

November 14, 2021

Queens County Meeting (November 17, 2021)

Thank you, Commissioners for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Nancy Linn and I am a long-time resident of Kew Gardens Hills (25 years) and I am Asian. I am registered to vote in Congressional District #6, Assembly District #27, and City Council District #24.

I believe the interests and concerns of Asians in the Kew Gardens Hills, Pomonok, and Electchester neighborhoods will be better represented if these communities were combined with Hillcrest, Fresh Meadows, and Queensboro under Assembly District #25 (currently represented by Nily Rozic). There is power in numbers and Hillcrest, Fresh Meadows, and Queensboro each has a significant Asian population.

It should be noted that there has always been an Asian presence in the first three named neighborhoods, particularly Kew Gardens Hills (at least for the last 46 years) and it has only grown. The last two Censuses verifies what I have personally witnessed (see below table). Therefore, the Asians of Kew Gardens Hills, Pomonok, and Electchester deserve elected officials that will acknowledge the challenges they face, listen to their voices and work to help them gain equitable access to social services funded by their tax dollars. For example, it has been reported that Asians have suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic, from food insecurity to violent attacks. There isn't even a food bank providing food specific to this community in Kew Gardens Hills.

Kew Gardens Hills	Asian Population	Percentage
2020 Census	9,706	27%
2010 Census	6,160	18%
Pomonok, Electchester, Hillcrest	Asian Population	Percentage
2020 Census	12,061	33.8%
2010 Census	10,310	30.6%

Lastly, a report issued by the Asian American Federation in April 2021 stated that the Asian population will continue to grow and even urged elected officials to do more to support their Asian constituents. I never heard of Daniel Rosenthal, neither have my Asian neighbors, until I started writing this testimony and needed to find out who my current Assemblyperson is. I have heard of Nily Rozic and understand that she is more inclusive in her representation of her constituents. This is why I hope this commission will take this once a decade opportunity to see a long ignored segment of the population of AD #27 and redraw the district so that Kew Gardens Hills, Pomonok, and Electchester be included under AD #25 and unite the Asian constituents of these neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy Linn