

Good evening, my name is Adrienne Adams. I am a member of the National Action Network, the NAACP and of Community Board 12. I am also a Queens native and a resident of district 28 for over 23 years. My community has had its issues in the past, but we are rebuilding, restructuring and rebounding as never before. It is no accident that the redistricting commission chooses to hold hearings on re-drawing district maps that will ultimately disenfranchise the majority of people who have lived and worked there all of their lives.

The most recent census results will have negative financial repercussions for Queens for years to come. The inclusion of a larger population of undocumented residents resulting from moving the existing district line will most assuredly set the current population of district 28 back in spite of our recent milestones forward.

The fact that this commission would even consider such a move – a move to be in blatant violation of the New York City Charter, is most disturbing. Article 52b clearly states: “Such districting plan shall be established in a manner that ensures the fair and effective representation of the racial and language minority groups in New York city which are protected by the United States voting rights act of nineteen hundred sixty-five, as amended.” Article 52c goes on to further state: “District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other.”

My question is, for what or whose purpose is the consideration of re-drawing the map to change the make-up of district 28, and why would this commission consider breaking the law in order to accomplish it?

ALLIANCE OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN LABOR (ASAAL)

P.O. BOX 1698, NEW YORK, NY 10008

E-mail: asaal08@gmail.com



January 13, 2012

NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

I am the President of the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (“ASAAL”), a community-based organization comprised of South Asian Americans that are part of the trade unionist movement. We are a membership-based organization with chapters in Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens. I also serve as the Treasurer of DC 37, and the President of Local 1407.

I am also a resident of the Jamaica Hill and Briarwood community of interest. I am here to bring to your attention the mistake you have made by dividing the Jamaica Hill and Briarwood community at 150th Street and Hillside Avenue. This community is united in the presently enacted version of the 24th Council District currently represented by Jim Gennaro, and should stay that way. I want to remind you that your mission under the New York City Charter is to preserve communities of interest and not divide them. Changing the boundaries of the 24th Council District in this manner is a step in the wrong direction and a violation of your duties as a commission.

The Jamaica Hills and Briarwood community is one of the most substantial concentrations of South Asian Americans in New York. Our community’s presence is clearly felt along the Hillside Avenue commercial strip, which is found on either side of 150th street. Our families live, pray, and shop on both sides of 150th street. Why would you divide us?

These communities not only share a similar racial identity and immigration history, but also language, rates of homeownership, family structure and common political interests. Jamaica Hills and Briarwood must be kept together. There is no legitimate justification for this change.

We implore you to keep our community united and adhere to your duties under the Charter of the City of New York to preserve communities of interest.

Sincerely,

Maf Misbah Uddin
President, ASAAL

Empowerment through Education, Activism, and Participation

BISHOP CHARLES L. NORRIS SR.

St. Albans, N.Y 11412

Phone: 718 / Cell; 3

January 14, 2013

LaGuardia Community College
31-10 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

Redistricting in New York City

I trust you will not do what Gov. Andrew Cuomo did to the LATFOR Commission. He promised not to accept their recommendations; yet he signed off on every one. Please look at what you are doing because it is of the utmost importance.

The way the lines are drawn can keep a community together or split it apart, leaving it without a representative who feels responsible for its concerns. The way the lines are drawn can change who wins an election. Ultimately, the way the lines are drawn can change who controls the city and what laws get passed.

The Mayor (7 members) and Council leaders (8 members) appoint the members of the 15-member Districting Commission to take on this task. The Commission works to redraw lines with the data, process, and criteria required by federal law, the 2010 US Census Bureau data, and the New York City Charter. The Commission appointments should represent members of the racial and language minority groups protected by the Voting Rights Act, in proportion to their population in New York City.

The redistricting plan must be established in a manner that ensures the fair and effective representation of the racial and language minority groups in New York City which are protected by the Voting Rights Act. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1)(b) (2004). District lines should keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, Section 52(1)(c) (2004).

What about Preclearance?

In New York City, New York County (Manhattan), Kings County (Brooklyn) and Bronx County are covered jurisdictions under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. As a "covered"

jurisdiction, the City of New York must submit its redistricting plan to the federal government – either the Department of Justice or a three-judge panel of the District Court for Washington DC – to obtain “preclearance” or approval of its plan once it is determined that the new districts do not weaken the voting strength of the racial and ethnic minorities in the covered counties. The plan may not go into effect until approval or “preclearance” is received from the federal government.

I am quite sure that this redistricting commission knows what it is doing when it takes the Community of Richmond Hill, which was once divided up among four City Council Districts, majority of which fell in Council Member Ulrich’s district, and splits it into two and puts most of it in the 28th District. Putting half of the residents of Richmond Hill in District 28 is a sure way to guarantee that the “Others” will not be represented; the Blacks, most certainly won’t be represented.

I was under the impression that this commission was one that operated with the interest of keeping communities with similar interests together as well as making ethical decisions. The inclusion of Richmond Hill in this district is going to create MAJOR problems.

Let’s look at a couple of them:

- Schools: are already overcrowded and underfunded schools WILL see an increase in enrollment due to the fact that there are so many undocumented families. How effective will the DOE be in mitigating this issue??

- a. More Modular classes?
- b. More Students to a classroom?
- c. Bussing out the district?

--- Capital Funding:

- a. Richmond Hill HS has not been funded for 10 years until now. It has just been granted over \$1.5 million for an upgrade in it infrastructure and technology.

In conclusion please don’t drawn the lines to take away the little power blacks have attained and empower others at our expense.

Bishop Charles L. Norris, Sr.

Good evening. My name is Florence Williams- Johnson and I was born and raised in South East Queens. I am still a resident and home owner in Districts 28 and 27.

As a resident of this community for 57 years, I have some serious concerns about maintaining fair representation by my elected officials. This is a predominantly and historically Black community of Middle Class families and one and two family homes.

I find the attempt to skew the lines to create a new majority that includes Asian, Hispanic and Other, a clear attempt to disenfranchise my Historically Black community and is at the very least dishonest and possibly illegal and in violation of the word and spirit of the NYC Charter Article 52, paragraph B, which I have attached here.

I have lived in this community, my small town, through its lowest point and question why now. Why now, when we are set to be central to the largest revitalization projects in the city's history? Why now, when the schools, parks and general infrastructure are being updated? Why now, when construction, new business and job opportunities are sure to come to our community, is it being taken from us and given to others?

I submit that this is a clearly racist attempt to empower one group of people at the expense of the historically Black community that has held on, working for the change that is about to come. This community is overwhelmingly BLACK. We are not BLIND nor are we SLEEPING. To draw the lines to skew the numbers is nothing less than an attempt to disenfranchise our community and a more than a disturbing scheme to deprive the Black community of South Jamaica of its proper representation.

From: [Hum, Carl](#)
To: [Ettricks, Jonathan](#); [Bassett, Justin](#)
Subject: Fw: PETITION TO KEEP LEFFERTS BOULEVARD AS THE BOUNDARY LINE BELOW ROCKAWAY
Date: Friday, February 01, 2013 1:16:24 PM

To be posted...

From: garthmarchant02 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 01:15 PM
To: Hum, Carl
Subject: PETITION TO KEEP LEFFERTS BOULEVARD AS THE BOUNDARY LINE BELOW ROCKAWAY

**PETITION TO KEEP LEFFERTS BOULEVARD AS THE BOUNDARY LINE BELOW ROCKAWAY,
AND 100 STREET AS THE BOUNDARY LINE ABOVE ROCKAWAY**

Please do not change the Lefferts Boulevard boundary below Rockaway any further west. Our children's school MS 226 is located at 121-10 ROCKAWAY BOULEVARD, **QUEENS**, NY 11420-MS 226 (with PS 124, which is not in dispute as it is in CD 28). We will accept your configuration above Rockaway Blvd to 100/102 Streets as you see fit, BUT the BIGGER goal is that you do not move it westwards from Lefferts towards Van Wyck!

Many organizations, community leaders, advocates, elected officials, priests, organizations, committees, block associations join me in this petition, including: District Leader Albert Baldeo, State Committeeman Taj Rajkumar, Indo Caribbean Alliance, RH Economic Development Corporation, Queens Leaders United, Rajkumari Cultural Center, GOPIO, AALDEF, Taking Our Seat, United Communities Alliance, Queens Bar Association, Sikh Friendship Society, Guyanese American Workers United, Indo Caribbean Federation, SE Queens Clergy, Bangladeshi Friendship Society and others.

Respectfully submitted.
SE Queens Concerned Leaders

Ettricks, Jonathan

From: Hum, Carl
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 2:48 PM
To: Bassett, Justin
Cc: Hackworth, Thaddeus; Ettricks, Jonathan
Subject: FW: CD 28, the Voting Rights Act, NYC Charter etc.

Another to be posted for CD 28

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 2:47 PM
To: Hum, Carl
Subject: CD 28, the Voting Rights Act, NYC Charter etc.

Dear NYC Redistricting Commission:

We once again reiterate and remind you that Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park should be kept together within City Council 28, both as a matter of compliance with the relevant laws, common sense and justice. You need to draw the western boundary further west towards Woodhaven, and include John Adams High School, PS 65, MS 137 (School of Heroes), the 106 police precinct, Jama Masjid, Trimurti Bhavan Temple, and others. 103rd Street and Lefferts below Rockaway do not go far enough for the western boundary!

Moreover, we are deeply offended and disturbed at the divisive, and racist comments made by Council member Ruben Wills and his hired cronies who testified at the last commission hearing. Note that these individuals who want to suppress, divide and exclude "other minority groups" from representation and inclusion in our democracy do not reflect the popular belief in SE Queens. They merely serve Wills narrow self interests. This is the only time they attended, and we are told that they were hired, and did not testify truthfully. He has desperately instigated Queens Delegation Chair Leroy Comrie, who is being used as a pawn to carry out Wills misconceived and malicious intent to put the lines back, and to denigrate the honorable and commendable steps taken by your commission.

You will be doing a serious injustice if you follow Wills and his cronies. It is divisive, racist, and has no place in America. It is extremely disgusting and painful to hear this just when we celebrated President Obama's second inauguration, and Dr. King's birthday. Do not put our community back. Move us forward, including keeping the South Asians and Indo Caribbeans, and Hispanics, and other minorities together within CD 28. As an African American leader myself, I wish to advise you that reverse racism is repugnant to our ideals as Americans.

Wills has attacked myself and other leaders in the past on several occasions, ridiculing us why we supporting "those Asians" and we should be "supporting his own kind" instead. The large number of immigrants and minorities deserve representation. It's a constitutional right.

Please comply with the law. I have spoken to several community leaders, advocates, elected officials, priests, organizations, committees, block associations-you name them, and they all share this view. They told me that they have submitted testimonies to this effect already, and the record should reflect this- Indo Caribbean Alliance, RH Economic Development Corporation, Queens Leaders United, Rajkumari Cultural Center, GOPIO, AALDEF, Taking Our Seat, United Communities Alliance, Queens Bar Association, Sikh Friendship Society, Guyanese American Workers United, Indo Caribbean Federation, SE Queens Clergy, Bangladeshi Friendship Society and others.

Respectfully submitted.

Garth Marchant
SE Queens Concerned Leaders

KRIS GOUNDEN, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST:

I would like to thank the Community for giving me this opportunity to speak.

My testimony is basically when it does not work, when the redistricting does not work. Ozone Park, Richmond Hill is a community that my family has been in since 1976. We have been victims of redistricting that did not work. The Caribbean, West Indian community has grown throughout Ozone Park through our will to live together. Because of the shape of the voting district, we cannot vote to elect someone who is born of us. We cannot vote for someone who is more likely to speak of our interests. We can raise our children together, but we cannot vote together for one of us born of us who all raises children in the community. Instead the schools in our community do not talk to our child about how we came to America many years ago. The schools in our community act like we have no history and no voice in the City Council to demand that our past be included in our curriculum so that we can have pride and self-respect. This is what school is supposed to be about; self-esteem, self-respect, self-confidence. It is just not other people's history that makes them feel good about themselves. We deserve to feel good about ourselves too. Right now, part of my property has been taken without compensation. Former City Councilman of Howard Beach, Joseph Addabbo, headed the land grab--there was no easement on my property on an official map as required by law.

There was no hearing on the taking of my property as required by law. There was no notice on the taking of my property as required by law. Eminent

Domain Law §208 was never complied with and these local politicians and the judges act like the Law does not have to be complied with when it comes to the Caribbean community. NYPD do not respect our private property, our civil rights, our rights as American citizens.

I took my case to Court. Michael Divernio, a City employee, got up on the witness stand and admitted to the Court; admitted to the City; admitted to all of you that he had no knowledge of the facts of an Affidavit that he signed. That is perjury. Federal Judge Cogan did absolutely nothing about the perjury. The City did nothing about the perjury. The now State Senator, Joe Addabbo, did nothing about that. The current City Councilman, Eric Ulrich did nothing about the land-grab on my property. This is what had been done to the American Indians, now it is being done to the West Indians. And if we do not get some representation that we can trust, it is going to keep happening. We need districting that allows us a voice in the machine. Where is our voice to speak out on the conspiracy between the Judges and those outside of our community?

Our voice is in the redistricting of the voting lines. Our voice is ourselves. Our voice must be heard just like Councilman Barron's voice is heard in his community. As matter of fact, Councilman Barron came out of his district to my house to put a stop to the White Supremacy that is running rampant.

We need to select our own Councilman who can represent us when our homes is under attack, when we are harassed, abused, tortured by politicians; City

agencies without repercussions. We have no way to address our concerns other than doing a lawsuit. The police do their job as per community meetings, which we are not part of. The District Attorney rubber stamps the behavior of which the Judges have zero tolerance attitudes for our people. We have lived on this reservation-type neighborhood to the point that we self-deport ourselves to other U.S. States and other countries. We come together on the Internet to share our experiences of the discrimination by the ruling class that is represented during the John Gotti crime spree that goes back before JFK Airport was idle wild Airport. NYPD 106th , Howard Beach Precinct disbanded for assisting these individuals. Politicians are profiting from their relationships with these activities; politicians, criminals, police within blocks of each other, co-existing with each other all of the same color and kind.

The Federal Government had to come in and stop this blatant abuse of Civil Human Rights to the minority community here in Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. We have been victims of this for much too long of this abuse. Our community needs representation. Our voice is falling on deaf ears without political presence. Our children need to be empowered to see a future here instead of elsewhere. Our people have been bled of our aspirations with the ongoing barrage of ticketing, Summons, violations; and disciplinary action the City wants to impose on us selectively. This system only hurts us when this system is supposed to help us and protect us. Police have memory problems and refuse to enforce the Law. The City refused to produce foiled documents and create damaging paperwork. The District Attorney sleeps on our cases

and moves quickly to punish us. We have meetings with Borough President Helen Marshall with results that just got worse. It is blatant without representation. I have to go to Harlem. I have to go to East New York. I have to go wherever a politician might even listen to me and give me advice that your people have no representation; I cannot go against the established politicians that bend the Law, that twist the law. I have to go to the Federal Court of Appeals. I have become a lawyer now. I am not a lawyer. I am a small business owner being taken advantage by the city that caters to the big business owners...

We are professional people. We are law abiding citizens. We have family in law enforcement. My father retired from New York City. I am a Federal Airmen. We are honest hardworking people, but we see not fruits of our labor. Instead we get the thorns and thistles. This is passionate because it has taken everything that I ever worked for this. It is being made into a documentary, and you will see that in "Holding Out for Justice"; website " Holding Out for Justice.com" That is all I want is justice. All I have asked for is equal treatment. Equal treatment, that is all that I have asked for. That is all everyone here has ever asked for is that you keep the lines so that we can be productive individuals, not leave the country and say how bad it was here. We are the type of people from the Caribbean; wherever we go we will survive. That is my testimony.

Thank you very much: Airmen Kris Gounden 1-14-2013 NYC city council