



**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 Mohamed Q. Amin. I am the Founder and Executive Director of [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.

As a Queer, Indo-Caribbean Muslim immigrant from Guyana, Richmond Hill, Queens, has been my home for over 17 years. For the past decade, I have witnessed the growth and development of my community and its lack of resources. Little Guyana in Richmond Hill and Little Punjab in South Ozone Park are home to New York City's thriving South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities in Queens.

I support the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's draft map, AD 24, for Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park. Over the past two years, we have seen the power of visibility—the power of community and the power of Asian diversity. Our people-powered redistricting advocacy and impact were seen and heard throughout the state. It highlighted our cultural similarities, faith, and ethnic languages and that our community cares about this issue. After decades of advocacy, our community of interest has been drawn into a single NYS Assembly district for the first time in history.

In 2020 and 2021, the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities came out in record numbers to testify virtually and in person to advocate for justice for Richmond Hill through redistricting. I stand before you again to continue fighting for my politically disenfranchised and gerrymandered community. You have the power correct decades of neglect and create a future that will secure resources for the next 10 years, such as LGBTQ+ services, immigration services, solutions to combat hate crimes, funding for community-based organizations, and voter education outreach to continue building political power.

Today, I am calling on the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission to vote on approving AD 24 because we deserve to be 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 phone me at (347) 709-3179 or email me at mohamed@CaribbeanEqualityProject.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Amin', written in a cursive style.

Mohamed Q. Amin
Founder & Executive Director
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% |