, or job training centers. The press recently exposed the fact that we have only one (1) cooling center in the area! MTA has been shutting down our bus routes. No other community comes close to this paradigm of utter despair.

Currently, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park are cracked into numerous City Council, State Senate, Assembly and Congressional Districts. Consequently, there is reduced effectiveness in problem solving, shared bonds are destroyed, and constituents are reduced to mere statistics. The perverse goal here was no doubt to protect incumbents, divide and rule, and preserve their base of political support in their districts.³ You must purge the treacherous so-called "leaders, lobbyists and fakes" who will rather dump our cause under the bus, as they seek personal favors and progress."

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this august body must fully comply with all of the factors the Federal Courts, Supreme Court and the redistricting jurisprudence have recognized in the drawing of district lines: (1) Compactness and contiguity (2) Respecting political subdivisions (3) Preserving communities of interest and race (4) Meeting political goals.

They have recognized cultural background, economic status, common media markets, shared community services and organizations (including health clinics, stores, public transportation, and workplaces), voting patterns, common language and dialects, and common country of origin as factors and shared community concerns in drawing district lines. See e.g. *Diaz v. Silver*, 978 F. Supp. 96 (E.D.N.Y., Feb. 27, 1997) (bizarrely shaped Hispanic-majority 12th congressional district is an unconstitutional racial gerrymander), *aff'd sub nom. Silver v. Diaz*, 118 S. Ct. 36 (1997) (No. 96-1680), *Acosta v. Diaz*, (No. 96-1904), *Lau v. Diaz*, (No. 96-2008) (mem.)

The continued separation, bizarrely drawn and fragmentation of Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park will fundamentally breach these mandates, short change these vibrant communities of interest and cannot withstand legal muster/scrutiny.⁴ Moreover, as presently gerrymandered, these districts collectively fail to meet the

² Susan Lerner & Sean Coffey, How to Salvage N.Y. Redistricting Reform, TIMESUNION (Sept. 21, 2011, 12:20 AM), <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/How-to-salvage-N-Y-redistricting-reform-2180826.php>, archived at <https://perma.cc/WY97-QS64>; Schultz, *supra* note 22, at 137-138.

³ For a fuller discussion of the need for majority-minority districts to promote minority representation see Janai S. Nelson, White Challengers, Black Majorities: Reconciling Competition in Majority-Minority Districts with the Promise of the Voting Rights Act, 95 GEO. L.J.1287 (2007).

⁴ Maintaining a "community of interest" traditionally also has been considered a legitimate goal in creating a districting plan. Courts will find the existence of a community of interest where residents share substantial cultural, economic, political and social ties. See. e.g., *Wilson v. Eu*, 1 Cal. 4th 707, 4 Cal.Rptr.2d 379, 407, 823 P.2d 545, 573 (1992) (*en banc*). In *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 907-08, 115 S. Ct. 2475, 2484, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995), the Supreme Court found that the 11th Congressional District of Georgia failed to incorporate a community of interest.

compactness requirement of *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 106 S. Ct. 2752, 92 L.Ed.2d 25 (1986).⁵

It is imperative, therefore, that you unite Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park together, utilizing the Van Wyck Expressway to the East, Queens/Brooklyn County (City Line)/Woodhaven line to the West, Hillside/Jamaica Avenue to the North and the South Conduit/Belt Parkway to the South as an Assembly District: Exhibit “A.” (If Howard Beach, Woodhaven and Glendale must be connected, you can adjust the Queens/Brooklyn County line boundary nearer to Woodhaven Boulevard).

This Assembly District can also serve as the anchor/core district for our concomitant State Senate and Congressional Districts. Please draw them accordingly.

Here is where the critical mass of this community of interest is, and I challenge this esteemed panel to produce a more compact and contiguous district, which also adheres to the law-natural boundaries, and established ties of common interest and association-historical, economic, ethnic, religious or other.

The law, common sense, democracy and reason mandate that these communities must be kept together as described, not only for their continued economic and cultural survival and growth, but also with the practical goal of having laws tabled and passed in the State legislature.

This complies with the requirements that districts must be equal in population and they cannot intentionally discriminate against minority voters, pursuant to the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. After these obligatory federal requirements, most states and localities also require that districts be reasonably compact,⁶ and “contiguous.”⁷ The borders should follow natural geographical and political boundaries, such that they do not cross bodies of water, or divide cities and counties.⁸ Finally, they encompass “communities of common interest,”⁹ groupings of people who have similar values, shared interests, or common characteristics.¹⁰ The Supreme Court of the United States has held these as “traditional redistricting criteria” to which all districts must encompass.¹¹

⁵ Plaintiffs, as residents of the district, have standing to bring suit. See *United States v. Hays*, 515 U.S. 737, 744-45, 115 S. Ct. 2431, 2436, 132 L.Ed.2d 635 (1995) (“Where a plaintiff resides in a racially gerrymandered district, ... [that] plaintiff has been denied equal treatment because of the legislature's reliance on racial criteria, and therefore has standing to challenge the legislature's action.”). Moreover, notwithstanding that two of the plaintiffs are Latino (as are the majority of the district's residents), they have standing because they can suffer stigmatization and hostility by virtue of their race. See *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 643, 113 S. Ct. 2816, 2824-25, 125 L.Ed.2d 511 (1993).

⁶ *Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952, 959-60 (1996); *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 647 (1993); *DeWitt v. Wilson*, 856 F. Supp. 1409, 1414 (E.D. Cal. 1994), aff'd, 515 U.S. 1170 (1995).

⁷ *Shaw*, 509 U.S. at 647; *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 906 (1995).

⁸ *Shaw*, 509 U.S. at 647; *Abrams v. Johnson*, 521 U.S. 74 (1997).

⁹ *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 919-20; *Abrams*, 521 U.S. at 74

¹⁰ *League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry*, 548 U. S. 399, 435 (2006); *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 915-16.

¹¹ *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 915-16.

The needs of all Americans must be met in terms of education, housing, health, social, economic and human services, as well as representation in the State legislature. Health care providers in this community also advise of the common problems patients living here face, like high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease. Moreover, they cannot relate their symptoms to strangers who are insensitive to their medical needs. Likewise, citizens complain of law enforcement profiling and prejudices, all being evil consequences of the scourge of gerrymandering.

Moreover, this lack of representation has resulted in jobs being denied to constituents at JFK Airport and environs, the Resorts World/Aqueduct Development, area hospitals, schools, and other businesses right here in our back yard. This area does not get any meaningful member item funds from any elected official. It is a crying shame, resulting in a cycle of poverty, an apartheid effect!

These constituents pay all the taxes-income tax, city, federal, state, real estate, sales, et cetera. Over 4,000 houses have been bought and sold in these two- and three-jobs neighborhoods over the past decades, consisting mainly of essential workers, yielding billions of revenue dollars. They have revitalized these once depressed neighborhoods, giving impetus to the American economy, and are ranked among the largest growing groups in New York City: Exhibit "D." With the hope and promise of the America Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, John Lewis and other great visionaries have died for, we have come to "create good and necessary trouble" and to cash that check.

If you still harbor pause, just attend the Phagwah Parade which ushers in the spring, and you will see the hundreds of thousands of these ignored minorities who participate in one of the largest parades in the entire USA. Or visit the business corridors of Liberty, Jamaica, Atlantic, 101, Rockaway, Lefferts Avenues and Boulevards, JFK Airport or Resorts World and you will be convinced as to who constitute this critical mass.

Residents living in this district cannot help but feel that this is a deliberate, institutional attempt to disenfranchise them. This status quo threatens the life of their growing communities and causes new generations to grow up without representation, identity and commitment to the destiny of family, home, community, city, state and, ultimately, their country, the United States. It is a vicious and unnecessary cycle of poverty, humiliation and exploitation, leaving life and democracy better off in the Third World by comparison.

You must not precipitate this American tragedy any longer. We urge you, therefore, to redraw boundaries that will preserve their community of interests, their traditions, needs and solutions, and their common history and heritage. Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, must not be divided into different voting districts. We urge you to consolidate them now, or your actions will have been "made in violation of lawful procedure, was affected by an error of law or was arbitrary and capricious or an abuse of discretion."¹²

¹² N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 7803(3) (CONSOL. 1909)

Districts that do not meet statutory criteria that must be applied “as practicable,” are void. In *Badillo v. Katz*, *Badillo*, 343 N.Y.S.2d 451, 461 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1973), aff’d 41 A.D. 829 (N.Y. App. Div. 1973), aff’d 32 N.Y.2d 825 (1973), the New York Supreme Court struck down two of the City Council’s planned thirty-three “councilmanic” districts. It held that those districts did not meet the statutory criteria of being contiguous, convenient, and compact.

In *Favors v. Cuomo*, No. 1:11-cv-05632 (E.D.N.Y. March 19, 2012), the court ordered the Magistrate Judge to, “where possible, draw districts that preserve communities of interest, and consider other factors and proposals submitted by the parties, which... are reasonable and comport with the Constitution and applicable federal and state law.” Additionally, the court also authorized the magistrate judge to “consider other factors and proposals submitted by the parties, which...are reasonable and comport with the Constitution and applicable federal and state law.”¹³

In *Rodriguez v. Pataki*, 207 F. Supp. 2d 123, 124, 125 (S.D.N.Y. 2002), the court instructed the Special Master it appointed in the 2000 round of redistricting as follows: “adhere to and, where possible, reconcile the following guidelines:

- (a) Districts shall be of substantially equal population, compact, and contiguous.
- (b) The plan shall comply with 42 U.S.C. § 1973(b) and with all other applicable provisions of the Voting Rights Act.”

The federal courts in New York have given strong credence that they would consolidate, unite and uphold geographically defined communities of interest like Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park. This Commission is bountifully equipped with such resources and experience that litigation seems moot at this point, and we are confident that you will, collectively, unite us, as beseeched.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s guidance is instructive when he said that you should not make others exiles in their own land, and that you should judge each person by their content and character. Our Constitution still speaks to us all collectively, as “We the People.” So we ask you to uphold the Constitution, reminding you of the fierce urgency of now, and the sins and omissions of the past by previous partisan commissions.

It will be an unforgivable travesty for you to give us back our deserving check back yet again, like previous redistricting committees did, marked “Insufficient Funds.” Our children and families proudly fight and die for our great country, and, collectively, we continue to build America, with our blood, sweat and tears.

Right thinking Americans, like Abraham Lincoln, Emma Lazarus and others, will surely be turning in their graves. This Commission must do what you are mandated to do! Inasmuch we have been advised that these arguments constitute a valid legal claim for redress, we urge you to approve this district. Please do the right thing!

Respectfully submitted,

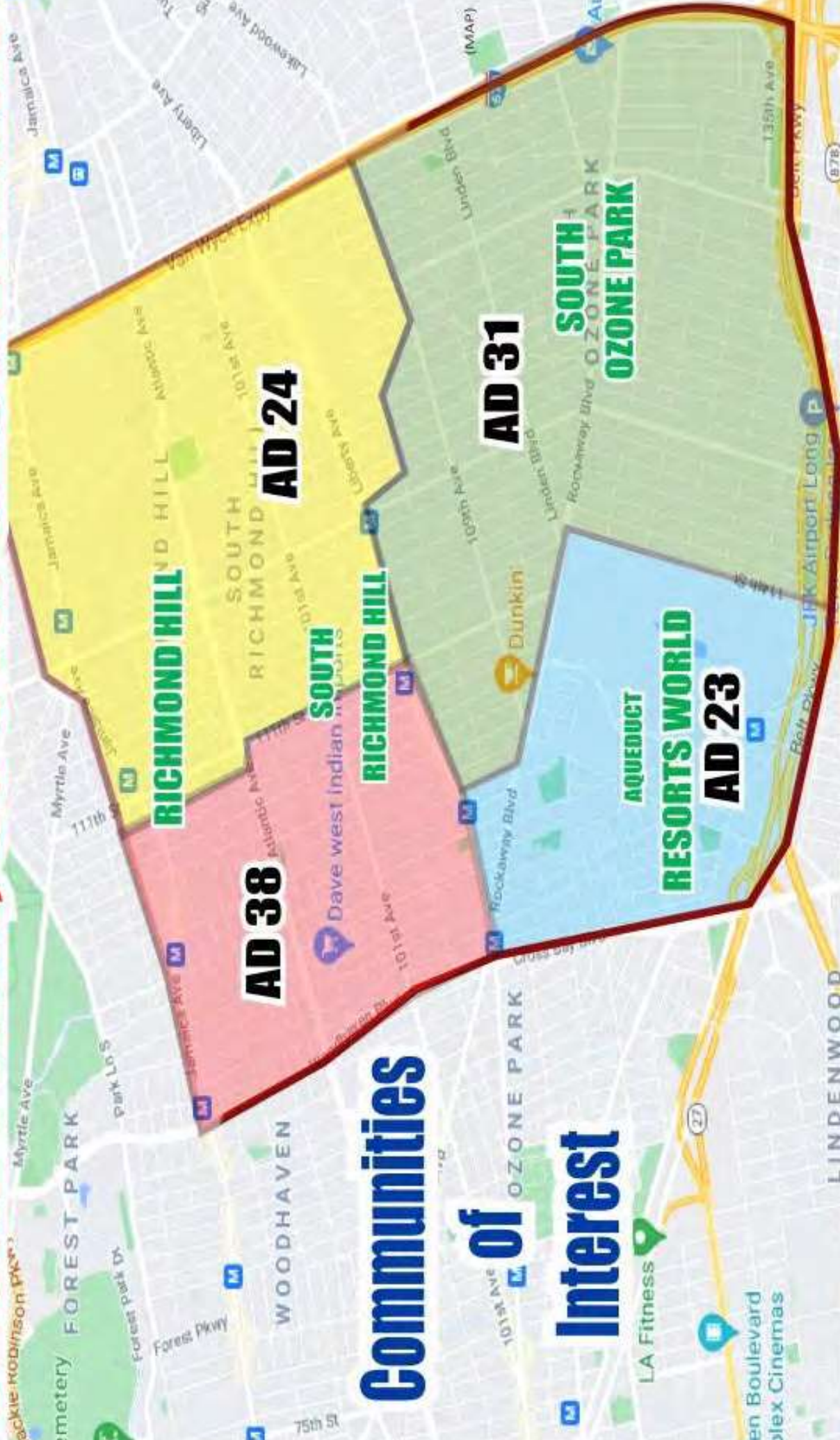
¹³ Order of Referral to Magistrate Judge, *Favors v. Cuomo*, No. 11-CV-5632 RR GEL, at 3 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 19, 2012).

Albert Baldeo
Chairman, United Communities Alliance & Redistricting Coalition

EXHIBIT A

Unite RICHMOND HILL

OZONE PARK, SOUTH OZONE PARK



Communities

Of Interest

FAIR REDISTRICTING!



Albert Baldeo United Communities Alliance



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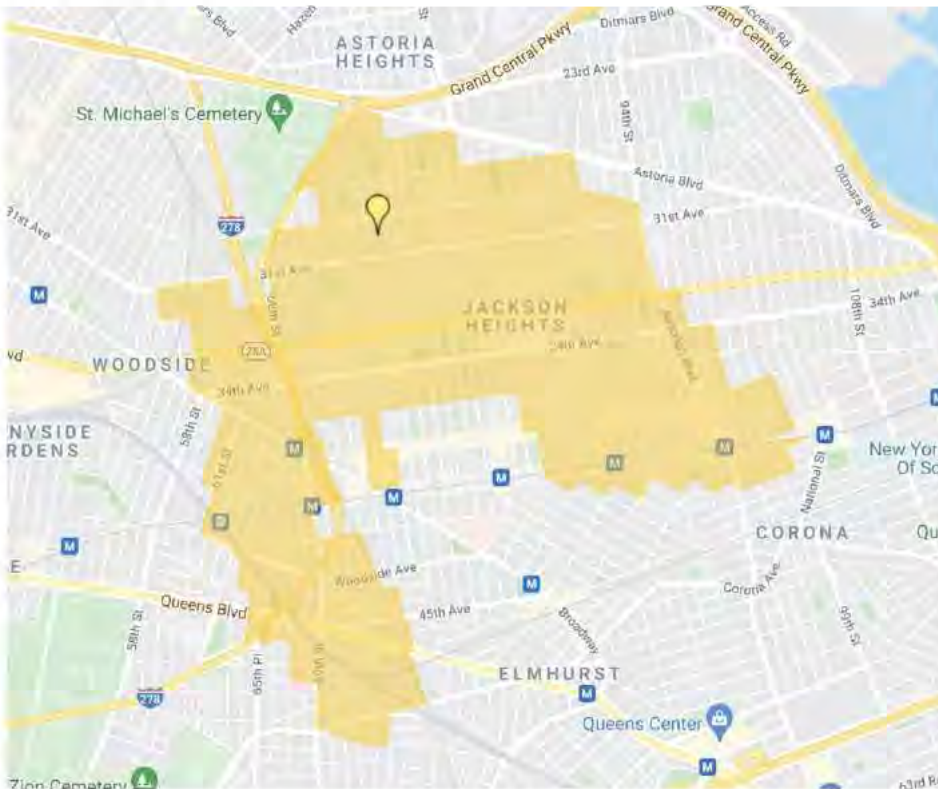
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Queens gears up for once-in-a-decade redistricting

July 19, 2021

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QUEENS RESIDENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH IN ON HOW THE COUNTY'S ELECTORAL DISTRICTS, LIKE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34 PICTURED ABOVE, ARE DRAWN. MAP VIA JESSICA GONZÁLEZ-ROJAS/NYS ASSEMBLY

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By Jacob Kaye and Rachel Vick

For the first time in history, Queens residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on the districts that will define the borough's representation in government for the next decade.

The redistricting process will begin with a public meeting for residents to share their thoughts on existing district lines with the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission. Using public input and census data, the commission will redraw electoral districts for congressional and State Legislature seats, potentially changing the make-up of who gets elected to office in Queens.

“Residents have a chance to shape the next 10 years of representation,” said Douglas Breakell, one of the co-executive directors of the commission. “And it’s important that we have participation for this process to work.”

Redistricting was formerly a partisan process prior to 2014, when a state law was passed to bestow the map drawing powers into the hands of the commission, which is made of five Democratic and five Republican members and two co-executive directors.

Also new to the process is the public comment period. In Queens, residents will have the opportunity to submit testimony and speak about the ways in which they wish to see the lines redrawn at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 22.

Karen Blatt, the commission’s other co-executive director, said she hopes people share not only how they are negatively impacted but also how they are positively impacted by district lines.

After detailed census data is released next month, the commission will draw up a first draft of new districts. Following the first map, more public input will be collected and then the commission will present a final draft to the State Senate and Assembly.

If the legislature rejects the map twice, the lawmakers will have the opportunity to draw their own maps.

Queens representatives say that they have faith in the commission and in the process, which they feel should be independent of political motivations.

“It’s really critical that districts that are put together to reflect their communities and do so in an equitable and fair way,” said Assemblymember Nily Rozic. “You want [districts] that are contiguous, that are practical, that encourage people to participate in government, that look like the people that they’re aiming to represent and that that happen in an independent and fair way.”

Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, a first-term lawmaker representing Assembly District 34, said that while she believes the process should be independent, she’s hoping the new lines reflect her community’s interests and are more cohesive than the current map.

Assembly District 34 is made up of portions of several neighborhoods. The District 34 map resembles a handgun, with a slim portion running south through Woodside and into Elmhurst, with a larger portion running east into Jackson Heights and Corona.

“As someone who represents a community, I want to have a very strong stake in what the lines look like and how it’s carved up,” González-Rojas said. “[The Independent Redistricting Commission] is great. It should be a very independent process. But obviously, as someone who represents this district, it’s important to me what the lines will look like and how it will change.”

“I don’t actually have one community that’s intact,” González-Rojas said.

Other electoral maps in Queens represent the ideal scenario; connected neighborhoods that represent the population without being skewed for political gain.

“I’m lucky, compared to most, that my district actually seems to make some sense,” said Astoria Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani. “The way in which

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it's been drawn, it isn't leaps and bounds to cut out some things and add in others.”

In districts that do cut through portions of neighborhoods, or leave out certain ethnic, racial or economic populations, voters have their franchise infringed upon, Mamdani said.

“There are some [districts] where it cuts into part of a neighborhood and then cuts out and is doing the work to ensure that certain constituencies have their voting power diluted,” he said.

The commission is tasked with a balancing act, juggling fair redistricting for communities with an obligation to evenly distribute the population – a rule responsible for every congressional district in Queens except one crossing county lines.

There is only a small deviation allowed between districts, said Jeffrey Wice, director of the New York Law School's New York Census and Redistricting Institute.


“The question becomes how many congressional districts Queens [will] retain wholly in the borough or share with other counties and this will all depend on what the census data shows on the local level,” Wice said.


“New lines will be set in place for 10 years and will help determine who represents Queens; everything is dependent on programs and dollars, and that's dependent on electoral districts,” he added. “If you don't think your district is properly represented, this is the time to speak up. There's no second chance – we have one opportunity to take the census and one opportunity to redraw the lines and that... lasts for a decade.”

Queens residents can sign up to speak at the Independent Redistricting Commission's hearing at nyjrc.gov/meetings.

 Jacob Kaye  0 Comments

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 Redistricting, Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Zohran Ma, Nily Ro, State Assembly, State Senate, Congressional Districts, New York State Independent Redistricting Commission, Douglas Breakell, Karen Blatt

< QUEENS ACTOR INDICTED ON JAIL OFFICERS UNION FILES SUIT

EXHIBIT B

Around the World in New York City: A Neighborhood Itinerary

BY WHITNEY BROWN - October 9, 2020

New York City is an entire world, all on its own. Its residents come from countries spanning every continent, and the sizable immigrant population (from first generation to current inhabitants) has made the Big Apple feel more like home by establishing ethnic neighborhoods across the city. And while you've probably heard of Chinatown and Little Italy, there are many other neighborhoods for globetrotters to add to their New York City itinerary — or for residents to visit to simulate traveling the world while staying close to home. Here are just a few of them.

LITTLE SENEGAL

To find West Africa in New York City, simply head to Harlem. Little Senegal, also referred to as “Le Petit Sénégal,” is a thriving cultural enclave, where both the music and food have a distinctly African flavor. Although most of the neighborhood’s residents are Senegalese, people from Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, and other African nations have also made their homes here.

In Little Senegal, you'll find authentic restaurants like Africa Kine and Le Baobab, as well as Red Rooster, an American restaurant that sprinkles its food with African spices. No matter which Senegalese restaurant you choose, make sure to try the *yassa* (chicken or fish cooked with onion, garlic, lemon juice, and mustard) or the *thiakry* (a couscous dish topped with fruit, sour cream, and pure vanilla extract). You should also check out the Malcolm Shabazz Market, where vendors sell hand-carved figures, traditional garb, and jewelry. And if you happen to be visiting New York during September, you'll want to check the dates for the annual African-American Day Parade.



Photo by Camille Danielich

You can find Little Senegal on and around West 116th Street in Harlem. The most convenient subway stop is 116 Street/8 Avenue on the B train.

LITTLE GUYANA

Located in Queens, this neighborhood is an exciting hub of Guyanese life. The Guyanese are descendants of slaves brought from Africa by the Dutch and indentured servants brought from India by the British; today, Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America, and its culture is a smooth blend of Indian and Caribbean characteristics.

There are about 140,000 people of Guyanese descent living in New York City today, and they've left their mark. You'll notice Christians, Hindus, and Muslims roaming through Little Guyana. Liberty Avenue is the neighborhood's main thoroughfare, where you can find notable restaurants like Sybil's — but wherever you eat, consider ordering curry, fish, or oxtail.

Little Guyana is at its most vibrant during the Phagwah Parade, celebrating the arrival of spring during the Hindu festival of Holi. The parade makes Little Guyana feel vibrant and colorful, especially since people celebrate by tossing bright, colorful powders in the air.

You can find Little Guyana in the Richmond Hill area of Queens. The most convenient subway stop is Ozone Park – Lefferts Boulevard on the A train.

LITTLE ITALY

Without a doubt the most iconic “little” neighborhood in New York City, Little Italy can feel like a tourist thoroughfare. Its streets are crowded with Italian restaurants, clothing stores, and — of course — people.

Mulberry Street is the best-known road that runs through the neighborhood; as you walk it, keep an eye out for street art! As far as Little Italy’s iconic buildings go, check out St. Patrick’s Cathedral. You can also venture into NoLita (“North of Little Italy”) to see the former NYPD headquarters, now converted into luxury apartments.



Photo by Milla Olsson

Although there are good reasons to visit throughout the entire year, Little Italy is at its best in September during the Feast of San Gennaro, when a festive atmosphere settles over the neighborhood. Throughout the celebration, parades, live music, delicious food, and events like a cannoli-eating competition bring Little Italy to life, for both locals and visitors.



Photo by Oisín McEvoy

You can find Little Italy just northeast of Chinatown in lower Manhattan. The most convenient subway stops are Spring Street on the 6 train and Canal – Lafayette on the J, N, Q, R, W, Z, 4, and 6 lines.

LITTLE COLOMBIA

A perfect afternoon stop for anyone who loves salsa music, Little Colombia is a vibrant neighborhood in the Jackson Heights area of Queens. Along Roosevelt and 37th Avenues, you'll find plenty of traditional restaurants serving up delicious food – empanadas, fried fish, and arepas, to name just a few dishes. Try Pollos A La Brasa Mario for casual dining or La Pequeña Colombia for a more upscale experience. In the evenings, track down the Arepa Lady food truck for tasty street food options.

Little Colombia pulses with salsa music, so don't be surprised when you hear it playing in the streets. The neighborhood lights up even more during the summer, when several parades and parties pass through the area. The Colombian Independence Day Parade, which usually takes place on a Saturday in late July, is the most festive of all.

You can find Little Colombia in the Jackson Heights area of Queens. The most convenient subway stop is Jackson Heights – Roosevelt Avenue on the E, F, M, R, and 7 lines.

KOREATOWN

New York City has a huge Korean population, so Koreatown doesn't disappoint. And even though few people actually *live* here, the neighborhood is densely packed with businesses — from spas to stores, and from bars to Korean barbecue joints. Ktown is tucked in the shadow of the Empire State Building and, after sunset, it lights up in bright neon signs, with almost every business open 24/7. Swing by anytime for a taste of Seoul in New York City!

Some of Koreatown's highlights include Gagopa Karaoke (with a BYOB policy and more than 30,000 songs in its repertoire), deluxe spas dotted throughout the neighborhood, and Gaonnori (a fancy Korean barbecue restaurant offering panoramic views of Manhattan).

Photo by Camille Danielich

Photo by Camille Danielich

Photo by Camille Danielich

You can find Koreatown between Fifth Avenue and Broadway, with 32nd Street running down the center. The most convenient subway stop is 34 Street – Herald Square on the B, D, F, M, N, Q, R, and W trains.

CHINATOWN

From bakeries to bars, pharmacies to temples, there's a reason that New York City is home to one of the most famous Chinatowns in the world. Although the neighborhood is best known

English Language Proficiency by Country of Birth New York City, 2011

	Population 5 and over	Percent not English Proficient
Total, NYC	7,711,330	23.0
Native-born	4,665,425	6.2
Foreign-born	3,045,905	48.8
Dominican Republic	365,232	70.0
China	357,476	74.8
Mexico	178,295	82.1
Jamaica	169,504	1.0
Guyana	136,906	1.8
Ecuador	142,753	75.8
Haiti	102,042	49.6
Trinidad and Tobago	87,868	1.3
India	79,080	32.4
Russia	74,235	63.2
Bangladesh	74,323	58.4
Korea	68,049	62.8
Colombia	63,511	63.5
Ukraine	63,110	70.9
Poland	52,669	48.7
Philippines	45,115	24.4
Italy	50,413	45.0
Pakistan	37,418	45.4
United Kingdom	33,152	1.2
El Salvador	30,794	79.4

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning



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News

Guyanese migrate to S. Ozone Park

By Sarina Trangle

0 comments

Posted on January 14, 2014



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QNS

By Sarina Trangle

Guyanese migrating from Richmond Hill to South Ozone Park propelled the neighborhood into the top immigrant-adding neighborhood in the borough.

Surveys taken in 2000 and 2007 through 2011 show South Ozone Park's foreign-born population increased 14.5 percent from 39,899 to 45,681. The most current statistics included in the Department of City Planning's "Newest New Yorkers" report indicate that 58.3 percent of the neighborhood was born outside America, with 46.5 percent of its immigrant population hailing from Guyana.

The neighborhood also drew in Caribbean immigrants of Asian descent, with 14.4 percent of its foreign-born population from Trinidad and Tobago, 3.7 percent from the Dominican Republic, 3 percent from Jamaica and 1.8 percent from Colombia.

"As with Guyanese immigrants, Trinidadian and Tobagonian immigrants of Asian and African descent each had a preferred borough of residence. Queens accounted for the overwhelming majority (73 percent) of New

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QNS

York's Trinidadian and Tobagonian immigrants of Asian descent, while Brooklyn settled nearly two-thirds of those of African descent," the report noted.

South Ozone Park has a large Indian population as well, with immigrants from the country accounting for 5.4 percent of its foreign-born population.

To a lesser extent, people from Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador and China have found a home in South Ozone Park. The report indicates each of those immigrant groups accounts for less than 4 percent of the area's foreign-born population.

In the 1990s, the Guyanese enclave in Richmond Hill began expanding into South Ozone Park, according to the report.



St. John's University athlete selected in the Major League Baseball draft



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NYPD searching for suspect in attempted robbery of Astoria 7-Eleven

Vishnu Mahadeo, founder and president of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council, said Guyanese families who grew tired of the more urban environment in Richmond Hill sought more residential homes in South Ozone Park.

By 2011, nearly a quarter of the city's Guyanese population resided in the two neighborhoods.

The Indo-Guyanese began a campaign encouraging the community to participate in the census, with the hopes that more accurate demographic statistics would help them mend city and state political districts and field the first Guyanese City Council candidate in 2001. To date, the Guyanese community is split between four Council and six state Assembly seats, according to Mahadeo.

“Gerrymandering works against the Caribbean community,” he said. “They have gotten so accustomed to being overlooked and neglected that everyone here has to rely on themselves.”

*Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at
718-260-4546 or by e-mail at
strangle@cnglocal.com.*



Photo by Christina Santucci

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QNS

In Little Guyana, Proposed Cuts to Family Immigration Weigh Heavily

By Vivian Wang

Aug. 11, 2017

Richard David's face is plastered around the Richmond Hill neighborhood of Queens. Along Liberty Avenue, on posters in the windows of sari shops and roti restaurants, Mr. David advertises his campaign for City Council, which, if successful, would make him New York's first city councilman of Guyanese descent.

One of Mr. David's campaign promises: securing money for resources like immigration lawyers or language assistance for the diverse neighborhood that includes Little Guyana, a hub of the largest Guyanese community outside of the country itself.

It is also the community in New York City that could lose the most from a new federal effort to cut legal immigration in half, in part by limiting what are known as family preference visas, which go to the siblings, grandchildren, in-laws or adult children of United States citizens, as well as the spouses and children of legal permanent residents. That is exactly the kind of visa that allowed Mr. David to immigrate from Guyana in 1995, and that helped bring other members of his family into the country, too, as recently as last month.

"Eight family members of mine just came through family sponsorship on the Fourth of July," Mr. David said. His grandmother sponsored two adult daughters, who also brought their children. Of the proposed immigration bill, which was endorsed by President Trump last week, Mr. David said, "This could cease or significantly reduce Guyanese migration to the country."

It is unclear if the bill will ever become law.

The Guyanese community brings in more people through family preference visas than any other immigrant group in the city. Of the Guyanese in New York City who received legal permanent residence between 2002 and 2011, 60 percent entered on family preference visas, according to a 2013 report by the Department of City Planning. Thirty-seven percent entered as immediate relatives, an uncapped visa category that includes the spouses, parents and minor children of citizens.

Foreign-born Guyanese people make up a tiny share of the United States as a whole — just over 280,000 people in 2015, or 0.09 percent of the total population — but a hefty share of New York City's immigrant population. More than half of the Guyanese population in the United States lives in New York City, according to city data, making it the fifth-largest immigrant population in the five boroughs and the second-largest in Queens.

"Their propensity to come to New York City is very high," said Joseph J. Salvo, chief demographer at the Department of City Planning. "And they are heavily reliant on family preferences — and reliant on categories that, under this proposal, would disappear. There's no question that they would be affected in a dramatic fashion."

The bill, sponsored by Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia, seeks to reduce the number of people granted legal permanent residency each year — currently more than one million — by 41 percent in its first year and 50 percent by its 10th year, according to its sponsors' estimates.

To do that, it proposes narrowing the definition of immediate relatives, removing parents from the list and lowering the age of qualifying children to 18 from 21. Siblings of citizens, as well as the adult children of citizens or permanent residents, would no longer be eligible for family sponsorship. The total number of family preference visas would be cut to 88,000 a year, a 60 percent reduction from the current 226,000.

Of New York City's Guyanese immigrants who became legal permanent residents from 2002 to 2011, 45 percent were the parents, married children or siblings of citizens, or their spouses or children, according to the city's data. If the proposed bill had been law at the time, nearly half of new Guyanese immigrants to the city would have been ineligible.

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For a community that relies upon tightly knit family units, where multiple generations live together in one house and grandparents often care for grandchildren while parents work, the constriction of family immigration would be especially wrenching.

“In our Guyanese community, nuclear family is not tied down to mother, father, children,” said Deborah Assanah, 56, associate director of the Guyana Cultural Association. “We have like a village of family members who assist with raising the kids.”

The Guyanese community, which includes people of Indian, African, Chinese and indigenous descent, has one of the highest rates of female labor force participation among New York City immigrants, perhaps aided by the availability of extended family to care for young children, said Philip Kasinitz, a sociology professor at the City University of New York.

And because many Guyanese immigrants send remittances to relatives at home, cutting off family immigration would effectively make immigrants responsible for financially maintaining two households, with no prospect of reunification, said Vishnu Mahadeo, president of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council.



The Little Guyana neighborhood is a hub of the largest Guyanese community outside of the country itself. Damon Winter/The New York Times

Additionally, many Guyanese parents prefer for their children to come to the United States either as very young children or after they have completed their education, so that they can integrate more easily into American society or the work force, Ms. Assanah said. But that means many are older when they immigrate, making them targets of the new proposal Ms. Assanah immigrated in 2008, sponsored by her husband, who is a citizen. A few years earlier, he also sponsored their twin daughters, who were 21 at the time — older than the proposed new cutoff

Many Guyanese had not yet focused on the bill. Vrinda Jagan, a lawyer in Richmond Hill who works on immigration, said that immediately after the November election, clients flooded her office with questions and pleas for reassurance that they would not be deported en masse. But nobody had asked her about the new bill, she said. And applications for family sponsorship have not flagged since President Trump’s endorsement of it

“I sent out a few this week,” she said “They’re continuing to petition for their family members, and they’re petitioning for their spouses, their children, a lot of children over 21. That hasn’t changed.”

The policy would be most devastating to people whose applications for family sponsored visas had been pending for years, said Randy Capps, director of United States research at the Migration Policy Institute.

Especially for those with lower priority cases, like siblings or married children, the wait can be 10 years or even more.

At Singh's Roti Shop and Bar on Liberty Avenue, Sandra, who asked to be identified by only her first name because she feared disrupting her immigration proceedings, said she had been waiting on family sponsorship for 12 years; she was in the United States on a tourist visa.

She was being sponsored by her sister-in-law, who had submitted an application for her brother, Sandra's husband. Under the current system, Sandra and her three children would be allowed to enter as well.

If the bill were passed, Sandra said, "I would feel bad, because you wait so long." Her children, who have never been to the United States, are eagerly awaiting the day the application is approved. "They're so excited," she said.

Follow Vivian Wang on Twitter @vwang3

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 20 of the New York edition with the headline: In Little Guyana, Family Visa Cuts Would Be Painful

Little Guyana, an Indo-Guyanese enclave in Queens

By Ray Cavanaugh

October 9, 2014

Nobody told me about Little Guyana, a mile-plus-long stretch in the Richmond Hill neighborhood of Queens where the residents are Indian but sound like Bob Marley when they speak.

I discovered it by accident when I fell asleep on the A train, passed up my intended destination and was awakened by a fellow passenger telling me that the train had reached its last stop. The people here, known as Indo-Guyanese, are mainly descendants of indentured servants who were recruited from India (often by deceptive tactics) to work on the sugar plantations of present-day Guyana — formerly known as British Guiana — starting in 1838, when the British abolished black slavery in their colonies.

I was surprised to learn that the Guyanese are New York's fifth-largest immigrant group, according to American Community Survey figures reported by multiple media outlets. It's probably safe to say that many, if not most, Americans know little or nothing about Guyana, a small nation on the northeast coast of South America, although some may recall the 1978 Jonestown atrocity, in which cult leader Jim Jones persuaded (or forced) more than 900 of his followers to commit suicide by drinking poisoned Kool-Aid in the agrarian utopia he'd founded in that country.

Aside from a few Creole-sounding words, there's no real language barrier in this neighborhood. Guyana is South America's only English-speaking country. It's also considered part of the Caribbean, and this West Indies connection accounts for the Bob Marley accent here in Little Guyana, a neighborhood that began to take shape in the 1970s.

Upon my unplanned arrival, I exited from the subway station onto Liberty Avenue, which cuts through the Queens neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and Ozone Park, and is the throbbing heart of Little Guyana. Refreshed by my subway snooze, I felt like walking a mile or so in the direction of the place I'd intended to visit. This intended destination was soon forgotten, though, as the Little Guyana carnival atmosphere cast its spell on me.

It would be difficult to overstate the vibrancy: I was hard-pressed to pass a block of storefronts without witnessing the full color spectrum on display. Nearby 101st Avenue has considerable flavor, but nothing approaching the bewitching carpet ride of Liberty Avenue. The Little Guyana strip runs from 104th to 130th

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I kept hearing a wild type of music that I later learned is called “chutney.” It contains sounds of the Far East, but has a faster tempo and a more pulsating beat, reflecting the Caribbean influence. Because the weather was pleasant, cars with open windows kept delivering a loud dose of chutney. In many cases, though, open windows were superfluous; some vehicles were equipped with speakers that blasted the music as if it were a block party.

Aesthetically, Liberty Avenue is less than flawless. Suspended overhead is a subway rail, an old structure that emits a cacophony of squeaks every few minutes as a train passes by. I also had to dodge some bird droppings. Urban grit is rife, but there’s no real danger.

The strip is bustling and unabashedly commercial. A house of worship might stand 30 feet from a rum joint and right next door to a henna tattoo parlor. Within three minutes of people-watching, I’d spotted Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and cross-wearing Christians passing by the same street corner. In a five-block radius you’ll find a Pentecostal church, a Jehovah’s Witness kingdom hall, a Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Hindu temple and an Islamic clothing store.

There’s also a spiritual venue directly beneath a subway entrance. This is called the Sri Durgamatha Astrological Center, where you can ascertain your everlasting destiny, for better or worse. I tried to go in, but the place was closed. Hopefully, there was no deeper meaning there.

Although many women go about in Western garb, I saw no shortage of saris, the traditional Indian dress, or sari shops, where prices range from a few dollars to many times that amount. My bargain-hunting senses were titillated by the DVD boxes full of low-priced Bollywood flicks at many spots along the strip.

At one point along Liberty Avenue, I encountered a snacker’s nirvana. I obtained a bite of heaven at the Little Guyana Bake Shop, where a mere 85 cents purchased me a coconut bun that was as sweet and fluffy as it was addictive. I then considered some pine tarts, cheese rolls and crunchy Guyanese sal sev biscuits. But I opted for jalebi (a circular sweet with the chewiest of textures) and salara (an especially decadent red coconut roll).

A few blocks from the Bake Shop, I met a machete-wielding man who offered, for \$3, to hack open a coconut and plunge in a straw for my exotic refreshment. I thought about it but declined. Then I asked whether I could take a picture of him swinging his machete. He declined.

An intriguingly high number of restaurants were serving Chinese food done Guyanese style. As it turns out, a small population of Chinese also once worked as indentured servants in Guyana; they left their culinary mark on their Indian counterparts.

Despite some occasional banality — CVS, 7-Eleven, McDonald’s — the overall cultural thumbprint is strong, about as much as it’s possible to find in the United States in 2014. That said, I’ve read that there has been discussion in the community about how to answer the classic multiple-choice ethnicity question: Despite

being from South America, the Guyanese are not Latino. Nor are they black, white or East Asian. So, what are they?

I'm not sure, except to say that they're a colorful and distinctive blend, just like their neighborhood.

Cavanaugh is a freelance writer in Massachusetts.

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IF YOU GO

GETTING THERE

From Manhattan, head to either the 42nd Street Port Authority subway stop or the 34th Street Penn Station subway stop, and take the A train to its final stop: Ozone Park — Lefferts Boulevard. Exit onto Liberty Avenue.

STAYING THERE

Days Inn and Suites

137-08 Redding St., Ozone Park

www.daysinn.com

718-845-6666

Newly built hotel offering free breakfast, exercise facilities and quick access to the subway. From \$109 a night.

EATING THERE

Singh's Roti Shop Restaurant and Bar

131-14 Liberty Ave.

718-323-5990

www.singhsrotishopnyc.com

Feast on dishes including curry, jerk chicken and fried shark. There is also an extensive vegetarian menu. Meals start at \$5.

Little Guyana Bake Shop

116-04 and 124-13 Liberty Ave.

718-843-6530; 718-843-4200

Enjoy breads, biscuits, cakes, tarts, and other forms of decadence from less than \$1.

SHOPPING THERE

Shakti Saree & Spiritual

124-15 Liberty Ave.

718-738-1300

www.shaktisaree.com

Find a vibrant selection of old-world Indian apparel, religious relics and musical instruments.

— **R.C.**

 **7 Comments**

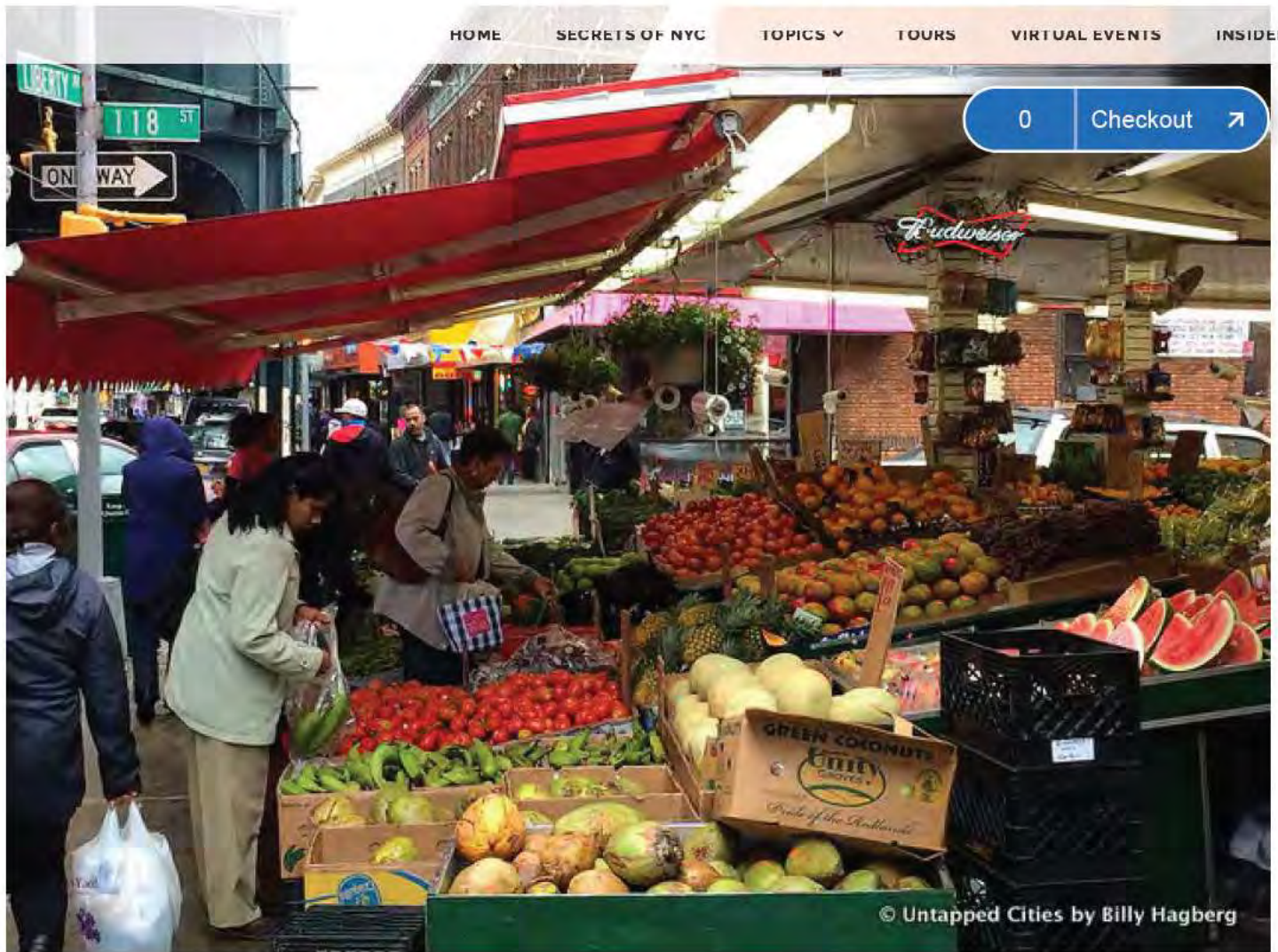
Ray Cavanaugh

Ray Cavanaugh is a freelance writer from Boston.

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ARCHITECTURE FEATURED NEW YORK

NYC'S MICRO NEIGHBORHOODS: LITTLE GUYANA IN RICHMOND HILL, QUEENS



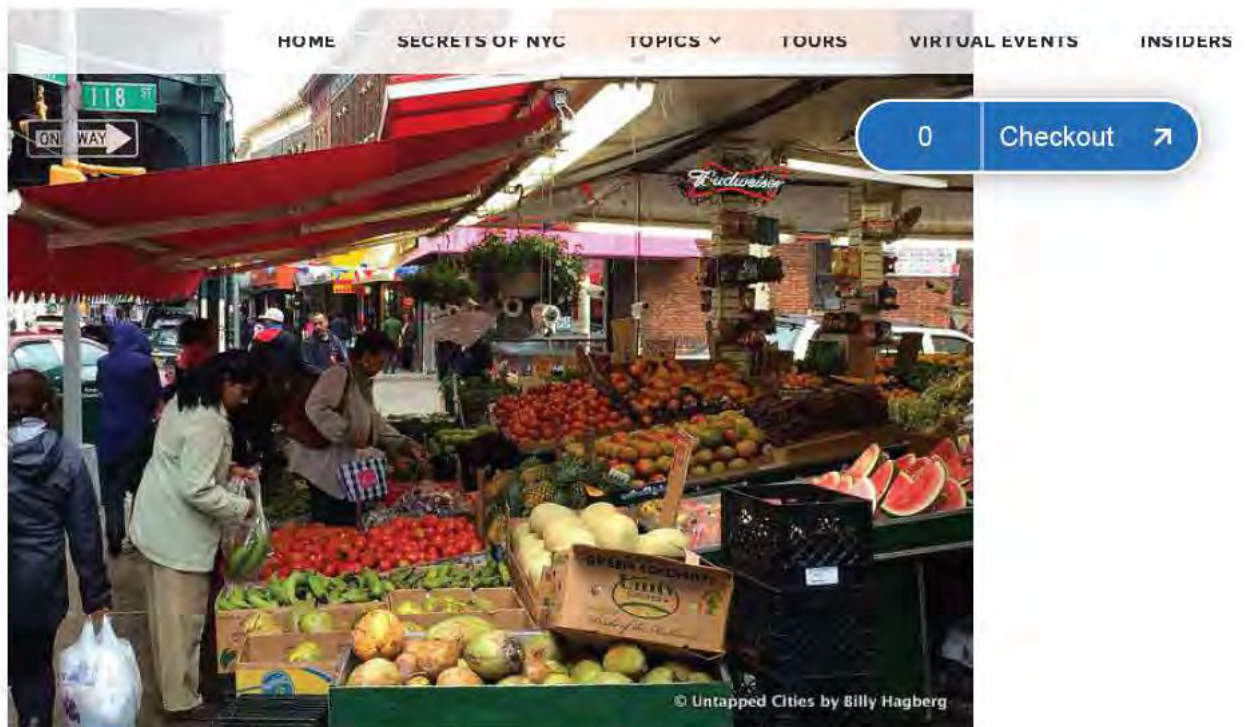
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BILLY HAGBERG

SHARE





Open air markets are a common sight in Little Guyana

Welcome back to our *Untapped Cities* series on [NYC's Micro Neighborhoods](#), where we delve into long standing ethnic enclaves.

Bordered by Kew Gardens to the north, Woodhaven to the west and Jamaica to its South, Richmond Hill in [Queens](#) has long been home to a hodgepodge of European immigrants. More recently, and occasionally making the news, Richmond Hill also houses the [largest Sikh population in NYC](#). However, since the 1970s, many Caribbean Indians have been calling the southern part of the neighborhood home, one of the largest populations being from Guyana.



Fresh fruit with pepper sauce on sale

Along Liberty Avenue, named for being the only toll-free road in the area during a bygone era, you'd be hard-pressed to find a pizza or deli. Dotting the main drag are roti and dooble (a street sandwich consisting of fried bread, curried chick peas and topped with Caribbean spices, cucumber, coconut and a hot pepper sauce) shops interspersed with clothing stores selling fabric and traditional Indian clothing.

Guyana itself is a small South American country of mixed cultural and ethnic heritage, predominantly a mix of Indian and local peoples. This combination of Caribbean and South Asian culture is extremely unique and while many Guyanese immigrants have settled in [Bushwick](#) and Canarsie, one of the largest pockets has settled into Richmond Hill.



Local stores offer a variety of traditional Indian clothing

Most easily accessible by the [A train](#), getting to the heart of Little Guyana can be a long but fairly straightforward trip, and well worth it for the culinary-minded. As diverse as its citizens, Little Guyana offers Caribbean twists on traditional Indian cooking. While predominantly Indian, you can find Caribbean, African and Chinese food—and every combination therein—to accommodate any price range. Guyanese restaurants and bakeries are abundant, notably Sybil's Bakery and Restaurant Shop where you can taste the gambit of traditional Guyanese meals and the [Little Guyanese Bake Shop](#) which offers a variety of traditional cakes, breads and sweets.



Inside the Little Guyanese Bake Shop

The neighborhood has various sit-down [restaurants](#) and street-fare stalls as well, from Caribbean-Suriname crossover to Trinidadian "bake and shark" (exactly as it sounds; fried shark on a dough bun) to Chinese-infused curry dishes. Near the larger markets, it's not unusual to find a picnic table selling fresh peppered mangoes and melons.

0

Checkout




© Untapped Cities by Billy Hagberg

With active commerce throughout the day and bars offering a variety of spiced rum and live music at night, Little Guyana is strip of bright and flavorful sights and sensations running through Richmond Hill. While larger chains have begun moving onto the main drag, visitors to the neighborhood can still find themselves in the middle of an incredibly unique intersection of cultures.

Read more about [Richmond Hill's Sikh population](#) and watch a session with Indian singer [Laddi B](#). The author can be contacted via Twitter [@jimipage26](#)

EXHIBIT C

00:00 

02:10

CORONAVIRUS

Richmond Hill Sees Highest COVID-19 Positivity Rate in NYC

BY SHANNAN FERRY NEW YORK C TY

PUBLISHED 9:24 PM ET JAN. 12, 2021

Vishnu Mahadeo is sounding the alarm about the high rate of coronavirus in his neighborhood.

As of Tuesday night, the city reported zip code 11419 with a COVID-19 positivity rate of 16.31%, making Richmond Hill, Queens the highest across the five boroughs.

“You know how sad it is, imagine this, I take a senior to the hospital they get tested positive, and that’s the last I see them,” he said.

Mahadeo is a longtime resident of Richmond Hill and a community activist who involved in several organizations.

On Tuesday, he distributed masks and literature throughout the neighborhood,

Many people took it for granted that their family members were not impacted or infected and now we are beginning to find it out there are consequences,” he said.

Kennard Lall was among those to pick up face masks from Mahadeo. He too is frightened to hear about the positivity rate in this zip code.

Because of the virus, you need to always get this in stock you know, this is something you need more than food right now,” Lall said.

Zip code 11420 nearby in South Ozone park also had a high rate of nearly 15% as of Tuesday evening Mahadeo says he will try to lower the positivity rate one conversation at a time.

Some people are very skeptical they say oh this is a way of getting more money and I say no this is an opportunity for you to make yourself better,” he said

Mahadeo will be distributing masks again Saturday at L Fernandez Pharmacy on Liberty Avenue from 11a.m. to 1pm.

He also plans to distribute them on Sunday at the Sikh Cultural Society on 118th St from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Neighborhood Data Profiles

Search for data summaries of NYC neighborhoods by ZIP code to see how COVID-19 is affecting your community.

Enter your ZIP code or neighborhood:

Your Neighborhood: **11417: Ozone Park**

Totals

Population: 31,041

Totals

Cases: **3,610** **One out of every 8** people in this neighborhood was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Deaths: **84** **One out of every 369** people in this neighborhood died of COVID-19.

People Vaccinated: **19,452** Of these people, 17,970 people are **fully vaccinated**.
(at least 1 dose)

Comparisons

Case rate: **11,629.65** **Higher** than the Queens case rate of **10,285.56** .
per 100,000 **Higher** than New York City's case rate of **9520.43** .

Death rate: **270.61** **Lower** than the Queens death rate of **384.23** .
per 100,000 **Lower** than New York City's death rate of **340.53** .

Vaccination: **62.66%** **Lower** than the Queens vaccination rate of **64.17%** .
(at least 1 dose) **Higher** than New York City's vaccination rate of **58.19%**

Rates are numbers that are adjusted for population (similar to per capita). They help us compare areas with different population sizes by showing how common cases or deaths are. Some neighborhoods may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

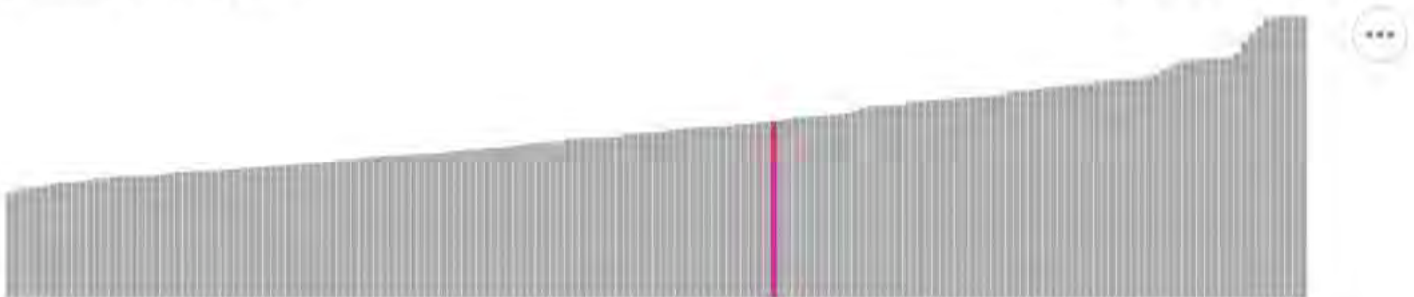
For more data since February 29, 2020, visit [COVID-19 Data: Totals](#).

Vaccination Rates

At least 1 dose Fully vaccinated

Lowest ZIP: **36.9 %**

Highest ZIP: **99.36 %**



In **11417: Ozone Park**:

- **62.66 %** of people have had at least 1 dose.

- That is **Higher** than the median, **58.76 %** of people.

The **median** is the middle value of all the values. Half of neighborhoods have a higher value than the median and half have a lower value. Neighborhoods with 99.9% may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

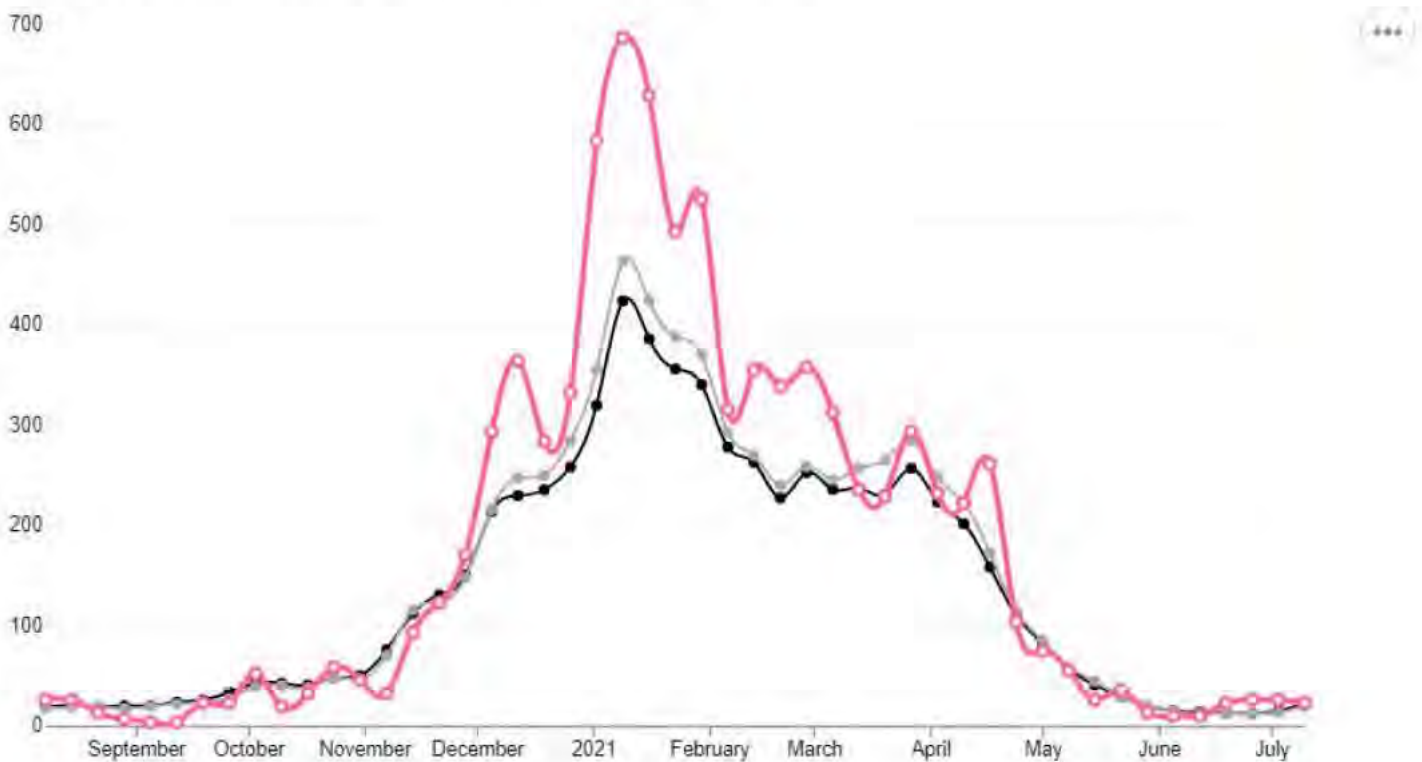
For more vaccination data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Vaccines](#).

Trends Over Time

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is controlled if neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in 11417 , Queens , and all of NYC



For trend data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Trends](#).

All data is provided at the modified ZIP Code Tabulation Area level. Get more information about modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Zone Finder](#)
- [About the Data](#)

Menu



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Neighborhood Data Profiles

Search for data summaries of NYC neighborhoods by ZIP code to see how COVID-19 is affecting your community.

Enter your ZIP code or neighborhood:

Your Neighborhood: 11419: Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park

Totals

Population: **48,504**

Totals

Cases: **5,952** **One out of every 8** people in this neighborhood was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Deaths: **168** **One out of every 288** people in this neighborhood died of COVID-19.

People Vaccinated: **31,854** Of these people, 29,072 people are **fully vaccinated**.
(at least 1 dose)

Comparisons

Case rate: **12,270.92** **Higher** than the Queens case rate of **10,285.56** .
per 100,000 **Higher** than New York City's case rate of **9520.43** .

Death rate: **346.36** **Lower** than the Queens death rate of **384.23** .
per 100,000 **Higher** than New York City's death rate of **340.53** .

Vaccination: **65.67%** **Higher** than the Queens vaccination rate of **64.17%** .
(at least 1 dose) **Higher** than New York City's vaccination rate of **58.19%**

Rates are numbers that are adjusted for population (similar to per capita). They help us compare areas with different population sizes by showing how common cases or deaths are. Some neighborhoods may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

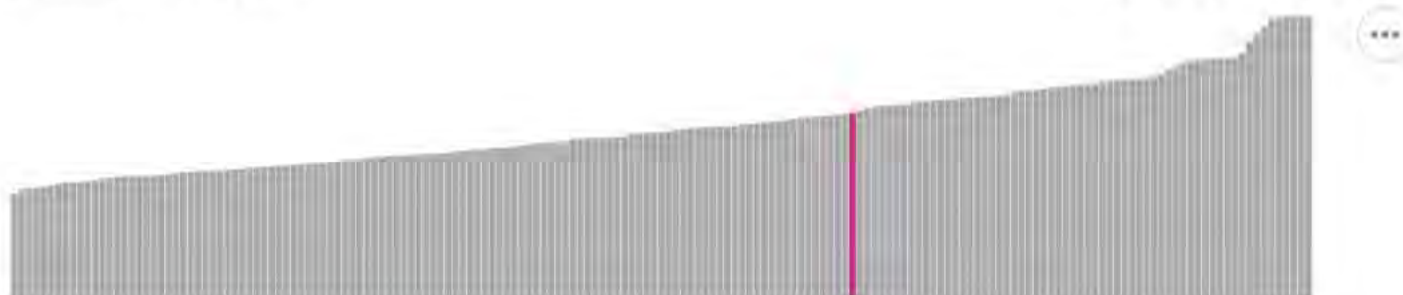
For more data since February 29, 2020, visit [COVID-19 Data: Totals](#).

Vaccination Rates

At least 1 dose Fully vaccinated

Lowest ZIP: **36.9 %**

Highest ZIP: **99.36 %**



In **11419: Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park:**

- **65.67 %** of people have had at least 1 dose.

- That is **Higher** than the median, **58.76 %** of people.

The **median** is the middle value of all the values. Half of neighborhoods have a higher value than the median and half have a lower value. Neighborhoods with 99.9% may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

For more vaccination data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Vaccines](#).

Trends Over Time

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is controlled if neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in 11419 , Queens , and all of NYC



For trend data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Trends](#).

All data is provided at the modified ZIP Code Tabulation Area level. Get more information about modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Zone Finder](#)
- [About the Data](#)

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COVID-19: Data

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Neighborhood Data Profiles

Search for data summaries of NYC neighborhoods by ZIP code to see how COVID-19 is affecting your community.

Enter your ZIP code or neighborhood:

Your Neighborhood: 11420: South Ozone Park

Totals

Population: 47,835

Totals

Cases: **5,611** **One out of every 8** people in this neighborhood was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Deaths: **169** **One out of every 283** people in this neighborhood died of COVID-19.

People Vaccinated: **29,142** Of these people, 26,866 people are **fully vaccinated**.
(at least 1 dose)

Comparisons

Case rate: **11,729.89** **Higher** than the Queens case rate of **10,285.56** .
per 100,000 **Higher** than New York City's case rate of **9520.43** .

Death rate: **353.3** **Lower** than the Queens death rate of **384.23** .
per 100,000 **Higher** than New York City's death rate of **340.53** .

Vaccination: **60.92%** **Lower** than the Queens vaccination rate of **64.17%** .
(at least 1 dose) **Higher** than New York City's vaccination rate of **58.19%**

Rates are numbers that are adjusted for population (similar to per capita). They help us compare areas with different population sizes by showing how common cases or deaths are. Some neighborhoods may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

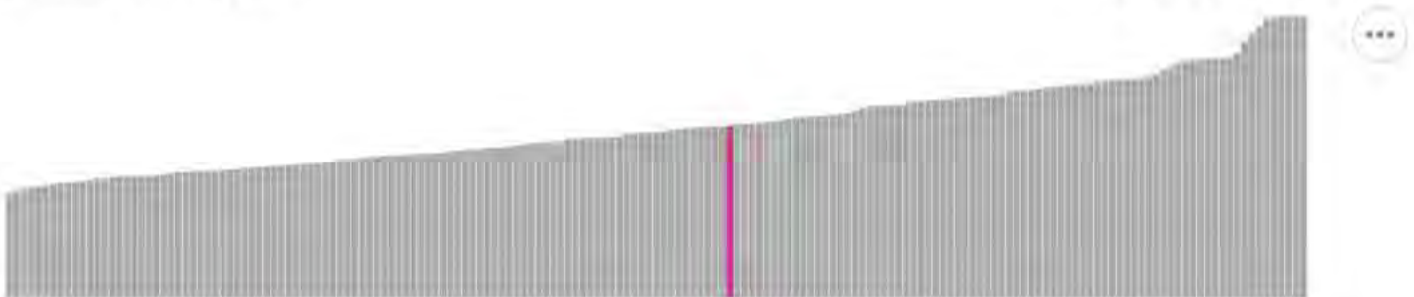
For more data since February 29, 2020, visit [COVID-19 Data: Totals](#).

Vaccination Rates

At least 1 dose Fully vaccinated

Lowest ZIP: **36.9 %**

Highest ZIP: **99.36 %**



In **11420: South Ozone Park:**

- **60.92 %** of people have had at least 1 dose.

- That is **Higher** than the median, **58.76 %** of people.

The **median** is the middle value of all the values. Half of neighborhoods have a higher value than the median and half have a lower value. Neighborhoods with 99.9% may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

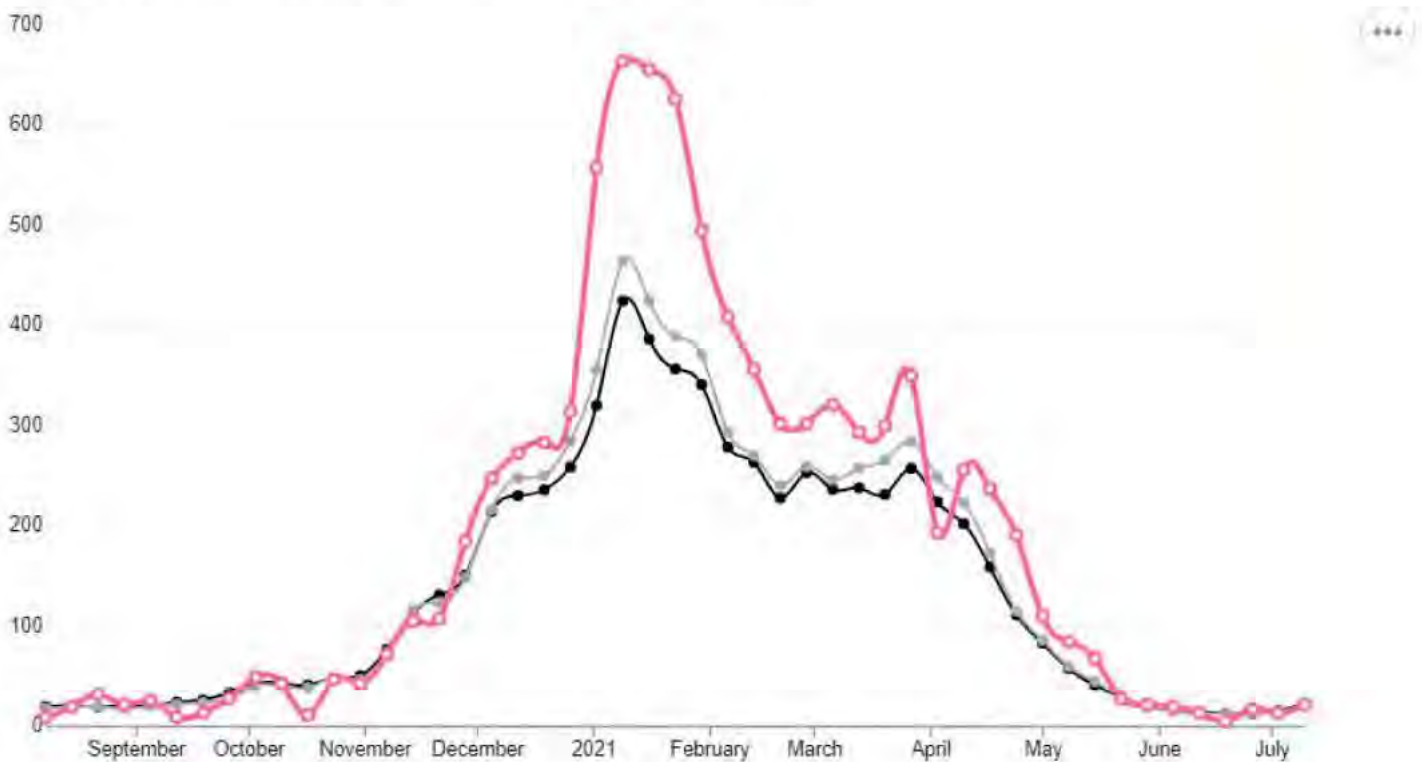
For more vaccination data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Vaccines](#).

Trends Over Time

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Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in 11420 , Queens , and all of NYC



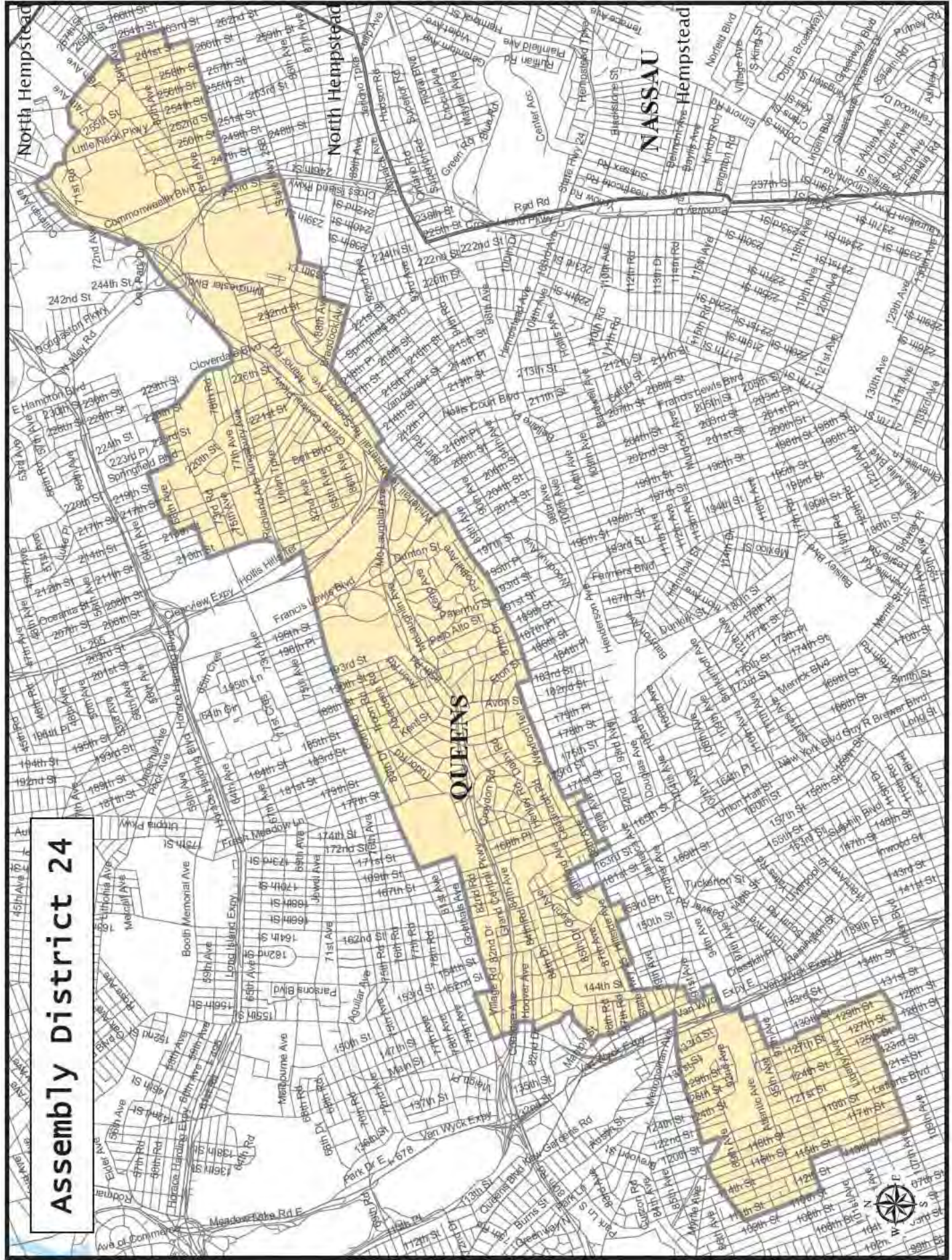
For trend data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Trends](#).

All data is provided at the modified ZIP Code Tabulation Area level. Get more information about modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Zone Finder](#)
- [About the Data](#)

Assembly District 24



Assembly District 24

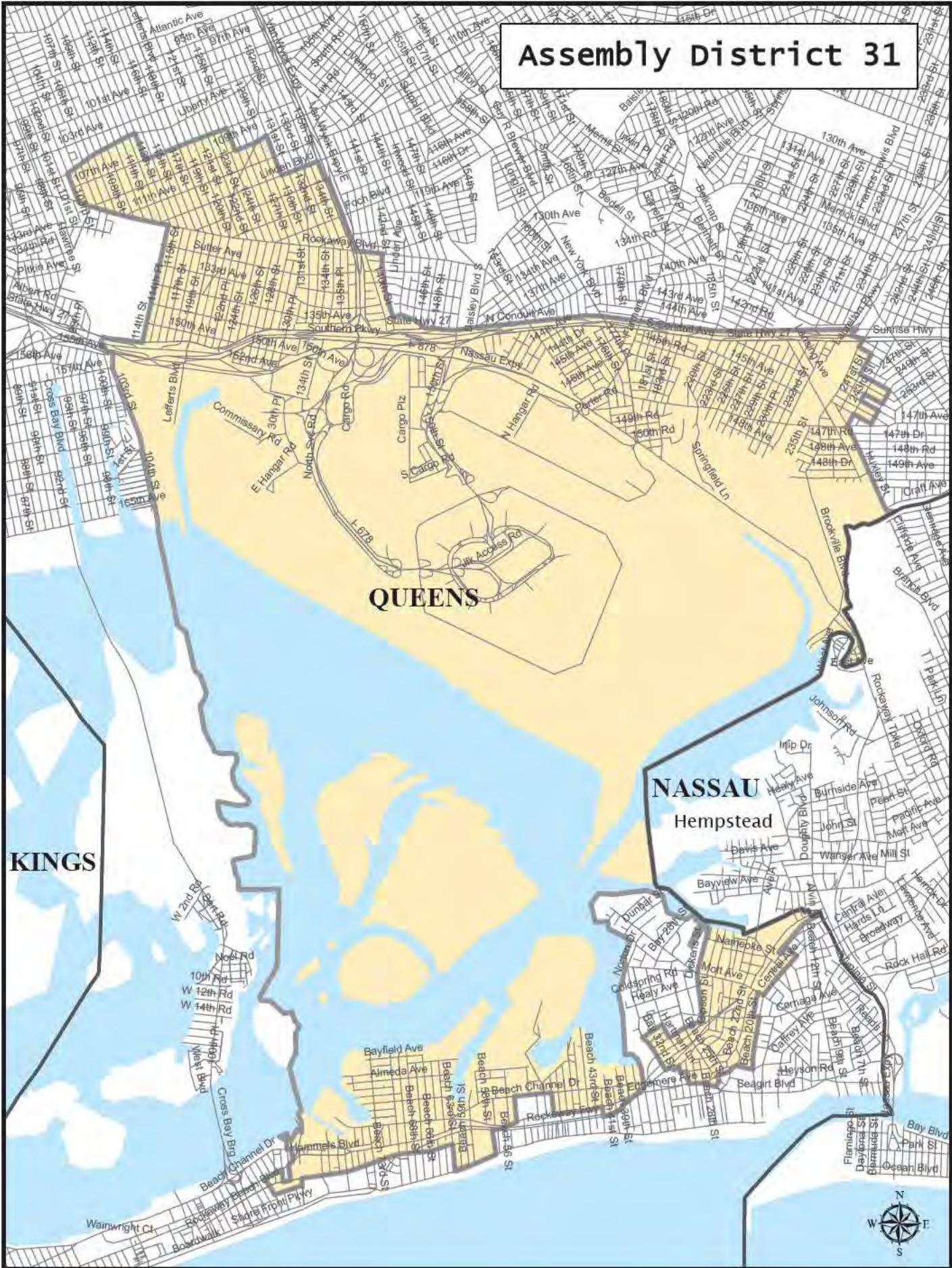
Adjusted Total Population : 124,114
Deviation : -4,975
Deviation Percentage : -3.85

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	29,099	16,294	24,031	42,392	737	155	6,794	4,611	1
% of Total	23.45	13.13	19.36	34.16	0.59	0.12	5.47	3.72	0.00
Total 18+	25,331	13,250	18,548	32,741	444	122	5,165	3,450	1
% of 18+	25.57	13.38	18.73	33.05	0.45	0.12	5.21	3.48	0.00

Department Of Justice									
	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	29,099	16,642	24,031	43,152	784	177	5,511	4,717	1
% of Total	23.45	13.41	19.36	34.77	0.63	0.14	4.44	3.80	0.00
Total 18+	25,331	13,486	18,548	33,210	478	142	4,331	3,525	1
% of 18+	25.57	13.62	18.73	33.53	0.48	0.14	4.37	3.56	0.00

NOTE: For a description of field names and Department of Justice definitions, please refer to the documentation above the district listing.

Assembly District 31



QUEENS

NASSAU
Hempstead

KINGS

Assembly District 31

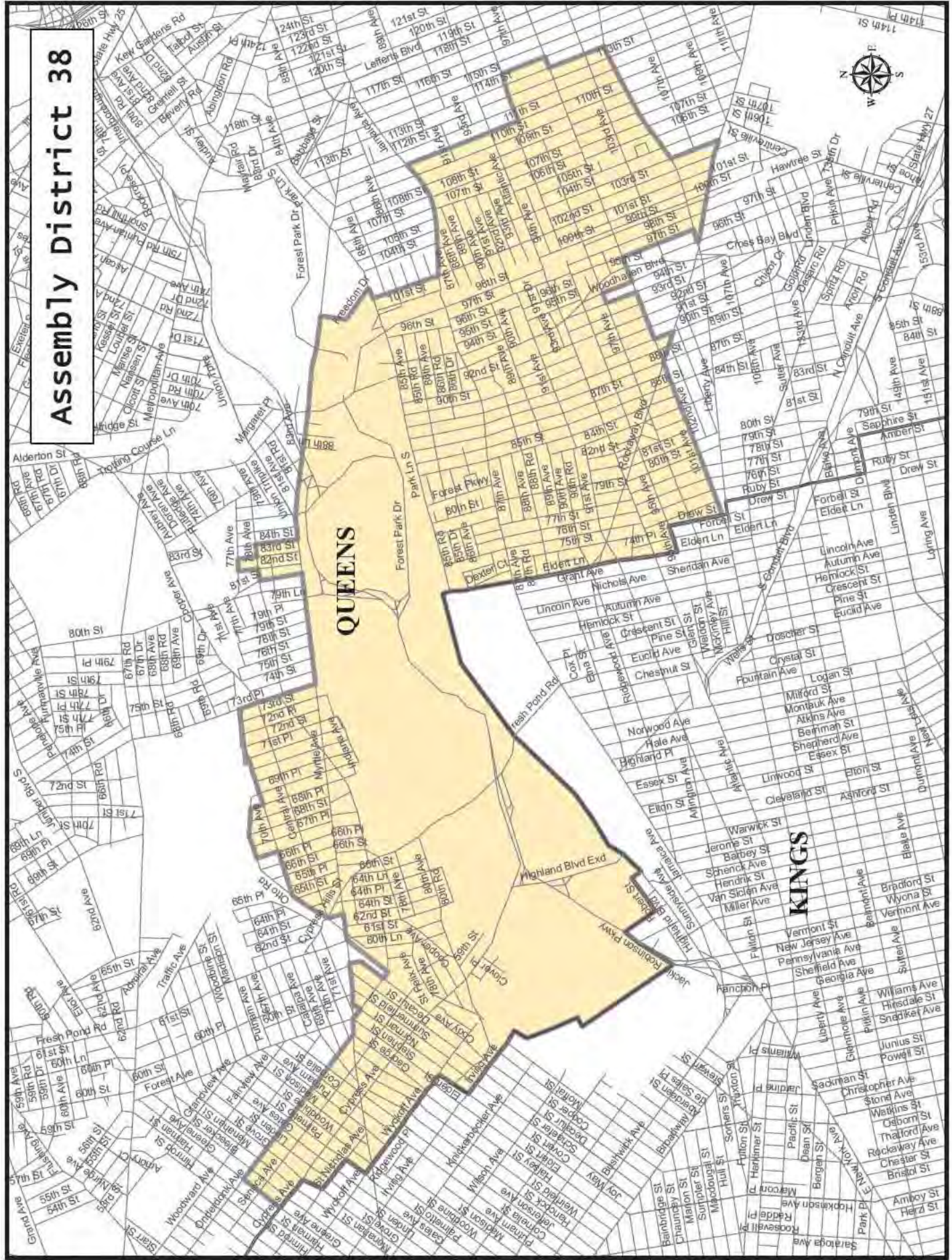
Adjusted Total Population : 124,134
Deviation : -4,955
Deviation Percentage : -3.84

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	7,055	63,257	26,741	12,968	921	115	6,882	6,191	4
% of Total	5.68	50.96	21.54	10.45	0.74	0.09	5.54	4.99	0.00
Total 18+	6,176	45,902	18,720	9,905	552	88	5,187	4,590	4
% of 18+	6.78	50.37	20.54	10.87	0.61	0.10	5.69	5.04	0.00

Department Of Justice									
	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	7,055	63,628	26,741	13,155	950	119	6,232	6,250	4
% of Total	5.68	51.26	21.54	10.60	0.77	0.10	5.02	5.03	0.00
Total 18+	6,176	46,103	18,720	10,020	571	92	4,806	4,632	4
% of 18+	6.78	50.59	20.54	11.00	0.63	0.10	5.27	5.08	0.00

NOTE: For a description of field names and Department of Justice definitions, please refer to the documentation above the district listing.

Assembly District 38



QUEENS

KINGS

Assembly District 38

Adjusted Total Population : 124,105
Deviation : -4,984
Deviation Percentage : -3.86

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	28,397	6,803	62,324	18,621	648	88	3,873	3,351	0
% of Total	22.88	5.48	50.22	15.00	0.52	0.07	3.12	2.70	0.00
Total 18+	24,136	5,053	44,392	14,386	369	59	2,839	2,415	0
% of 18+	25.77	5.40	47.40	15.36	0.39	0.06	3.03	2.58	0.00

Department Of Justice									
	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	28,397	7,021	62,324	19,014	695	123	3,080	3,451	0
% of Total	22.88	5.66	50.22	15.32	0.56	0.10	2.48	2.78	0.00
Total 18+	24,136	5,162	44,392	14,631	408	82	2,355	2,483	0
% of 18+	25.77	5.51	47.40	15.62	0.44	0.09	2.51	2.65	0.00

NOTE: For a description of field names and Department of Justice definitions, please refer to the documentation above the district listing.

Assembly District 23



Assembly District 23

Adjusted Total Population : 124,114
Deviation : -4,975
Deviation Percentage : -3.85

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	65,904	19,871	26,416	7,926	335	66	2,300	1,294	2
% of Total	53.10	16.01	21.28	6.39	0.27	0.05	1.85	1.04	0.00
Total 18+	53,208	14,912	18,976	6,071	221	51	1,551	920	2
% of 18+	55.48	15.55	19.78	6.33	0.23	0.05	1.62	0.96	0.00

Department Of Justice									
	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total	65,904	20,217	26,416	8,227	431	85	1,456	1,376	2
% of Total	53.10	16.29	21.28	6.63	0.35	0.07	1.17	1.11	0.00
Total 18+	53,208	15,068	18,976	6,236	292	67	1,093	970	2
% of 18+	55.48	15.71	19.78	6.50	0.30	0.07	1.14	1.01	0.00

NOTE: For a description of field names and Department of Justice definitions, please refer to the documentation above the district listing.

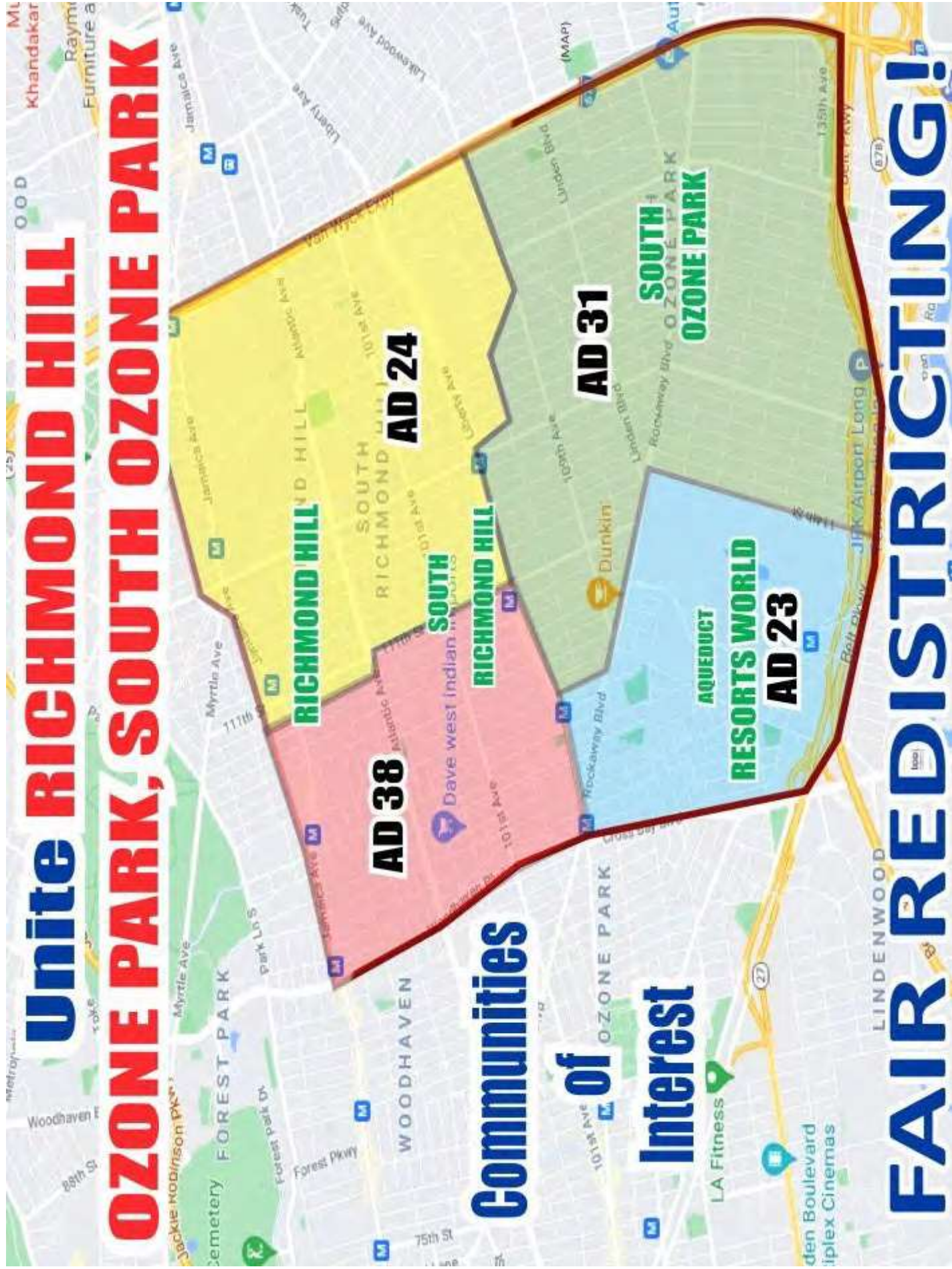


EXHIBIT D



[TECH \(/TECH\)](#) [BUSINESS \(/BUSINESS\)](#) [STARTUPS \(/BUSINESS/STARTUPS\)](#)

[MARKETS \(/STOCK-MARKET\)](#) [CRYPTOCURRENCY \(/CRYPTOCURRENCY\)](#)

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[Home \(Https://Www.Businessinsider.In\)](#) > [Life \(Https://Www.Businessinsider.In/TheLife\)](#) > [The 8 Best Ethnic Neighborhoods In New York City](#)

The 8 best ethnic neighborhoods in New York City



Little Guyana, Richmond Hill, Queens

Link Copied



You might not be able to place Guyana on a map, but it's taken over Richmond Hill. The small country on South America's Caribbean coast, east of Venezuela, has a population that's a colorful mix of South Asian (mostly from east India) and Afro-Caribbean.

New York is home to around 140,000 Guyanese, making them the fifth-largest group of immigrants in the city.

Liberty Avenue is Little Guyana's nucleus, featuring *saris*, *faris*, *pees*, roti and rum, as well as businesses like the Little Guyana Bake Shop (<http://www.littleguyanabakeshop.com/>) and The Hibiscus Restaurant & Bar (<https://plus.google.com/112308708329891687975/about?gl=us&hl=en>).

Advertisement

Koreatown, West 32nd Street, Manhattan



K-Town, a highly concentrated strip along Manhattan's West 32nd street, between Broadway and 5th Avenue, is a slice of Seoul (<http://www.businessinsider.com/koreatown-new-york-2011-11?op=1#ixzz3fPUubpNY>) in the city, and officially known as "Korea Way."

It features dozens of Korean restaurants, karaoke clubs, and even 24 hour spas, most of them stacked on top of each other thanks to the narrow borders of the area.

New York is home to over 140,000 Korean residents — ~~the second~~ largest Korean population in the US — and while they may not all live in Koreatown (many live in Flushing, Queens, another Korean hotspot), they do frequent it enthusiastically, giving the area a super local and authentic vibe.

While there's always a debate as to where the food is better, Flushing or Manhattan, K-Town is steadily gaining a stellar foodie rep.

Little India, Jackson Heights, Queens

Link Copied



Jackson Heights is incredibly diverse, and it can make you feel like you've been transported to a different country with every block.

However, India (and Bangladesh and Pakistan) has staked its claim on 74th Street between Roosevelt and 37th Avenue, where women will shop for jewelry and rich fabrics while wearing colorful saris, and stores are full of Bollywood films and

incense.

Like an open air market, the air is thick with the smell of curries and spices, and the streets are lined with sweet shops, curry houses, and eateries selling fresh curry leaves and chutneys.

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Little Odessa, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn

10 Fast Facts About Guyanese Immigrants In The US You Should Know

By NewsAmericas - May 9, 2016



Guyanese immigrants make up a significant portion of the foreign-born population in NYC.



Guyanese immigrants make up a significant portion of the foreign-born population in NYC.

By NAN Staff Writer

News Americas, NEW YORK, NY, Tues. May 10, 2016: Come May 26th, the CARICOM South America-based nation of Guyana will mark its 50th year of independence from Britain. Thousands of Guyanese call the U.S. home, and in New York, Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee will mark the anniversary with a week-long series of events between Saturday, June 4th and Sunday June 12, 2016. Here are ten fast facts about Guyanese in the U.S. you may not know:

- 1:** The United States has the highest number of Guyanese outside of Guyana. An average of 6,080 people a year emigrated from Guyana between 1969 and 1976, increasing to an average of 14,400 between 1976 and 1981. As of 1990, 80 percent of Guyanese-Americans lived in the Northeast United States.
- 2:** According to the latest U.S. Census' American Fact Finder, there are an estimated 273,000 people in the U.S. claiming Guyanese as their first ancestry as of 2013.
- 3:** The majority of Guyanese live in New York City – some 140,000 – making them the fifth-largest foreign-born population in the city.

4: In Queens, NY – which has the largest concentration of Indo-Caribbeans in the five boroughs – Guyanese represent the second largest foreign-born population with some 82,000. A large concentration of them can be found in the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and Ozone Park, Queens according to the 'Population Analysis of Guyanese and Trinidadians in NYC' by the Indo-Caribbean Alliance using *New York City* Department of City Planning data.

5: Guyanese are the second largest immigrant group in Queens, NY. Other Guyanese populated areas in the U.S. include Orlovista, FL; Irvington, New Jersey; Orange, New Jersey; East Orange, New Jersey; Flatbush, Brooklyn; Canarsie, Brooklyn; East Flatbush, Brooklyn, Rockland County, New York, Schenectady, New York; Verona Walk, FL; Oakland, FL; Emerald Lakes, PA; South Plainfield, NJ; Olanta, S.C.; Lincoln Park, GA; Bladensburg, MD and Loganville, FL.

6: The first Guyanese to arrive in the U.S. came around 1968, either as "private household workers" or as nurses' aides and were of African descent according to research from Jacqueline A. McLeod in "Guyanese-Americans." Some 70,523 came post 1964.

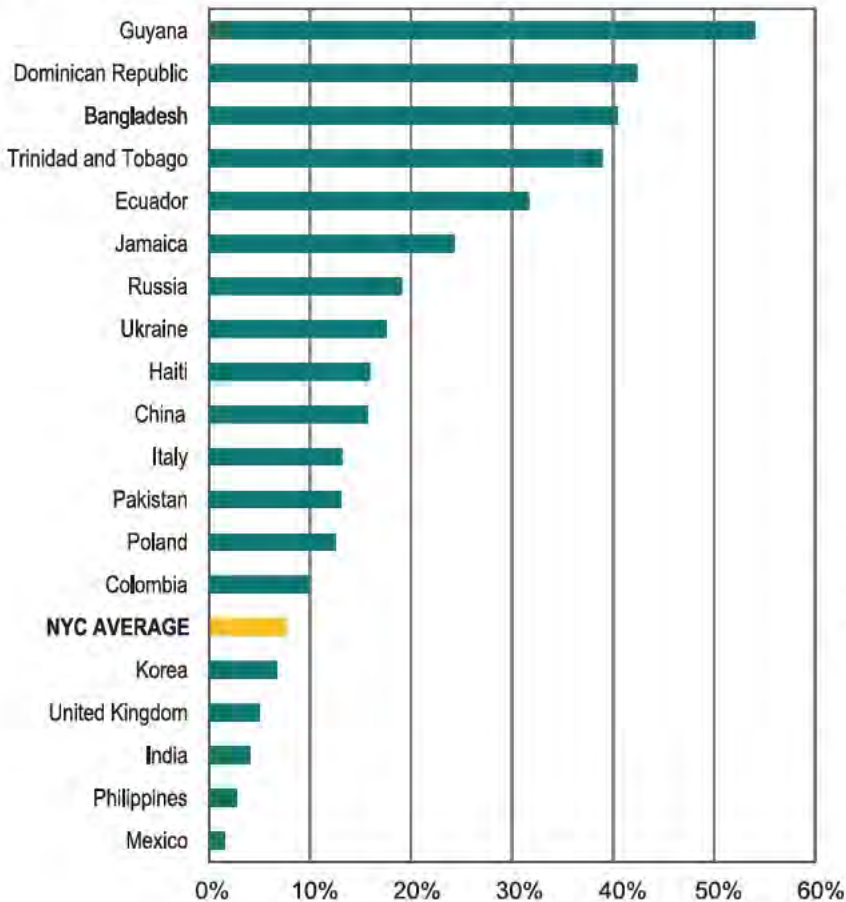
7: According to Monica Gordon in 'In Search of a Better Life: Perspectives on Migration from the Caribbean,' more Guyanese women than men settled in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, making them primarily responsible for securing immigrant status for their families. These women, Gordon concluded, tended to see migration as a means to improve their economic and social status and the educational opportunities of their children.

8: Some 17 percent of Guyanese in the U.S. are seniors (ages 65 and older) but 74 percent of all immigrants from Guyana had the highest naturalization rates, meaning they are more likely to be U.S. citizens and can vote.

9: Recent remittances from the United States to Guyana totaled some US\$438 million, (G\$ 90.7 billion), according to the Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF).

10: Famous Guyanese and those of Guyanese ancestry include: late elected politician Shirley Chisholm; actors Derek Luke, C. C. H. Pounder, Nicole Narain, Sean Patrick Thomas and Mark Gomes; baseball player Mark Teixeira and highly recognized HIV researcher, Dr. Deborah Persaud.

Figure 2-5
New York City's 2011 Share of the U.S. Foreign-born Population by Country of Birth



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

saw declines in their populations and were replaced by the United Kingdom and El Salvador, respectively.

In 2011, New York City's 3.1 million immigrants comprised under 8 percent of the country's foreign-born population (Figure 2-5). But most of New York's top 20 immigrant groups disproportionately made their home in the city. The Guyanese had the highest proclivity to settle in New York, with over one-half of Guyanese immigrants in the U.S. making their home in the city. Other countries that were disproportionately represented in the city included the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, and Trinidad and Tobago—around four-in-ten immigrants in the U.S. from these sources settled in New York. Only five countries in

the city's top 20 list of the foreign-born had a below average propensity to settle in New York. These countries were Mexico (under two percent of the nation's Mexican-born population lived in the city), Philippines (three percent), India (four percent), the United Kingdom (five percent) and Korea (seven percent).

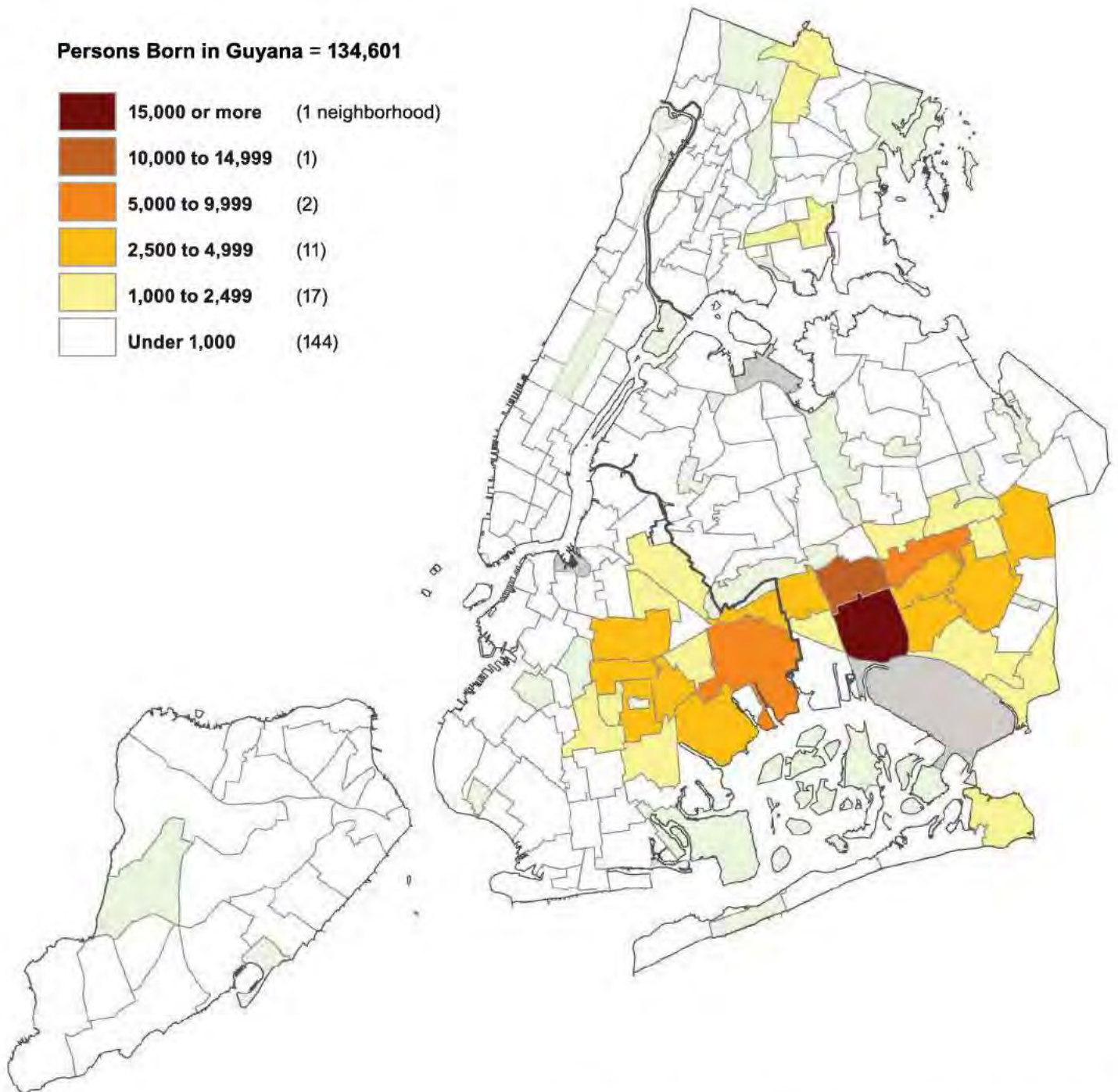
The top sources of the foreign-born population for the U.S. differed markedly from those for New York City (Figure 2-6). Mexicans dominated the U.S. immigrant population, accounting for nearly three-in-ten of the nation's 40 million foreign-born. In contrast, the city's immigrant population was more diverse—Dominicans, the largest immigrant group in the city, accounted for only 12 percent of the foreign-born. China was the second largest source country for the U.S., followed by India, the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, Korea, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. Six countries on the nation's top 10 list—Philippines, El Salvador, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, and Guatemala—were not among the city's top 10 groups, and the last 3 were not even among the city's top 20 groups.

Change in the Composition of the Immigrant Population, 1970–2011

This section examines the changing composition of the foreign-born population since the passage of the 1965 amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act. For the years 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2011, Tables 2-3 and 2-4 show the area of origin and top source countries of the foreign-born populations of New York City and the U.S., respectively, while Figure 2-7 shows the share of each area of origin during this period.

In 1970, of the 1.44 million immigrants in the city, 64 percent (922,800) were from Europe, and the top five source countries were all European. Those born

Figure 3-25
Residential Settlement of Persons Born in Guyana by Neighborhood
New York City, 2007–2011



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007–2011 American Community Survey–Summary File
Population Division–New York City Department of City Planning

UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

106-11 Liberty Avenue, Suite 102

Ozone Park, NY 11417

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF THE UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE &
REDISTRICTING COALITION TO THE NYS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION**

ADDENDUM to testimony previously submitted testimony 7/22/21

Petition to please unite our communities of interest-Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park into one State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional Districts, in accordance with the NYS, US Constitutions, Voting Rights Act, justice and fairness

This addendum to our petition takes into account the recently released census numbers which show a very large increase in the numbers of South Asians residing in Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park. In Queens, our Asian population grew 29%, to nearly 706,000 out of 2.4 million residents, far outpacing the borough's overall 7.8% population growth. See, e.g.,

<https://www.thecity.nyc/2021/8/12/22622709/nyc-asian-surg-ing-population-electoral-power>

https://www.qchron.com/editions/queenswide/queens-outperforms-population-estimates-in-census/article_b6bc1494-fc5e-11eb-9f0b-73f0acfc108a.html

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/us/politics/marginalized-groups-redistricting.html>

In accordance with the IRC's invitation to submit additional testimony to assist it in its deliberations, this additional testimony is respectfully submitted accordingly.

With respect to the State Senate and Congressional districts, we respectfully submit this enlarged community of interest district, which is compact and contiguous, and large enough to constitute a State senate district, and a Congressional seat-in addition to the State Assembly District.

Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park alone had enough population to constitute a State Assembly district, cycles ago. See attached 2010 district data, which has increased significantly. These communities of interest have also surged past these 2010 boundaries in greater numbers.

With the addition of Ozone Park extended to the Cityline/Eldert Lane boundary bordering the Queens and Brooklyn county lines, the combined areas of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, the quintessential community of interest, will easily constitute a State senate district and a Congressional District, also.

Albert Baldeo- United Community Alliance

You will appreciate that only having a State Assembly representative, with no corresponding State senate and Congressional representative, will not only result in the dilution and suppression of our voices, issues and problems, and will only be a token seat in decision making-the proverbial voice in the wilderness.

Equally importantly, these districts will also keep our neighborhoods and communities intact, with established ties of common interest and association, historical, racial, cultural, economic, ethnic, religious and otherwise, as previously emphasized.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Baldeo

Albert Baldeo

(President)

Albert Baldeo - United Community Alliance

STATE SENATE, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Muslims
dakar, DMD
Zavmour & F
nd Me

**Unite RICHMOND HILL
OZONE PARK, SOUTH OZONE PARK**



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REPORTING FOR NEW YORKERS

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NYC Asian Activists Seek to Turn Surging Population Into Electoral Power

New Census numbers showing a 43% increase of Asian New Yorkers in Brooklyn and a 29% jump in Queens fuel demands for more representation as the process for redrawing elected officials' district lines heats up.

BY CHRISTINE CHUNG, CLIFFORD MICHEL AND WILL WELCH | AUG 12, 2021, 8:37PM EDT



The southern side of 8th Ave. at 46th St. in Sunset Park, Brooklyn which is in a different Senate district than the northern side of the street. | Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY

New Census numbers out Thursday show a robust 7.7% population increase for New York City since 2010 — and even bigger surges for Asian New Yorkers at a time when Asian candidates and community groups are moving to build out political power.

In Queens, the Asian population grew 29%, to nearly 706,000 out of 2.4 million residents — far outpacing the borough's overall 7.8% population growth.

In Brooklyn, the number of Asian residents counted by the Census swelled to nearly 420,000, a nearly 43% increase from 2010, compared with a 9.2% hike in the borough's population overall.

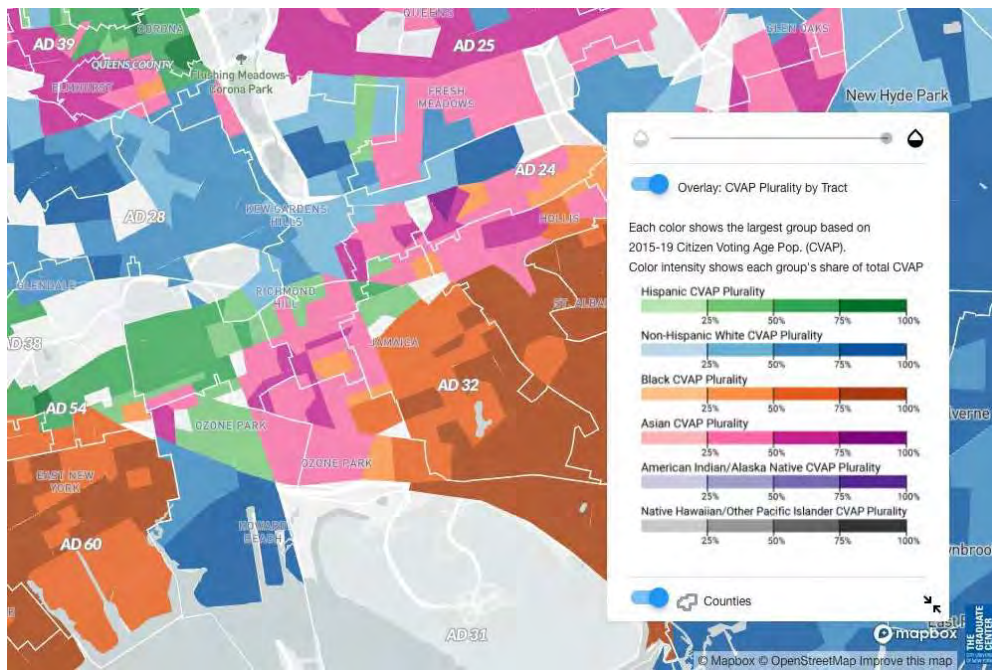
With strength in numbers, New York City's diverse Asian communities are organizing to build political power that reflects them and their needs, as a state commission readies to redraw congressional and state legislative district lines.

“In the past, they would divide a neighborhood or a community who they felt were not politically engaged or were not visible,” said Elizabeth OuYang, who is coordinating a redistricting task force composed of 20 Asian community groups across the city. “We are going to make sure that we are very visible in this redistricting round.”

The new coalition is already at work to break down what members call artificial borders dividing communities and leaving them shortchanged on elected leadership and public services.

Case in point: Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. These Queens neighborhoods have more Asian residents — including many of Guyanese, Trinidadian or Punjabi heritage — than Black or white ones, past population surveys have shown.

Yet these hubs of Asian life in Queens are currently sliced into seven different Assembly districts — making it difficult for the communities to coalesce around a representative focused on their priorities or receive services tailored to their language, dietary or other needs, activists say.



The Queens neighborhood of Richmond Hill (center) is split between seven Assembly districts. | Redistricting & You/CUNY Center for Urban Research (redistrictingandyou.org)

“For us, redistricting is not an academic exercise, nor simply a mathematical equation. It means power, accountability, and equal access to services that we are entitled to for the next 10 years,” OuYang said.

No Representation

Every decade, following the U.S. Census, lawmakers redraw district lines to reflect population changes, with the goal of achieving equal representation. By law, and backed by litigation, so-called communities of interest, such as racial groups, are not supposed to be divided in a way to weaken their political power.

This year, for the first time in New York, the process for seats in Congress and the state Senate and Assembly is being overseen by an independent commission.

Its 10 members are largely appointed by the party leaders of the state Legislature, and working under updated rules that explicitly require equal apportionment and compact districts, while forbidding racial discrimination.

Queens and Brooklyn residents packed online hearings last month to voice concerns about what they described as divisive lines thwarting their chances of electing representation.

For much of the July 22 Queens hearing's five hours, the focus was on Richmond Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. During the July 29 Brooklyn hearing, speakers pointed out that despite continued Asian population growth in southern Brooklyn neighborhoods such as Bensonhurst and Sheepshead Bay, Asian residents are outnumbered in every single Assembly and Senate district as currently drawn.

Brooklyn has no Asian representatives in the state Senate or Assembly, Congress or City Council.

District Divided by Water

Richard David, a Guyanese-American district leader who ran for an Assembly seat last year spanning South Ozone Park and part of the Rockaways, said that area's political divisions have created dire outcomes for the community, including a lack of funding for social services.

There are no city or state-funded senior centers in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, or South Ozone Park that primarily serve South Asians and Indo-Caribbean people, he told THE CITY. When constituents seek to reach elected officials, they either don't know whom to call or are overwhelmed by the long list of people to contact, David added.

He cited his District 31, which encompasses parts of South and Southeast Queens, along with the Rockaways, as a "textbook example of gerrymandering."



South Ozone Park, Queens, near the convergence of three Assembly districts. | Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY

The eight neighborhoods within the district, especially those in the Rockaways, each have a very distinct cultural identity, he noted, making it challenging for one candidate to build a broad coalition of support.

“Public transportation does not connect these three parts, so in addition to a car, it would be faster to go by boat to the different parts of the district,” said David, who lives in South Ozone Park.

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The borough’s Community District 14, which encompasses most of the Rockaway peninsula, is about 36% Black, about 34% white, and roughly 4% Asian. Community District 10, including Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, is 23.7% Asian, 21% white, and 14% Black.

In the June 2020 Democratic primary, David won the district’s northern half in Ozone Park and south Ozone Park resoundingly, but fell short in its southern

region. He ultimately lost by about 800 votes to Khaleel Anderson, a 25-year-old Black progressive candidate who then won the November general election. The overall Assembly district is now 45% Black and 12% Asian, the new Census numbers show.

Aminta Kilawan-Narine, founder of the South Queens Women's March, contends that the lines reflect a "blatant disregard for the natural communities of interest that exist." She contends that they also run afoul of the federal Voting Rights Act's requirement for compact and contiguous districts.

"The way in which the lines have been drawn divides and dilutes our ability to be a stronger voice," Kilawin-Narine added. "When a naturally occurring community of interest like ours is so very divided, electeds don't have the kind of vested interest in serving us — after all, we become but a fraction of their constituency."

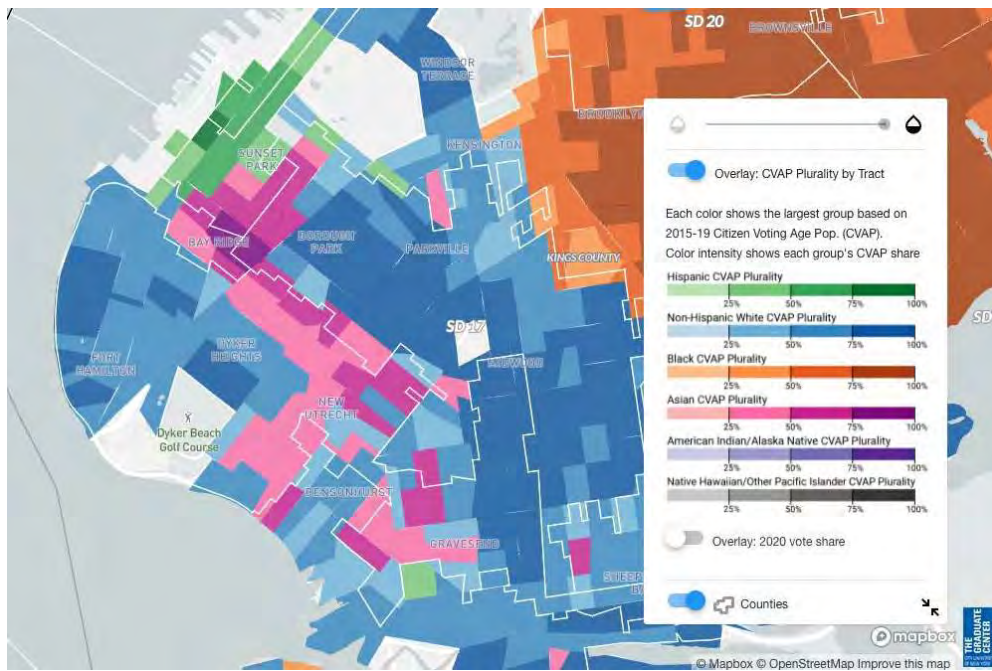
A Neighborhood Divided

Brooklyn's Sunset Park was once defined by the docks where its largely white residents worked — only to change dramatically after the region's ports mostly moved to New Jersey in 1958.

Today, in addition to a sizable Hispanic population, the area is home to a large number of Asian residents and businesses, part of a revival that is redefining commercial strips in several southern Brooklyn neighborhoods.

But walking north on the area's bustling Eighth Avenue corridor, with scores of Asian-owned businesses, a short stroll from 46th street to 39th street takes a pedestrian through three different State Senate districts.

Those districts and two others in southern Brooklyn are home to more than 220,000 Asian residents. But because the population is splintered into three districts, activists argue they can't effectively rally around a political candidate.



The Brooklyn neighborhood of [Sunset Park](#), upper left, is divided between three state Senate districts. | [Redistricting & You/CUNY Center for Urban Research \(redistrictingandyou.org\)](#)

The lines were drawn a decade ago by Albany Republicans with the objective of diluting downstate Democrats’ power.

“It’s always said that we don’t vote in the right numbers, but no one ever talks about how our communities are gerrymandered that even if we all would come out to vote it would not make a difference,” said Don Lee, the chairperson of Homecrest Community Services, a nonprofit that provides meals, translation services and social events for Asian American immigrants and seniors.

Homecrest was started in 1997 after its founders saw Asian seniors riding the N train daily to Chinatown in Manhattan to receive social services in a language they could understand. Today, activists say that there are still many needs that aren’t being met for vulnerable Asian residents.

Many Asians in New York City were born outside of the U.S., and the need is pressing for services offered in languages other than English. As of 2018, 21.7% of Asian New Yorkers lived in poverty, according to an annual City Hall survey, [higher](#) than the city overall rate.

‘No Rhyme or Reason’

Yet, nonprofits and civic groups say it's difficult to get the ear of elected officials to support these communities.

“The most active in Sunset Park is Senator [Zellnor] Myrie, but he definitely does spend more time in the Crown Heights neighborhood that he also represents because that is the majority of his district,” said Mon Yuck Yu, vice president and chief of staff of the Academy of Medical and Public Health Services, which focuses on helping immigrant New Yorkers.

“A lot of resources go there and Sunset Park is seeing less. In terms of the other senators that represent Sunset Park, we've hardly seen any active outreach or activity or funding levels coming into the neighborhood.”

Matt Baer, a spokesperson for Myrie, said that the senator's office does a “particularly good job” at representing constituents in Sunset Park — and that there is no “rhyme or reason” as to how the lines were drawn for the district.

“I couldn't find anybody to defend why Brownsville and Sunset Park are in the same district,” Baer said. “I don't think any rational person could explain why the lines are drawn the way they are.”

State Sen. Diane Savino (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn), whose two-borough district juts into Sunset Park, agreed that the neighborhood was overly divided in the last redistricting cycle.

“This time there should be an effort to provide more complete representation. A Senate district is always going to be difficult,” said Savino. The redistricting commission, she said, “should examine whether this form of gerrymandering is fair to anyone.”



Brooklyn State Senator Simcha Felder attends a meeting in Albany, March 20, 2019. | Photo Courtesy of NY Senate Media Services

Not all of its reps see the division of Sunset Park as unfair.

State Sen. Simcha Felder, whose predominantly Borough Park and Midwood district includes small slice of Sunset Park, said that “since the beginning of creation, every part of the district complains that the other part is getting more attention.”

He said he’s allotted a “disproportionate amount” of attention and resources to Sunset Park.

A decade ago, the Republicans who controlled the state Senate created his Brooklyn district with the objective of electing an Orthodox Jewish state senator to help support GOP control — a possible precedent for creating an Asian-centered district now.

Drawing New Lines

Over the past 10 years, the number of Asian residents in Brooklyn increased by more than 110,000, to nearly 371,000, far outpacing any other racial group, the latest Census figures show.

Activists see an opportunity to unite Sunset Park, Bensonhurst and Sheepshead Bay — the three Asian population centers of Brooklyn — into a Senate district that could elect an Asian senator.

Dr. Wah Lee, a lifelong Bensonhurst resident who has a private medical practice in the neighborhood, said he hopes a unified district brings more focused attention to issues like the [increase in assaults on Asian New Yorkers](#).

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Said Lee: “If there were enough services the citizens wouldn’t have to do this on their own.”

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QUEENS Daily Eagle

Vol. 67, No. 86

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021

50¢

QUEENS TODAY
AUGUST 16, 2021

U.S. REP. GRACE MENG IS ENCOURAGING families to check their bank accounts to make sure that they received the second installment of their expanded Child Tax Credit payment, which started July 15. "Last month, hardworking middle-class families in New York and across the United States began receiving these monthly tax cut payments, and I'm glad to see that the second round of funds is now being sent out," Meng said. "These tax cuts will put money back in the pockets of families as we work to tackle the pandemic, move forward with our recovery, and get our economy back on track."

JAMAICA RESIDENT TYRONE Absolam, 42, was arraigned Friday by a grand jury on a 16-count indictment with charges including aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular manslaughter and driving while intoxicated for allegedly driving drunk and killing a mother and her 10-year-old daughter. He faces up to 25 year if convicted. "As alleged, a family now mourns the loss of a mother and her 10 year-old daughter because of the defendant's selfish decision to ignore the rules of the road," Katz said. "Drunk driving is never acceptable."

THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN announced that Catholic schools will have a mask mandate for all students, faculty, and staff when classes begin on Sept. 8. "This is the most responsible approach to take when we begin the new school year," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Chadzutko. "I know the return to these safety measures is not the situation parents, teachers or students were hoping for in the 2021-2022 school year, but we cannot ignore the trends."

A 22-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT MORE than a dozen times outside the K-Show Bar in Flushing early Friday morning, NBC reported.

A BAYSIDE GRANDMA UNVEILED A Free Little Library on Thursday in honor of the newest member of the family, Patch reported. Patricia Manley Silverman told Patch she hopes the dedication will help inspire her first grandchild to love reading. "There'll be a lot of foot traffic, and people can just walk by on the sidewalk and help themselves," Silverman said.

JAMAICA CENTER WAS NAMED among the city's most stress-inducing subway stations after 67 percent of respondents said they experienced frustration, according to a Fleet Logging report.

Queens' grows by over 7 percent, census shows



Queens' population grew by 7.8 percent over the past decade, according to 2020 Census data. The borough is now home to over 2.4 million people.

Photo via Wikimedia Commons

By Rachel Vick and Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

After a landmark effort to ensure a complete count in the 2020 Census, the results are in and Queens is up.

The World's Borough grew by 7.8 percent in the past decade, according to early data released by the U.S. Census Bureau. With

2,405,464 people in Queens, the borough is the second most populous in the city.

Only Brooklyn grew more in the past decade.

The data was released in an effort to aid states in their attempt to draw new electoral district lines, a process that began in New York last month.

The Independent Redistricting Commission, the body tasked with drawing the lines, began a listening tour in July and heard feedback from over 100 Queens residents who mostly said the old lines divided communities and weakened political power for Queens residents of color throughout the borough.

Continued on page 16

Transwomen call for violence to end in Queens

By Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

A group of transwomen gathered in Jackson Heights last week to demand an end to violence against trans and queer people.

Organized by Make the Road New York and supported by lawmakers Sen. Jessica Ramos and Assemblymembers Catalina Cruz and Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, the group spoke out against several instances of trans and queer violence from inside Lorena Borjas Triangle, a pedestrian square recently renamed for the trans activist who called Queens her home.

Make the Road reported that it had been notified of six instances of trans or gender non-conforming people being assaulted in Brooklyn and Queens in the past week.

Jennifer, one of the trans women who spoke at the rally, said that she had been attacked in Jackson Heights over the weekend while waiting for a taxi.

"Last Saturday, while my friends and I waited for a taxi we were attacked by a man who threw rocks and glass bottles at us," said Jennifer, a Queens resident. "I ran away, but fell down, and the man continued to attack me. I tried to fight to save my life and ended up

Continued on page 2



Jennifer, a trans woman from Queens, spoke about a recent attack in Jackson Heights that left her in a sling, at a rally against trans violence last week.

Photo via Make the Road/Twitter

NYC Asian activists seek to turn surging population into electoral power

By Christine Chung, Clifford Michel, and Will Welch
THE CITY

New Census numbers out Thursday show a robust 7.7% population increase for New York City since 2010 — and even bigger surges for Asian New Yorkers at a time when Asian candidates and community groups are moving to build out political power.

In Queens, the Asian population grew 29%, to nearly 706,000 out of 2.4 million residents — far outpacing the borough's overall 7.8% population growth.

In Brooklyn, the number of Asian residents counted by the Census swelled to nearly 420,000, a nearly 43% increase from 2010, compared with a 9.2% hike in the borough's population overall.

With strength in numbers, New York City's diverse Asian communities are organizing to build political power that reflects them and their needs, as a state commission readies to redraw congressional and state legislative district lines.

"In the past, they would divide a neighborhood or a community who they felt were not politically engaged or were not visible," said Elizabeth OuYang, who is coordinating a redistricting task force composed of 20 Asian community groups across the city. "We are going to make sure that we are very visible in this redistricting round."

The new coalition is already at work to break down what members call artificial borders dividing communities and leaving them shorthanded on elected leadership and public services.

Case in point: Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. These Queens neighborhoods have more Asian residents — including many of Guyanese, Trinidadian or Punjabi heritage — than Black or white ones, past population surveys have shown.

Yet these hubs of Asian life in Queens are currently sliced into seven different Assembly districts — making it difficult for the communities to coalesce around a representative focused on their priorities or receive services tailored to their language, dietary or other needs, activists say.

"For us, redistricting is not an academic exercise, nor simply a mathematical equation. It means power, accountability, and equal access to services that we are entitled to for the next 10 years," OuYang said.

No Representation

Every decade, following the U.S. Census, lawmakers redraw district lines to reflect population changes, with the goal of achieving equal representation. By law, and backed by litigation, so-called communities of interest, such as racial groups, are not supposed to be divided in a way to weaken their political power.

This year, for the first time in New York, the process for seats in Congress and the state Senate and Assembly is being overseen by an independent commission.

Its 10 members are largely appointed by the party leaders of the state Legislature, and working under updated rules that explicitly require equal apportionment and compact districts, while forbidding racial discrimination.

Queens and Brooklyn residents packed online hearings last month to voice concerns about what they described as divisive lines thwarting their chances of electing representation.

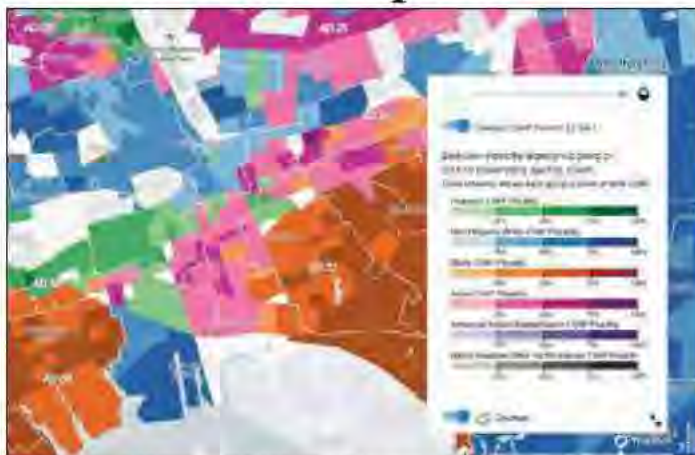
For much of the July 22 Queens hearing's five hours, the focus was on Richmond Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. During the July 29 Brooklyn hearing, speakers pointed out that despite continued Asian population growth in southern Brooklyn neighborhoods such as Bensonhurst and Sheepshead Bay, Asian residents are outnumbered in every single Assembly and Senate district as currently drawn.

Brooklyn has no Asian representatives in the state Senate or Assembly, Congress or City Council.

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The Queens neighborhood of Richmond Hill (center) is split between seven Assembly districts. Redistricting & You/CUNY Center for Urban Research (redistrictingandyou.org)

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'No Rhyme or Reason'

Yet, nonprofits and civic groups say it's dif-



The southern side of 8th Ave. at 46th St. in Sunset Park, Brooklyn which is in a different Senate district than the northern side of the street. Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY

icult to get the ear of elected officials to support these communities.

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THE CITY is an independent, nonprofit news outlet dedicated to hard-hitting reporting that serves the people of New York.

Census data shows big growth in Queens

Continued from page 1

Ivan Garcia, national political director for Make the Road, said that the lines drawn after the 2010 Census did not evenly distribute populations or represent communities — a wrong that “must be fixed in the next map.”

“This process should center the needs of the community, not political parties,” Garcia said. “In an ideal world a benefit is any growth anywhere should see fair representation, that the representation would reflect the increase.”

“We already saw in the last state senate map that Queens, and in reality all of New York City, got disproportionately low representation,” he added. “One of the challenges is what we’ve seen time and again of politics as usual.”

Queens residents will have another chance to provide comments on redistricting after the committee completes and submits a first draft to the State Legislature.

The commission will release their first draft Sept. 15.

Queens, which saw significant change in its population, could potentially see that change reflected in its electoral maps.

The borough has around a dozen Assembly Districts that have fewer people than the average district, meaning the lines will be redrawn to include more people, according to maps provided by the CUNY Graduate Center.

The Asian population in Queens grew by 29 percent and is heavily represented throughout northwest, central and eastern Queens.



Some Queens residents hope the census data will help reshape the electoral lines drawn throughout Queens, including in Richmond Hill, which is divided among several Assembly Districts.

Map via nyc.gov

According to the data, the borough is 25.8 percent white, 16.8 percent Black, 27.5 percent Asian, 10.1 percent two or more races, 1.3 percent American Indian or Alaskan Native and 0.1 percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Around 27 percent of 2020 Census respondents in Queens said they were Hispanic or Latino.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards celebrated the borough’s growth in both population and diversity.

“The large jump in our borough’s population underscores what we in Queens have

known for a long time; that Queens truly is a fantastic place to live and raise a family,” Richards said in a statement. “My heartfelt appreciation goes to all of the 2.4 million people who make Queens their home, including the more than one million people who have come here from across the globe to build new lives in ‘The World’s Borough.’”

New York City as a whole also experienced a decade of growth and remains the city with the largest population in the country.

The growth was echoed across metro areas in the U.S., which grew by 9 percent in the past

decade. Around 86 percent of all people in the country live in a metropolitan area.

However, New York City’s growth wasn’t consistent across the state.

Steve Romalewski, the director of CUNY Mapping Service, said that though the state will be down one congressional seat, it will most likely be lost from a region upstate. Districts in New York City and Long Island are juggling the need to meet state averages within a small margin of error and balanced populations.

“Because of tremendous population growth in New York City, pressure will be downstate in terms of how district lines will be drawn,” Romalewski said. “Where the lines are redrawn and how that turns out is the question.”

Romalewski said that “the real issue is making sure districts are drawn fairly and that they reflect the communities” but with the additional public awareness this year and changes to both the requirements and redistricting process “there’s hope.”

The Independent Redistricting Commission, which is made up of four Democratic and four Republican appointed members, is scheduled to submit its final maps to the State Legislature by January 2022.

New Yorkers will vote on a ballot measure that includes redistricting reform in November. If the measure passes, the commission’s timeline will be moved up and it will be required to submit the final draft to the legislature earlier in the month of January than it is currently scheduled to.

Queens Community Board to vote on member’s expulsion proceedings

By Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

Queens Community Board 7 will meet Monday to vote on whether or not to expel member John Choe from its ranks.

The vote will center around several alleged instances of Choe’s misconduct. The accusations, brought by the board’s Vice Chair Chuck Apelian in May, range from slander to violating the rules of the Campaign Finance Board. Choe has repeatedly denied committing any wrongdoing.

A simple majority either way will determine Choe’s future with the board.

The meeting, being held at 7 p.m. at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Whitestone, comes after a five-person special committee created by the board’s chair, Eugene Kelty, voted unanimously to bring four of the five charges against Choe to the full board.

Choe, who was invited to the special committee meeting to defend himself, chose not to show because he didn’t want to give the proceedings any “credibility.”

Choe told the Eagle Friday that he plans to show up to the Monday meeting and give a statement on his behalf.

“I feel, not just for my own sake but for the sake of the community, I need to really call out the community board’s executive committee for pushing such false charges in a very transparent attempt to silence [disseminate],” Choe said.

Prior to the special committee’s July meeting, the full board voted 42-3 with one abstention in June to begin the process of hearing the allegations against Choe, who recently finished third in his City Council race in District 20.

Apelian declined to comment ahead of Monday’s meeting.

Choe said he suspects the outcome to be similar to the previous meetings and that come Tuesday, he’ll be off the board.

“This is a very tightly run community board.”



Community Board 7 will meet on Monday at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Whitestone to vote on whether or not to expel member John Choe.

Photo via Google Maps

he said. “They don’t schedule meetings unless they know what the vote will be ahead of time.”

Apelian alleges that Choe violated the City Charter on multiple occasions as a member of the board.

The special committee found cause on the allegations that Choe violated the charter by emailing his fellow board members requesting campaign contributions, started an unauthorized Facebook group for the board, had a poor attendance record and defamed members of the board by accusing them of being corrupt.

The special committee didn’t find cause on the fifth and final allegation brought by Apelian, which alleged that Choe told then-acting Borough President Sharon Lee that his opinion could be swayed “for the right price” during a hearing on the Flushing Waterfront Development plan in February 2020. Choe’s comment

was met with laughter at the Borough Board meeting and the special committee said the context didn’t warrant moving forward with the allegation.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards reappointed Choe to the board in April, despite City Councilmember Peter Koo recommending against it.

In a statement to the Eagle Friday, the borough president’s office said it was the office’s policy “to consider and address specific complaints regarding community board conduct in a confidential manner.”

Koo did not respond to request for comment. In December 2020, Kelty filed a formal complaint against Choe with the city’s Conflicts of Interest Board concerning his campaign fundraising email sent to board members.

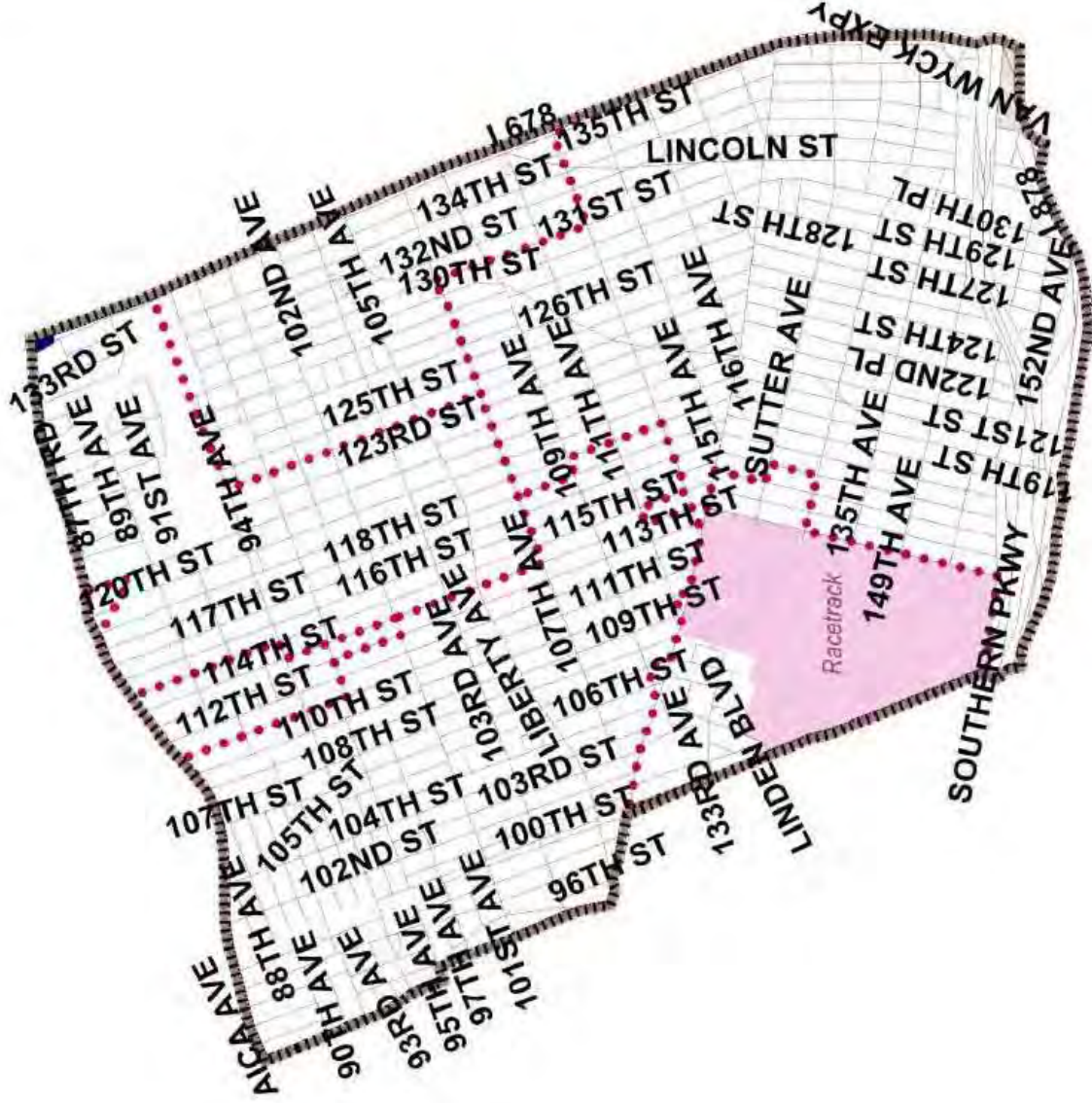
A COIB spokesperson told the Eagle that

they are unable to disclose “whether it has received a complaint, is pursuing an investigation of a matter, has initiated an enforcement action against a public servant, or even whether a case exists involving a public servant unless or until the Board issues a public disposition in such case.”

Regardless of the outcome of Monday’s meeting, Choe said he’s worried that the entire process the executive committee has brought against him will have a chilling effect on dissent within the board.

“My concern is that it will send the wrong message that people shouldn’t get involved and speak up because what people may interpret from what’s going on is that the establishment has so much power that there’s really no tolerance for different views and perspectives,” he said.

Richmond Hill- South Ozone Park



POPULATION	133,260
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	+4,073 (+3.2%)
% HISPANIC	27.6%
% NH WHITE	7.9%
% NH BLACK	19.4%
% NH ASIAN	25.5%



Ozone Park



POPULATION	68,070
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	-61,117 (-47.3%)
% HISPANIC	45.1%
% NH WHITE	26.9%
% NH BLACK	5.9%
% NH ASIAN	16.3%

