



**New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
Queens County Public Hearing**

**York College (CUNY)
94-20 Guy R Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11451**

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Written Testimony

Good Afternoon Commissioners,

My name is Isabella Fernandes. I am the Community Outreach Coordinator of the [Caribbean Equality Project](https://www.caribbeanequalityproject.org), a community-based organization in South Queens that empowers, advocates for, and represents Afro and Indo-Caribbean LGBTQ+ immigrants in New York City. We are a proud member of the APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force.

I am a Trans asylum seeker from Guyana who found a new home and community in Richmond Hill, Queens. For the past two years, I have witnessed how Little Guyana has been devastated by COVID-19, which is home to New York City's 4th largest foreign-born population, the Guyanese community

I support the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's draft map, AD 24, for Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park. I applaud the commission for listening to my fellow community members who came before you to advocate for justice for Richmond Hill through redistricting. I stand before you as an immigrant who will directly benefit from the resources this historically gerrymandered community of interest will gain in the next 10 years, including immigration, housing, and health services.

Today, I am calling on the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission to vote on approving AD 24 because we deserve to be kept united and not divided.

Thank you for hearing our collective voices by drafting an equitable map that unites Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park into a single New York State Assembly District.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at isabellad@caribbeanequalityproject.org.

Sincerely,

Isabella Fernandes
Community Outreach Coordinator
Caribbean Equality Project

SAMEASIRC DRAFT AD 24

Queens – Richmond Hill & South Ozone Park

IRC Draft Map Voting Age Population	Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Native	Pacific
	20,696 19.1%	29,360 27.2%	37,528 34.7%	8,272 7.7%	5,752 5.3%	1,031 1.0%