

My name is Joel Kuszai and I am a member of the Woodhaven Residents Block Association. My wife, son and I live at [REDACTED] Street in Woodhaven. Our home is one block west of Forest Parkway, and about a third of the distance between Park Lane South and Jamaica Avenue.



The northwest corner of Woodhaven, from Forest Parkway to the Brooklyn line, is bordered by Franklin K. Lane High School to the west and Forest Park and its dramatic terrain to the north. Jamaica Avenue, once a plank road, and before that a footpath for during pre-colonial times, connects Cypress

Hills and Brooklyn to Woodhaven and points east.

Currently, this 5x5 block area west of Forest Parkway is included in the 32nd Council District, represented by Council Member Ulrich. The rest of Ulrich's district is further south in Woodhaven, in Ozone Park, Howard Beach the western half of the Rockaway peninsula.

Forest Parkway and the blocks to the east are part of the 30th Council District, represented by Council Member Crowley. Her district includes some of Woodhaven and Richmond Hill, but is mostly comprised of the areas north of Forest Park, Glendale and Maspeth particularly.

At best, our area of Woodhaven is a border region in each of the districts in which we find ourselves. The 2012 state and federal lines mostly have split us off, often from the rest of Woodhaven or, in a kind of panhandle effect typical of redistricting, from the centers of power in each layer of government. At worst, our 5-block by 5-block is afterthought, a dead-zone of political representation.

Like the rest of Woodhaven, we are in the far-eastern section of the 7th Congressional District, far from the population centers of lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. Not only that, residents west of Forest Parkway were moved from Senate District 15, currently represented by Senator Joe Addabbo, and put in District 12, represented by the more-than-honorable Senator Michael Gianaris. However, his district office is in Ditmars, which according

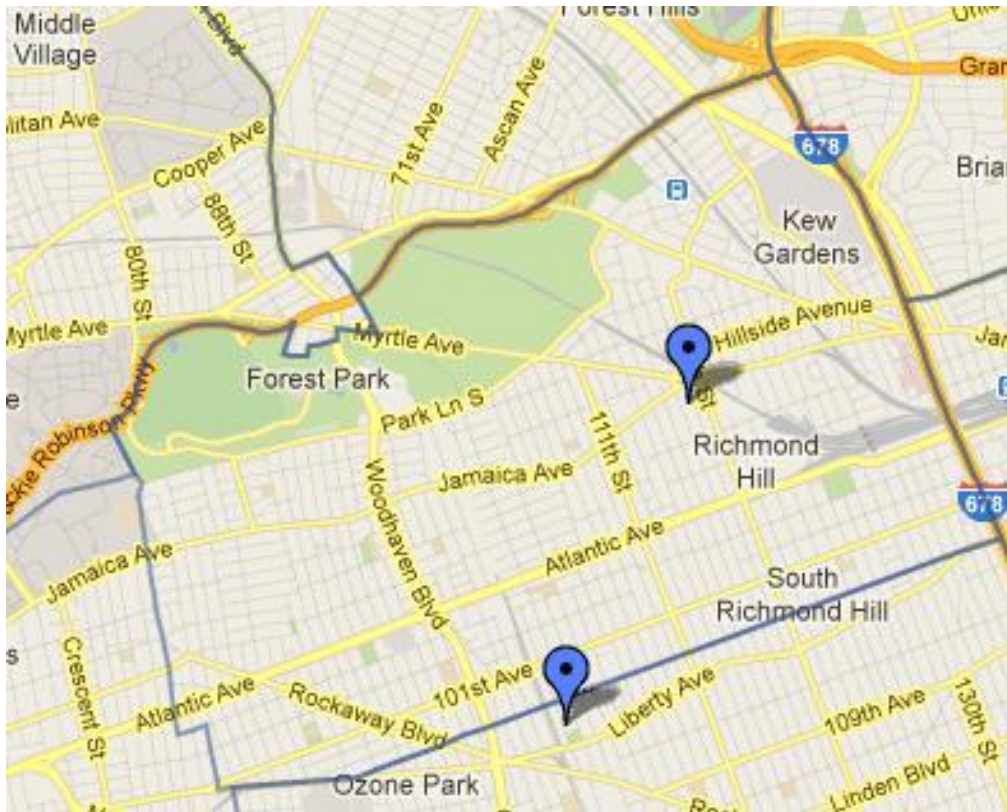
to Google Maps is 12 miles and twenty minutes away on the Grand Central Parkway. However, if I'd like to save 3 miles the walk is only two and a half hours. Obviously, I'd like to continue to have a City Council member I can walk to visit, who knows our area and our concerns – which are the concerns of Woodhaven, east and west, north and south.

Below, I've included maps of the federal, state, and current council maps for our area.

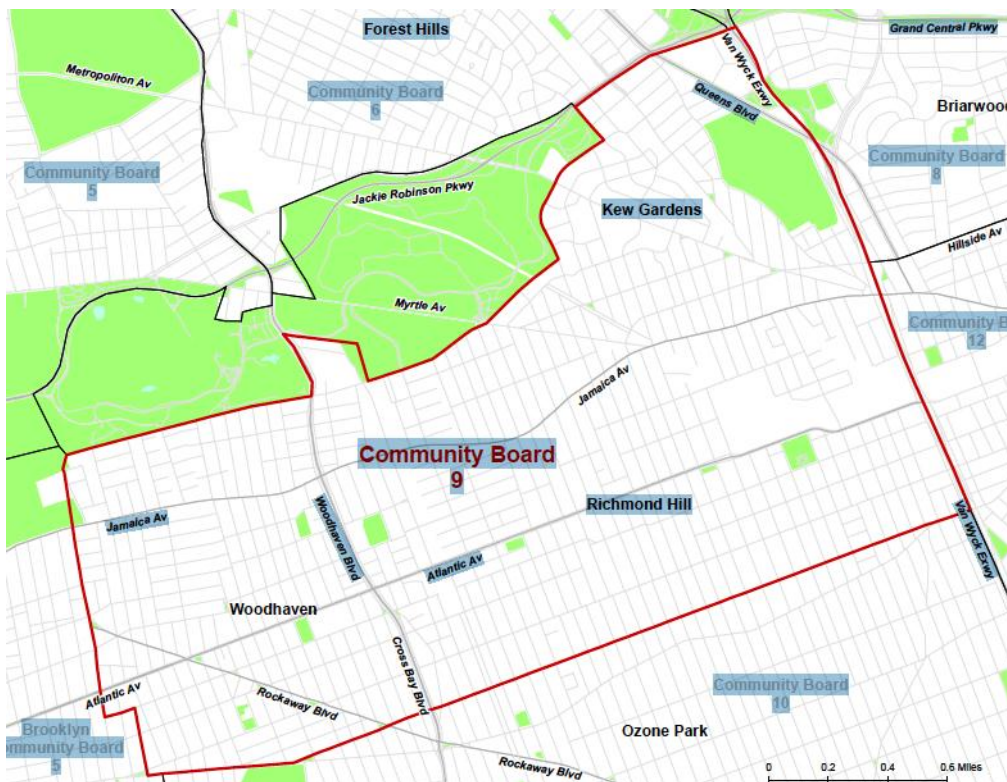
Thank-you very much for your time and attention.



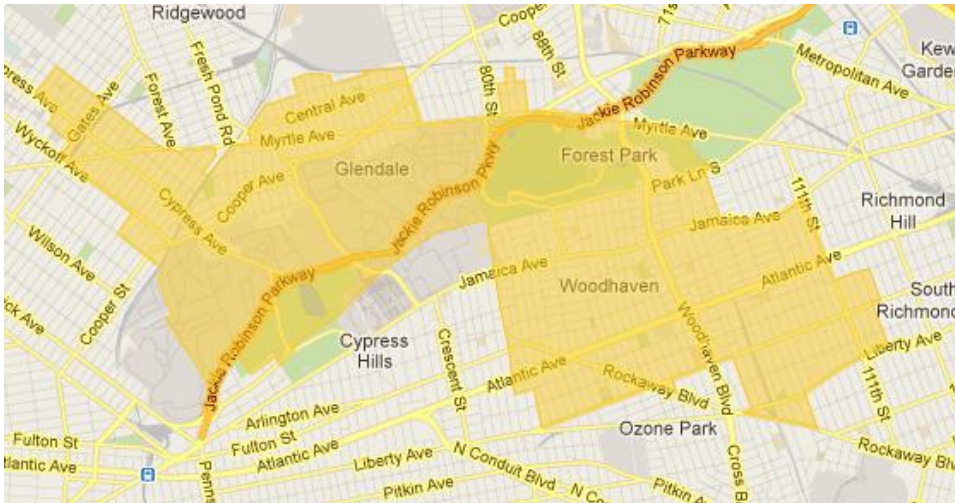
New York City Council District 32 – Current



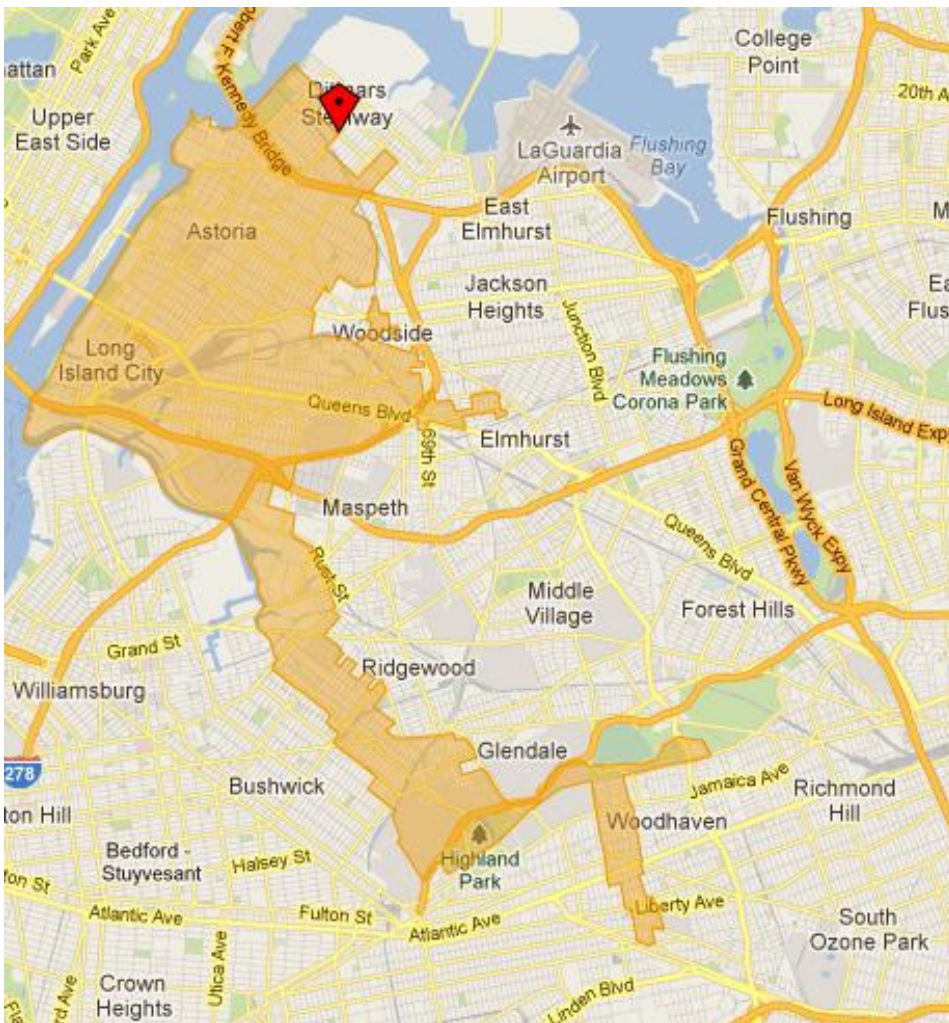
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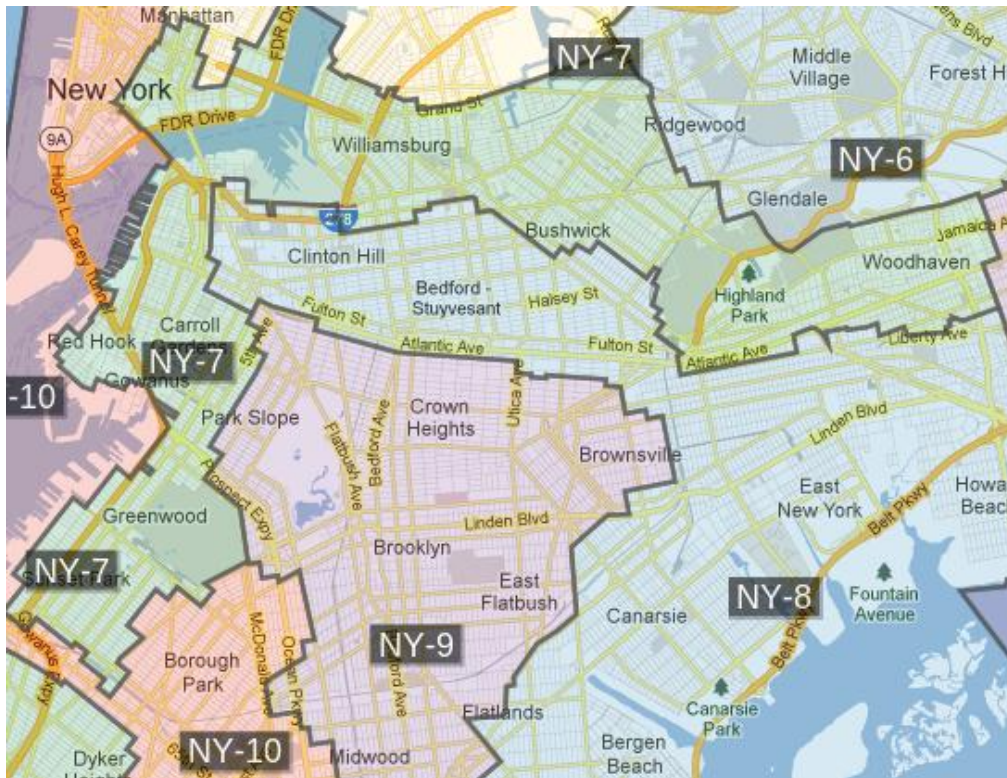
Community Board 409



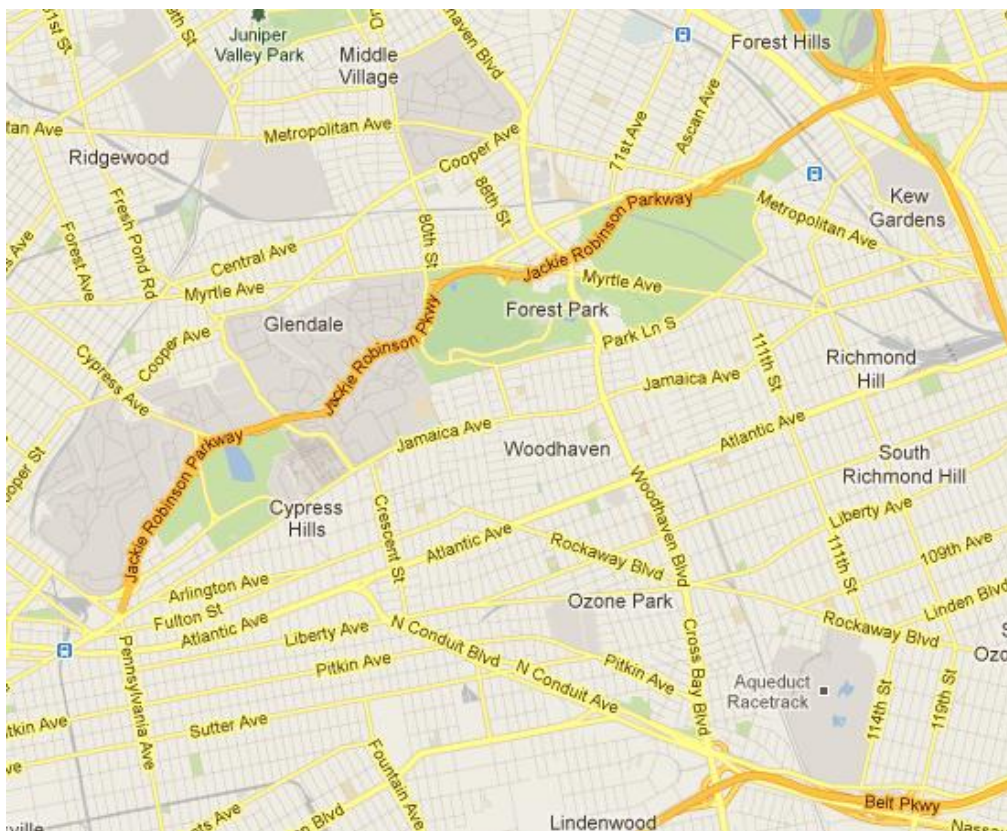
New York State Assembly District 38 - 2012



New York State Senate District 12 – 2012



New York Congressional District 7



Central-Western Queens & Northeastern Brooklyn

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