

UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

106-11 Liberty Avenue, Suite 202

Ozone Park, NY 11417

(718) 323-0791

STATEMENT OF ALBERT BALDEO, DISTRICT LEADER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE TO THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR NEW CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

October 10, 2012

La Guardia Community College, New York City

I am an elected Democratic District Leader of the 38th Assembly District, a Community Advocate and an Attorney-at-Law. I am also the President of the United Communities Alliance, an organization that empowers and improves the quality of life of all residents—regardless of race, religion or national origin living in Queens, the place that best defines us all as a nation of immigrants.

Our goals are to consolidate residents of the district into active participation for the betterment of the district, to fight for fair redistricting and social justice, to develop coalitions of neighborhood organizations and groups, to foster a greater civic voice for the community, and to solve the common issues and problems confronting the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, which should constitute one City Council District: Exhibit “A.”

In addition to running for public office several times before, my interaction with residents in these communities compared to others as an attorney, grass roots organizer and community leader, has given me a deep understanding of the common issues, problems, concerns and solutions that impact these residents collectively.

Gerrymandering has cracked these natural “communities of interest” into unrecognizable portions, with concomitant suppression from participation in even the most basic structures of government. The issues, problems, solutions and allocation of resources confronting them are overpowered and overlooked in preference to those confronting communities like Rochdale Village, and the Jamaica Housing Projects over the Van Wyck Expressway—a natural divide. These communities should not be lumped together. They all deserve separate attention. We ask you, “How can you lump these Mitchell Lama, Co-ops and Housing Projects together, with Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park, which consists of only one and two family homes?”

Consequently, the present divisions fundamentally prohibit “fair and effective representation to these communities of interest,” contrary to both the NY City Charter and the Voting Rights Act: Exhibit “B.” Council Districts 28 and 32 emasculate what the Federal Courts have articulated as factors which establish a community of interest.

Common problems abound, common issues are ignored, and common solutions are impossible to achieve. Rampant home foreclosures, closure of hospitals, medical centers and schools, kids being subjected to filthy, overcrowded trailer parks and locker rooms for classrooms, spiraling unemployment, increased taxes and the cost of living have marginalized these communities of interest from government services and funding. Their need for representation at all levels of government has never been more compelling.

Our plight is best understood with the threatened closings of our area hospitals, our high schools like Richmond Hill High and John Adams, 10% rate of unemployment, high home foreclosures and small business closures in our district. We do not even have health clinics, community centers, day care centers, senior centers, social services centers, or job training centers. The press recently exposed the fact that we have only one (1) cooling center in the area! MTA has been shutting down our bus routes, and procrastinating on their promise to install what will be the only subway escalator in our community-right now a pie in the sky! No other community comes close to this paradigm of utter despair: Exhibit "C."

Currently, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park are cracked into numerous City Council Districts, State Senate Districts, Assembly and Congressional Districts. Consequently, there is reduced effectiveness in problem solving, shared bonds are destroyed, and constituents are reduced to mere statistics.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this august body must fully comply with all of the factors the Federal Courts, Supreme Court and the NY City Charter have recognized in the drawing of district lines: (1) Compactness and contiguity (2) Respecting political subdivisions (3) Preserving communities of interest and race (4) Meeting political goals. They have recognized cultural background, economic status, common media markets, shared community services and organizations (including health clinics, stores, public transportation, and workplaces), voting patterns, common language and dialects, and common country of origin as factors and shared community concerns in drawing district lines. See e.g. *Diaz v. Silver*. The continued separation and fragmentation of Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park will fundamentally breach these mandates, short change these vibrant communities of interest and cannot withstand legal muster/scrutiny.

It is imperative that you unite Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park together, utilizing the Van Wyck Expressway to the East, Queens/Brooklyn County line to the West, Hillside/Jamaica Avenue to the North and the South Conduit/Belt Parkway to the South as a City Council District: Exhibit "A." (If Howard Beach, Woodhaven and Glendale must be connected, we can adjust the Queens/Brooklyn County line nearer to Woodhaven Boulevard).

That is where the critical mass of this community of interest is, and I challenge this esteemed panel to produce a more compact and contiguous district, which also adheres to the NYC Charter-natural boundaries, and established ties of common interest and association-historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other. The NYC Charter mandates that these communities must be kept together as described, not only for their continued economic and cultural survival and growth, but also with the practical goal of having laws tabled and passed in the City Council.

The needs of all Americans must be met in terms of education, housing, health, social, economic and human services, as well as representation in the City Council. Health care providers in this community also advise of the problems patients face when they cannot relate their symptoms to strangers who are insensitive to their medical needs. Likewise, citizens complain of law enforcement profiling and prejudices, all being evil consequences of the scourge of gerrymandering.

Moreover, this lack of representation has resulted in jobs being denied to constituents at JFK Airport and environs, the Resorts World/Aqueduct Development, area hospitals, schools, and other businesses right here in our back yard. This area does not get any meaningful member item funds from any elected official. It is a crying shame, resulting in a cycle of poverty!

These constituents pay all the taxes-income tax, city, federal, state, real estate, sales, et cetera. Over 4,000 houses have been bought and sold in these two- and three-jobs neighborhoods over the past decades, yielding billions of dollars. They have revitalized these once depressed neighborhoods, giving impetus to the American economy, and are ranked among the largest growing groups in New York City: Exhibit "D." With the hope and promise of the America Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and other great visionaries have died for, they have come to cash that check.

If you still harbor pause, just attend the Phagwah Parade which ushers in the spring, and you will see the hundreds of thousands of these ignored minorities who participate in one of the largest parades in the entire USA. Or visit JFK Airport Arrivals or Resorts World and you will be convinced as to who constitute the critical mass.

Residents living in this district cannot help but feel that this is a deliberate, institutional attempt to disenfranchise them. This status quo threatens the life of their growing communities and causes new generations to grow up without representation, identity and commitment to the destiny of family, home, community, city, state and, ultimately, their country, the United States. It is a vicious and unnecessary cycle of poverty, humiliation and exploitation, leaving life and democracy better off in the Third World by comparison.

You must not precipitate this American tragedy any longer. We urge you, therefore, to redraw boundaries that will preserve their community of interests, their traditions, needs and solutions, and their common history. Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, must not be divided into different voting districts. We urge you to consolidate them now!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's guidance is instructive when he said that you should not make others exiles in their own land, and that you should judge each person by their content and character. Our Constitution still speaks to us all collectively, as "We the People." So we ask you to uphold the Constitution, reminding you of the fierce urgency of now, and the sins and omissions of the past. It will be an unforgivable travesty for you to give us back our deserving check back again, like previous redistricting committees did, marked "Insufficient Funds." Our children and families proudly fight and die for our

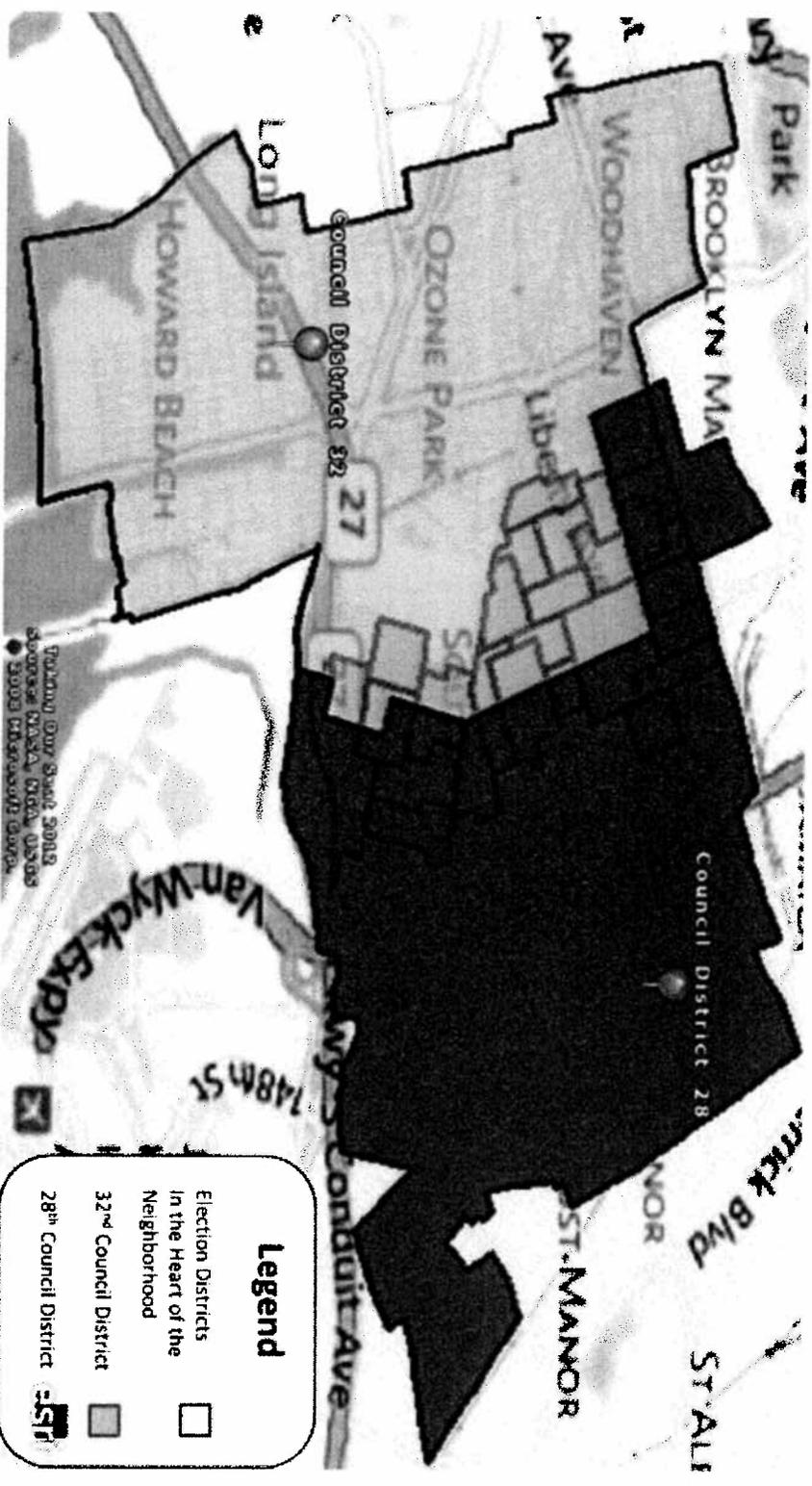
great country, and, collectively, we continue to build America, with our blood, sweat and tears.

Right thinking Americans, like Abraham Lincoln, Emma Lazarus and others, will surely be turning in their graves. This Commission must do what you are mandated to do! Inasmuch we have been advised that these arguments constitute a valid legal claim for redress, we urge you to approve this district.

Respectfully submitted.

EXHIBIT A

Current District Lines Split the Neighborhood



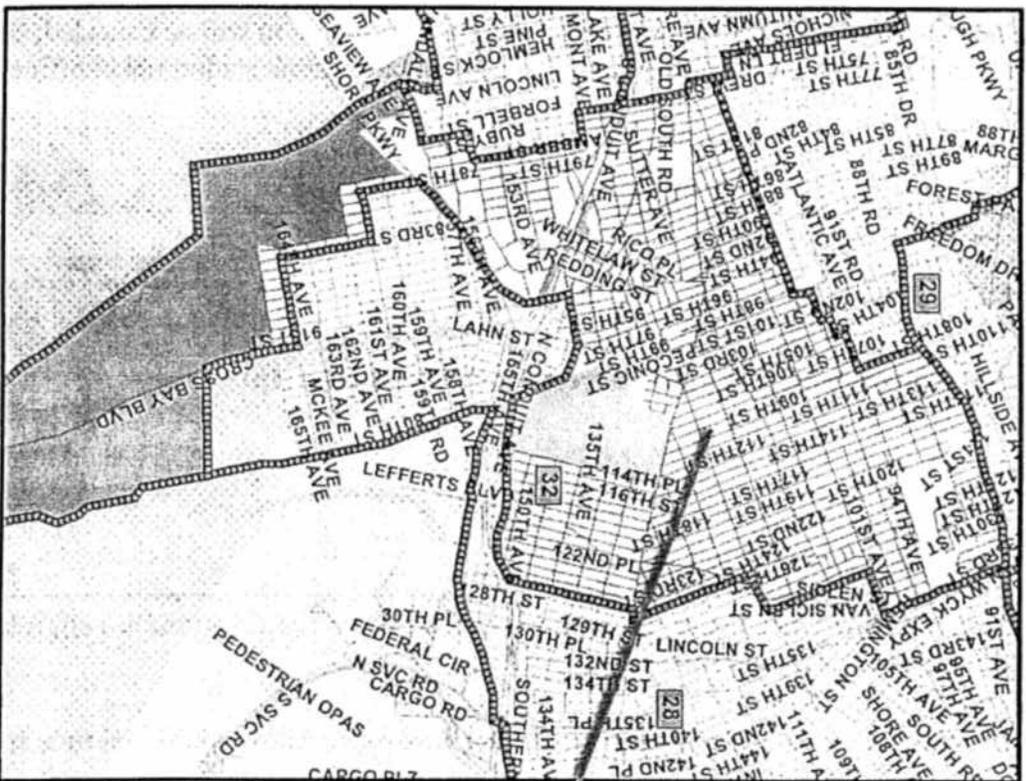
Legend

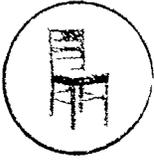
- Election Districts In the Heart of the Neighborhood
- 32nd Council District
- 28th Council District

QUEENS

Council District 32

Population	Deviation
166,891	+3.8%
NHAsian	21.2%
NHBlack	11.2%
Hispanic	26.2%
NHWhite	27.3%
NHOther	6.3%
NHMulti	6.7%





TAKING OUR SEAT

The South Asian Voice in Redistricting

October 5, 2012

The New York City
Districting Commission
253 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Districting Commission Members & Staff:

Recently, Taking Our Seat submitted a proposed City Council map to the Districting Commission. This letter accompanies that submission and provides the reasoning to Taking Our Seat's suggested changes to the Commission's recently proposed Council district maps.

Taking Our Seat is a Queens-based civic organization established to empower South Asian-American (SAA) neighborhoods in the electoral process by challenging SAA voter dilution. Taking Our Seat defines South Asian Americans as Americans who can trace their ancestry back to South Asia or to a South Asian diaspora to the Caribbean or Africa. South Asian Americans claim a heritage to countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Guyana, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Surinam and Trinidad/Tobago.

Taking Our Seat's plan only impacts proposed district lines in Southern Queens. Taking Our Seat's plan keeps the Districting Commission's proposed boundaries for most other districts including highly concentrated SAA neighborhoods located in the 23rd, 24th and 25th districts in Queens. These districts encompass the SAA neighborhoods of Bellrose, Briarwood and Jackson Heights respectively. Although these boundaries are not ideal in some cases Taking Our Seat's plan is focused on remedying the most egregious and most patently unconstitutional dilution of South Asian American votes taking place in the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park. Taking Our Seat's plan focuses on Lefferts Boulevard, the current boundary between the 28th and 32nd districts, the same boundary employed by the Districting Commission's initial draft. Employing Lefferts Boulevard as a boundary line disenfranchises South Asian American voters.

The narrative below explains Taking Our Seat's changes to the Districting Commission's proposed draft to stop South Asian American voter dilution.

- 1) The Taking Our Seat plan moves the Lefferts Boulevard boundary between districts 28 and 32 east, to the Van Wyck Expressway, Lincoln Street and 131st Street. This simple move captures the heart of the Richmond Hill/ South Ozone Park neighborhoods into one district. By doing so the Taking Our Seat plan creates a 32nd district that has an approximately 20% South Asian American population.



TAKING OUR SEAT

The South Asian Voice in Redistricting

The residents of Richmond Hill and South Ozone park are not seeking to be a majority in this newly drawn district or seeking even to be plurality. All they are seeking is to be 20% of one district rather than 10% of two different districts.

2) To account for the increase in population in District 32 due to the Lefferts Boulevard boundary moving east, the Taking Our Seat plan combines the Rockaway Peninsula into one district, District 31.

The Rockaway peninsula is a singular community of interest based on common transportation lines (A Train), a common community board : CB 14; shared police precincts: 101st and 104th and the common schools: Far Rockaway High School, Beach Channel High School, Stella Maris High School and Scholars' Academy High School.

An even more stark unifying characteristic of the Rockaways is that every single resident lives in either Hurricane Evacuation Zone A or Zone B as deemed by the City of New York. This means that the entire Rockaways peninsula faces a high risk of flooding from a hurricane's storm surge. Nature has placed everyone in the peninsula into the same lot and so should the Districting Commission.

If the Commission proposes to split the Rockaways into two Council districts the burden is on the Commission to give a race-neutral reason for the split.

3) Taking Our Seat's plan also keeps Cambria Heights in one district. The Districting Commission's proposed plan inexplicably splits Cambria Heights into two districts. The Taking Our Seat plan is true to the Districting Commission's own neighborhood boundaries – keeping neighborhoods whole within proposed districts.

4) The Taking Our Seat plan protects incumbent interests. Although Taking Our Seat strongly opposes the use of redistricting to intentionally protect incumbent elected officials, we acknowledge that incumbency protection is a consideration in the Commission's deliberations and key to securing the City Council's approval of the Commission's plan.

Of the four districts directly impacted by Taking Our Seat's plan, only one sitting Council member's district requires "protection." Taking Our Seat's plan protects the overall racial make-up of District 28. The remaining three Councilmembers representing districts 27, 31 and 32 are either term-limited or are seeking other elected office

5) Racial composition of the districts in Taking Our Seat's plan are very similar to the Districting Commission's plan and do not violate the City Charter or the Voting Right Act, please see the



TAKING OUR SEAT

The South Asian Voice in Redistricting

attached spreadsheet for the demographic comparisons of the Taking Our Seat plan and the Districting Commission's proposed boundaries.

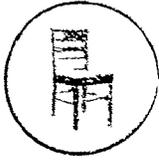
The result of the Taking Our Seat plan are districts which keep neighborhoods whole and communities of interest together while remedying South Asian voter dilution. The newly drawn 32nd district is a true multicultural district that reflects the mosaic that is Queens County in 2012.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of the Taking Our Seat plan. We appreciate the ease of the process in submitting our proposal and the helpfulness of the Districting Commission staff. Please contact me at jalbert@takingourseat.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John P. Albert

John P. Albert
Board Chair
Taking Our Seat



TAKING OUR SEAT

The South Asian Voice in Redistricting

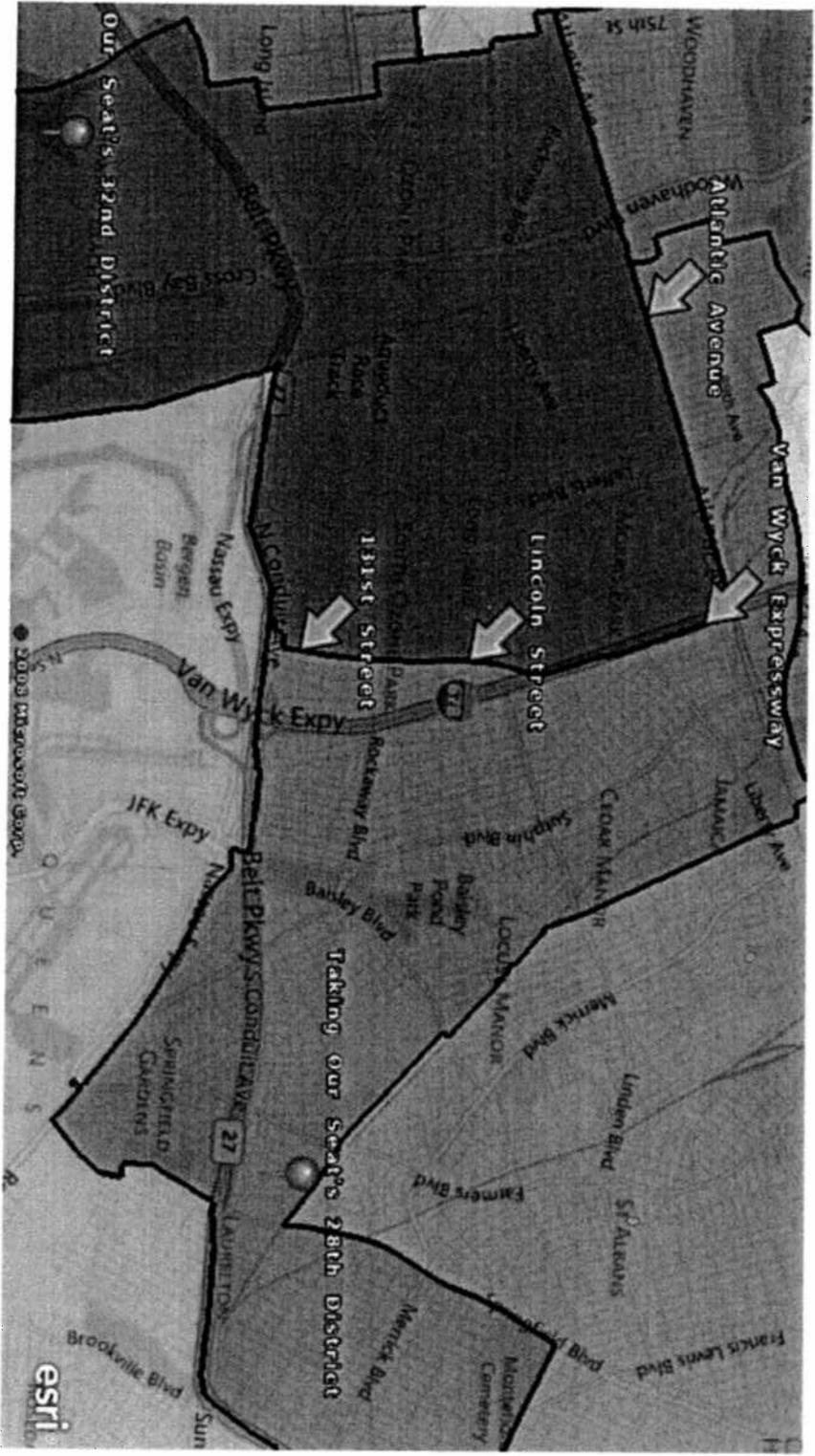
Attachment 1.

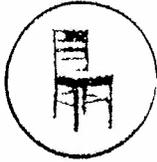
Demographic Comparisons of The Taking Our Seat Plan v. The Districting Commission's Draft Plan

	Total Population	Deviation	% Deviation	NH White	% NH White	NH_Black	% NH_Black	Hispanic	% Hispanic	NH_Asian	% NH_Asian
Taking Our Seats Proposed 27th District	159,186	-1,524	-0.95%	2,630	1.65%	115,042	72.27%	21,706	13.64%	11,185	7.03%
Districting Commission's Proposed 27th District	156,683	-4,027	-2.50%	2,616	1.70%	112,403	71.70%	21,819	13.90%	11,217	7.20%
Taking Our Seats Proposed 28th District	154,634	-6,076	-3.78%	5,520	3.57%	99,142	64.11%	28,748	18.59%	11,287	7.30%
Districting Commission's Proposed 28th District	159,645	-1,065	-0.70%	5,005	3.10%	80,880	50.70%	29,252	18.30%	24,027	15.10%
Taking Our Seat's Proposed 31st District	152,820	-7,790	-4.85%	42,164	27.57%	75,343	49.27%	27,615	18.06%	3,407	2.23%
Districting Commission's Proposed 31st District	155,094	-5,616	-3.50%	17,113	11.00%	104,853	67.70%	25,581	16.50%	2,764	1.80%
Taking Our Seat's Proposed 32nd District	163,827	3,117	1.94%	36,269	22.14%	22,512	13.74%	43,653	26.65%	35,854	21.89%
Districting Commission's Proposed 32nd District	156,426	-4,264	-2.70%	61,683	39.40%	13,501	8.60%	43,504	27.80%	23,305	14.90%

Note: The reduction in the % of Black residents of District 31 is balanced by the increase of the % of Black residents in District 28, thereby protecting the African American incumbent in district 28 - the only district where an incumbent needs protection.

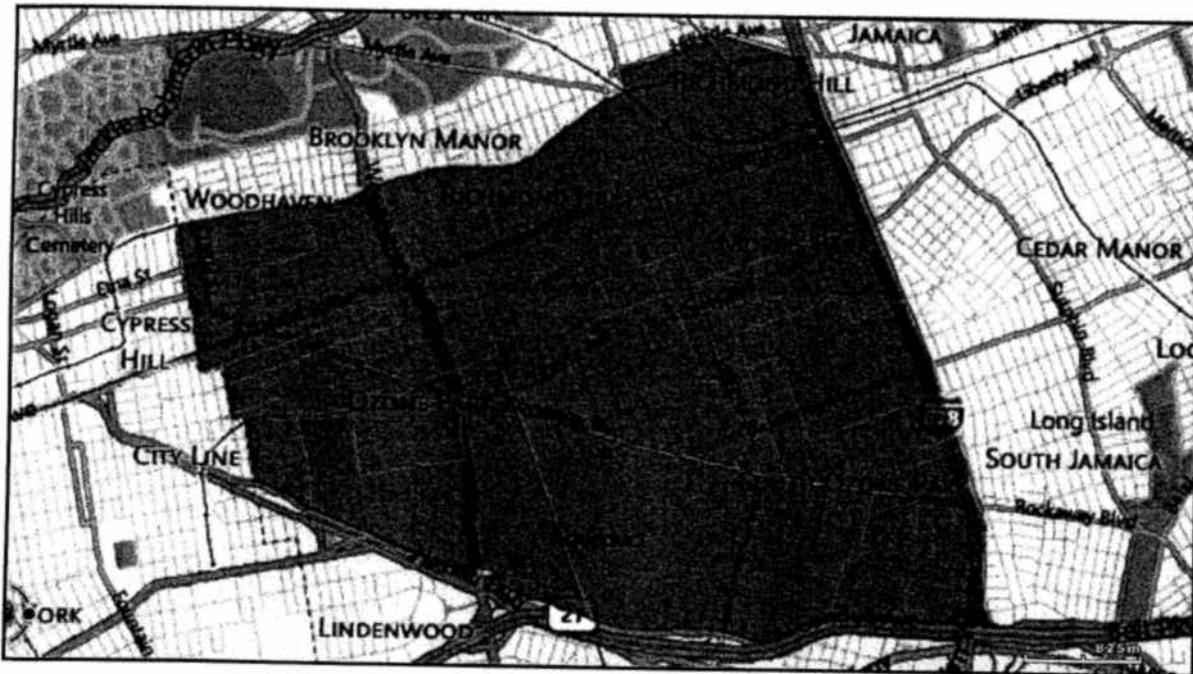
Taking Our Seat's Proposed Map for Dist 28 & Dist 32





Mosaic Districts

Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park Community of Interest



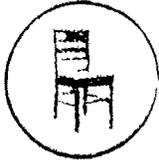
Boundaries: North: Jamaica Avenue to Hillside Avenue
East: Van Wyck Expressway
South: Belt Parkway
West: Brooklyn-Queens County Line

Cluster Profile: The SAAs in this cluster are primarily Asian-Indian and Indo-Caribbean.

Total Population	192,000
White	11.9%
Black	15.3%
Hispanic	33.8%
Asian	23.6%
Other	14.5%

Compact: Yes, approximately 6 square miles; smooth boundary; rectangular in shape.

Contiguous: Yes.



Community of Interest:

- 1) *Political Subdivisions:* Queens Community Boards 9 and 10.
- 2) *Local High Schools:*

Richmond Hill High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	34.1%
Black	16.0%
Hispanic	47.1%
White	2.4%

John Adams High School	Data for 2010-2011 School Year
Asian	28.2%
Black	29.3%
Hispanic	36.6%
White	4.4%

- 3) *Common Transportation Characteristics:*
 - a. Subway: J,Z line and A line;
 - b. Buses: Q7, Q8, Q10, Q11, Q21, Q24, Q37, Q41, Q53, Q56, Q110, QM15, QM 18, BM5.
 - c. Main Thoroughfares: Atlantic Avenue, Jamaica Avenue, Liberty Avenue, Woodhaven Boulevard.
 - d. Average Commute Time: 45 minutes⁶

⁶ 2000 Census Data for Richmond Hill; information for other neighborhoods in this cluster not available.



ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
99 HUDSON STREET, 12th FL • NEW YORK, NY 10013 • TEL 212.966.5932
www.aaldef.org • info@aaldef.org

ASIAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES

LATFOR Public Hearing
September 7, 2011
Queens, New York

Asian American
Legal Defense
and Education Fund

**Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian American Communities of Interest Survey in New York City
submitted to LATFOR
at the Public Hearing, September 21, 2011
250 Broadway, New York City**

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, founded in 1974, has defended the voting rights of Asian Americans through litigation, legal advocacy and community education.

AALDEF submits this Asian American Communities of Interest Survey in connection with the redistricting hearings conducted by LATFOR in New York City. This survey, utilized in combination with the Asian American Neighborhood Boundaries, submitted to LATFOR at the September 7, 2011 public hearing in Queens, supplies LATFOR with the necessary tools to ensure that Asian American communities of interest will not be unfairly divided.

Asian Americans in New York City

Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in New York City. In New York City, the Asian American population has increased 32% over the past decade and now constitutes almost 13% of the city's population, numbering 1,028,119¹. Seven out of ten Asian New Yorkers reside in three New York City boroughs: Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn.

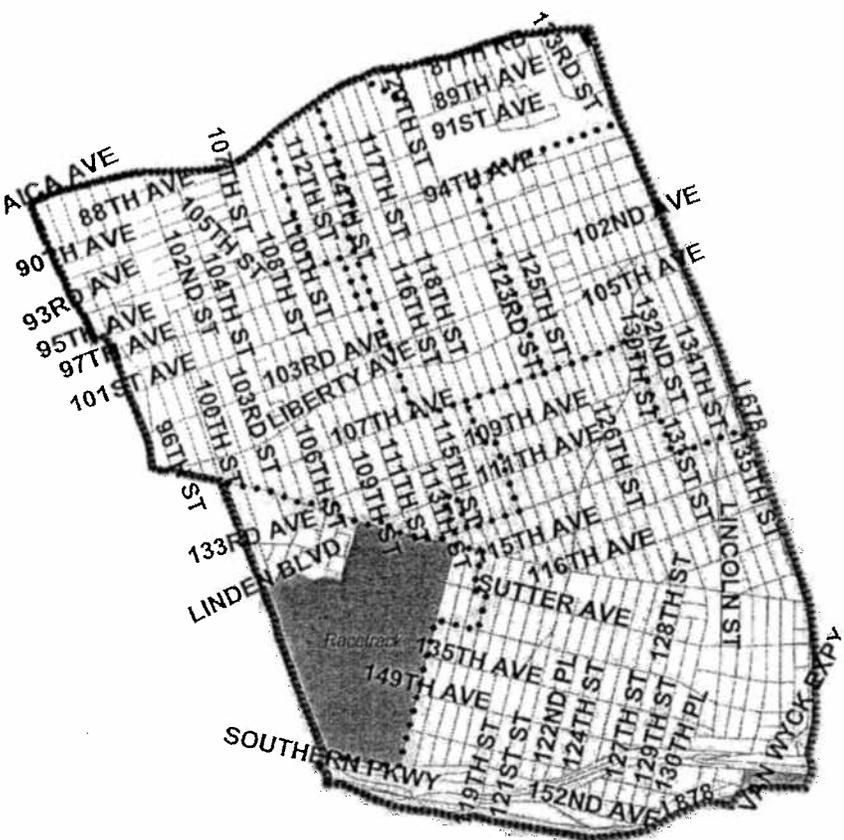
CENSUS 2010	Total Population	Asian Population	Asian Percent of Total	Total Growth Since 2000	Asian Growth Since 2000
New York State	19,378,102	1,406,194	7.3%	2.1%	35.7%
New York City	8,175,133	1,028,119	12.6%	2.1%	31.8%
- Queens	2,230,722	508,334	22.8%	0.1 %	30.6%
- Manhattan	1,585,873	177,624	11.2%	3.2%	24.0%
- Brooklyn	2,504,700	260,129	10.4%	1.6%	41.2%

* Only includes those who checked "Asian" and no other race².

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2000 Census.

² This "Not Hispanic Asian alone" number should be taken as the bare minimum number of Asian Americans. In the 2000 and 2010 censuses, respondents were allowed to mark more than one race, yielding a race concept known as "alone or in combination," which includes people who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) and people who reported that race in combination with one or more of the other race groups (i.e., White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race). In addition, race and ethnicity are considered separate and distinct identities, with Hispanic or Latino origin asked as a separate question. This means that all respondents are also categorized as either "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino." Therefore, a more accurate and inclusive estimate of Asian Americans would be to aggregate both the Hispanic and Not Hispanic Asian alone or in combination populations (e.g., the maximum number of Asian

Richmond Hill- South Ozone Park



POPULATION	133,260
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	+4,073 (+3.2%)
% HISPANIC	27.6%
% NH WHITE	7.9%
% NH BLACK	19.4%
% NH ASIAN	25.5%





Ozone Park

POPULATION	68,070
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL ASSEMBLY SIZE	-61,117 (-47.3%)
% HISPANIC	45.1%
% NH WHITE	26.9%
% NH BLACK	5.9%
% NH ASIAN	16.3%

Gateway Area



South Ozone Park

Housing: South Ozone Park has fewer shops and is more residential than Richmond Hill. Many of the residents do their shopping in Richmond Hill and live in South Ozone Park. The residents of Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park also share many characteristics.

Employment: Many of the residents work at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), the Aqueduct Racetrack or work as local or livery cab drivers. Many residents also run day care centers out of their homes or work as nannies. In a typical family, the husband works at JFK Airport and the wife works as a nanny.

Concerns/Needs: Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park share many commonalities and should be grouped together into the same legislative district if possible. The neighborhood of South Jamaica, east of the Van Wyck Expressway, should not be grouped with Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park for several reasons. First, home property values are significantly less. Second, the high school population does not include middle school students from Richmond Hill or South Ozone Park. Third, the population in South Jamaica is not comprised of many immigrants like Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park. Instead, the population of South Jamaica is comprised of mostly African Americans who have settled in that neighborhood for a long time and rely on different public transportation lines, such as the E train subway line to Jamaica Center.

EXHIBIT B



Criteria for the districts - applied and given priority in the order in which they are listed (N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1) (2004)):

1) Population. The difference between the most populous and the least populous council district must not exceed 10% of the average population for all council districts. Any such differences in population must be justified by one or more of the other criteria stated in the City Charter. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(a) (2004).

2) Fair and effective representation. The districting 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, §52(1)(b) (2004).

3) Communities of Interest. 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, §52(1)(c) (2004).

4) Compactness. Each district must be compact and cannot be more than twice as long as it is wide. The districting plan must be established in a manner that minimizes the sum of the length of the boundaries of all of the districts included in the plan. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(1)(d)(g) (2004).

5) Contiguity. Each district must be contiguous, and whenever a part of a district is separated from the rest of the district by a body of water, there must be a connection by a bridge, a tunnel, a tramway or by regular ferry service. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(2) (2004).

6) Political boundaries. A district cannot cross borough or county boundaries. If any district includes territory in two boroughs, then no other district may also include territory from the same two boroughs. N.Y. CITY CHARTER, ch. 2-A, §52(3) (2004).

EXHIBIT C

July 19, 2012

NEWS
CURREN

Richmond Hill Feeling The Heat

By **ROSS BARKAN**

Richmond Hill and Woodhaven residents are hoping, for once, that the City keeps them out in the cold. If a heat wave scorches Queens again on a Saturday, like it did on a sultry July 7, there will be no cooling centers in Woodhaven and Richmond Hill to handle exasperated residents who lack access to air-conditioning. Richmond Hill residents have despaired over the absence of cooling centers open on the weekend. Residents without air-conditioning can stay at the Richmond Hill library on weekdays or trek to the Letferts Library, open only on Saturdays, to avoid temperatures nearing 100 degrees.

"Richmond Hill is the orphan child of Queens," said Albert Baldeo, a Democratic district leader. "There has always been a paucity of social services, job centers, health centers. We have been reduced to a neglected neighborhood, forgotten."

Cooling centers, established by the City to provide a free air-conditioned place where people can stay during a heat wave, are typically situated in either libraries or senior centers. Weekend library hours have

been slashed across the City; Richmond Hill library is not open on Saturdays or Sundays and the neighborhood does not have a senior center.

Richmond Hill bounded by the Van Wyck Expressway and neighboring Ozone Park, is teeming with Guyanese, Caribbean and Punjabi immigrants. Storefronts adorned with Indian saris share blocks with restaurants cooking Trinidadian delicacies like doubles, though the once Irish and Italian neighborhood does not have a central community center that neighborhood advocates believe it desperately needs. Civic leaders have la-

mented that seniors looking for a place to gather are forced to cluster in a local Burger King. The Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Senior Center, despite its name, is located on Jamaica Avenue in Woodhaven. Vishnu Amadeo, executive director of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council, has argued that since Richmond Hill possesses



Tribune Photo by Ira Cohen.

The Richmond Hill Library serves as a cooling center during hot weather.

no single elected representative on the State or City level, funding is scarce for any social services. Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) and Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) each represent portions of Richmond Hill and will fund the community far less than before for very different reasons: Wills, under investigation for the

alleged misappropriation of \$33,000, cannot allocate any money himself because Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) suspended his Council powers. Quinn allocated Wills' money and drastically reduced Crowley's discretionary budget, believed by political observers to be retaliation for defying Queens Democratic Chair U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) by making a run for Congress against his chosen candidate, Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing).

The Office of Emergency Management said that there should be a cooling center "within walking distance" but did not comment specifically on the availability of weekend centers. In Woodhaven, there are several nearby cooling centers, including the Woodhaven library, Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Senior Center and Glendale library, but on weekends, the closest cooling center is the Cypress Hills-Fulton Street

Senior Center in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. "It is a problem, they have cooling centers in libraries but they could have made arrangements with churches and synagogues for people to go there," said Mary Ann Carey, district manager for Community Board 9, which represents Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, Ozone Park and Kew Gardens. Carey wrote a letter to Mayor Mike Bloomberg after a man complained to her that on July 7, he was shut out of the Richmond Hill and Woodhaven cooling centers, each located in a closed library. "There are other alternatives."

Ed Wendell, president of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, did not agree that a lack of cooling centers was a pressing issue for the Woodhaven community. He expressed concern that Carey did not speak with him about the letter. "Our office fields a lot of complaints but we've rarely heard complaints about cooling centers," Wendell said. "I'm not saying it's not a problem, I don't want to minimize it, but there are a lot of other issues." Reach Reporter Ross Barkan at (718) 357-7400, Ext. 127 or rbarkan@queenstribune.com.

EXHIBIT D

Queens Immigrants¹

Top 10 Countries Of Origin

1	China	140,294
2	Guyana	78,852
3	Ecuador	75,826
4	Mexico	52,681
5	Dominican Republic	51,197
6	India	51,060
7	Colombia	50,392
8	Korea	49,980
9	Jamaica	45,218
10	Bangladesh	34,819

Queens Tribune Online

Oct. 27, 2011

HOME

**Best of
Queens
2012**
Tell us
Your Best

News:

- » Feature Story
- » Deadline

Commentary

- » In Your Opinion
- » In Our Opinion
- » Q Confidential
- » Not 4 Publication

Entertainer

- » Restaurant Review
- » Leisure

Q Guides:

- » Queens Culture
- » Dining Guide
- » 50plus Dining
- » Queens Today

Resources :

In Transition:

New Census Numbers Show Shifts As Faces In Neighborhoods Change

By DOMENICK RAFTER

While most are skeptical of the Census results that say Queens' growth in the last decade was negligible, nearly all agree that the borough's expansion was far less than the 14 percent growth between 1990 and 2000.

Besides the reported issues with Astoria and Jackson Heights counting, demographers and city officials are confident the count in the rest of the borough is close to correct.

A Changing Population

If the borough were a standalone city, Queens, with 2,230,722 counted residents, would be the fifth largest city in the country, larger than Houston, Philadelphia and nearly four times the size of San Francisco.

The borough's scant growth in the last decade can be traced to a negative net migration from Queens in the last 10 years, according to new numbers from the U.S. Census bureau released this week. The net domestic migration, from or to Queens to other parts of the country, added up to a loss of 300,000 people, many of whom were African-Americans who left Southeast Queens for areas in the South like Georgia and Virginia.

That is far more than the roughly net gain of 220,000 the borough received from migration to and from the borough internationally. Queens also saw more births than deaths during the last decade, adding a total of just under 150,000 people due to "natural increase," resulting in the small increase that was recorded.

The Immigrants

Queens has been the borough of immigrants for decades, and even though the number of immigrants coming to Queens dropped in the last 10 years, the borough is still the diverse melting pot it was - if not more so.

Some 1,066,262 residents in the borough are foreign born. That's just less than 48 percent of the total population, slightly higher than 10 years ago. Immigrants make up more than 58 percent of the borough's workforce, and comprise the vast majority of the workers in the fields of construction, transportation, manufacturing and accommodations, food and other services, which includes hotel workers, waiters, and chefs.

The highest immigrant population growth occurred in Northern Queens neighborhoods including Flushing, Corona, East Elmhurst and Elmhurst, all home to large numbers of people in the borough's second and third largest, and fastest growing, demographics, Hispanics and Asians.

Diverse Nationalities

Among those two groups, there is no dominating nationality, which is different from other boroughs, where even though both Hispanic and Asian populations are growing, there is a dominant group, such as Puerto Ricans in the Bronx and Chinese in Brooklyn.

1 China	140,294
2 Guyana	78,852
3 Ecuador	75,826
4 Mexico	52,681
5 Dominican Republic	51,197
6 India	51,060
7 Colombia	50,392
8 Korea	49,980
9 Jamaica	45,218
10 Bangladesh	34,819

Hispanics in Queens are almost evenly split between Puerto Ricans, Ecuadoreans, Colombians, Dominicans and Mexicans. The growth has been primarily from Mexicans, which saw their populations in Queens increase 73 percent in the past 10 years. The Ecuadorean population increased 19.3 percent, while the Colombian population fell 15.8 percent, the first time the two demographics have diverged.

"In the past, we've seen the Ecuadorean population changes act like the Colombians," said Joseph Salvo, Director of Population for the NYC Dept. of City Planning. "This is the first time we've seen this difference."

The Puerto Rican population in the borough also dropped more than 7 percent, while the Dominican population was basically unchanged.

As for the Asian populations, the biggest growth has been among the Chinese, which grew by 42.7 percent since 2000. All other major Asian groups also grew: Asian Indian by 7.7 percent, Koreans by 3.2 percent, Filipinos, which is a small number at less than 50,000 people, by 25 percent.

The Chinese population is by far the largest group of Asians in the borough, but unlike Manhattan and Brooklyn, it is not the majority. Just under four in 10 Asians in Queens are Chinese; 23 percent are from India, followed by Koreans, Filipinos and Bangladeshis.

Neighborhoods In Transition

Around the borough, most neighborhoods saw significant changes in the last decade.

Besides the questionable results in Astoria and Jackson Heights, the neighborhoods with the biggest drop in population were Queens Village and Cambria Heights, due to black migration.

"Southeast Queens is shedding its black population," Salvo said, noting black migration to the South, which is occurring in other Northern cities like Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago, as a major reason. That migration has only been exacerbated by the foreclosure problem in that part of the borough.

The black population in East Elmhurst, once one of the borough's largest, has nearly disappeared. The neighborhood has seen a net growth however as the declining black population is being replaced by Central and South American immigrants.

The fastest growing neighborhoods in the borough were Corona and Arverne in the Rockaways, both for very different reasons.

Corona's population growth is mainly due to the growing number of Mexican immigrants replacing Dominicans who are leaving; the high birth rate among the Mexicans; and a growing Asian population.

Arverne, on the other hand, has seen a growth of migrants moving from within the borough and the city, thanks largely to the Arverne-by-the-Sea development.

The white population, dwindling in the borough for decades, saw an uptick in neighborhoods like Astoria, Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside and Ridgewood, as young white professionals began spreading east from Manhattan and Northern Brooklyn into Queens. Long Island City's growth has been almost exclusively among young white professionals and a few Asian immigrants, as the black and Hispanic population there has dropped, mainly from Queensbridge.

Ridgewood also saw a growth in the white population thanks to Polish families moving east from Greenpoint. The white population also grew in two other parts of the borough. One of those neighborhoods is Kew Gardens Hills, due to the growing Jewish population from the former Soviet Union early in the decade, which Salvo noted has slowed considerably from 10-20 years ago. The Rockaways saw a small growth in the white population, mainly due to a growing Jewish population in Far Rockaway moving in from the Five Towns area of Nassau County and whites from elsewhere in the borough moving to Arverne.

The Rockaway Peninsula is the only area to see a growth in nearly every demographic. It is one of the only areas, along with Rosedale and Richmond Hill to a lesser extent, to see a growth in the black population. Most of that growth was due to black families moving in from Jamaica, South Jamaica and St. Albans. In the first two areas, there was actually an increase in population despite the black outmigration due to a rise in Hispanic and West Indians moving into Jamaica.

Meanwhile, the stagnant migration from the former Soviet Union helped keep the population in Forest Hills, Kew Gardens and Rego Park in check. The area is losing population due to "natural decrease," Salvo said, meaning as the population there ages, more residents are dying than being born or migrating in.

The growth in the Asian Indian population was focused in Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park, where one of the largest Sikh communities in the country exists, and in Bellerose, Queens Village, Hollis and Jamaica Estates.

In Northeast and Southwest Queens, there was little population change, but a big change in demographics. In the ring of neighborhoods surrounding Flushing - College Point, Whitestone, Bayside, Auburndale, Fresh Meadows, Douglaston, Little Neck and Hillcrest - the white population declined, but the neighborhoods saw either no change or moderate growth thanks to a rising Asian population, especially among Chinese and Koreans, and in College Point specifically, a rise in Hispanic residents.

In Southwest Queens, declining white populations in Woodhaven, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park have been replaced by a growing West Indian group, namely Guyanese and Trinidadian immigrants. In Richmond Hill, a number of residents, mostly from the West Indian and South Asian community, identified as "multicultural," because they didn't fit a specific demographic group on the Census form. Some identified as black or Asian, skewing the numbers there.

Howard Beach saw a drop in total population due to a small loss in its white population, which accounts for 90 percent of the neighborhood. Those losses were not made up elsewhere, though there was some small Hispanic growth in Lindenwood.

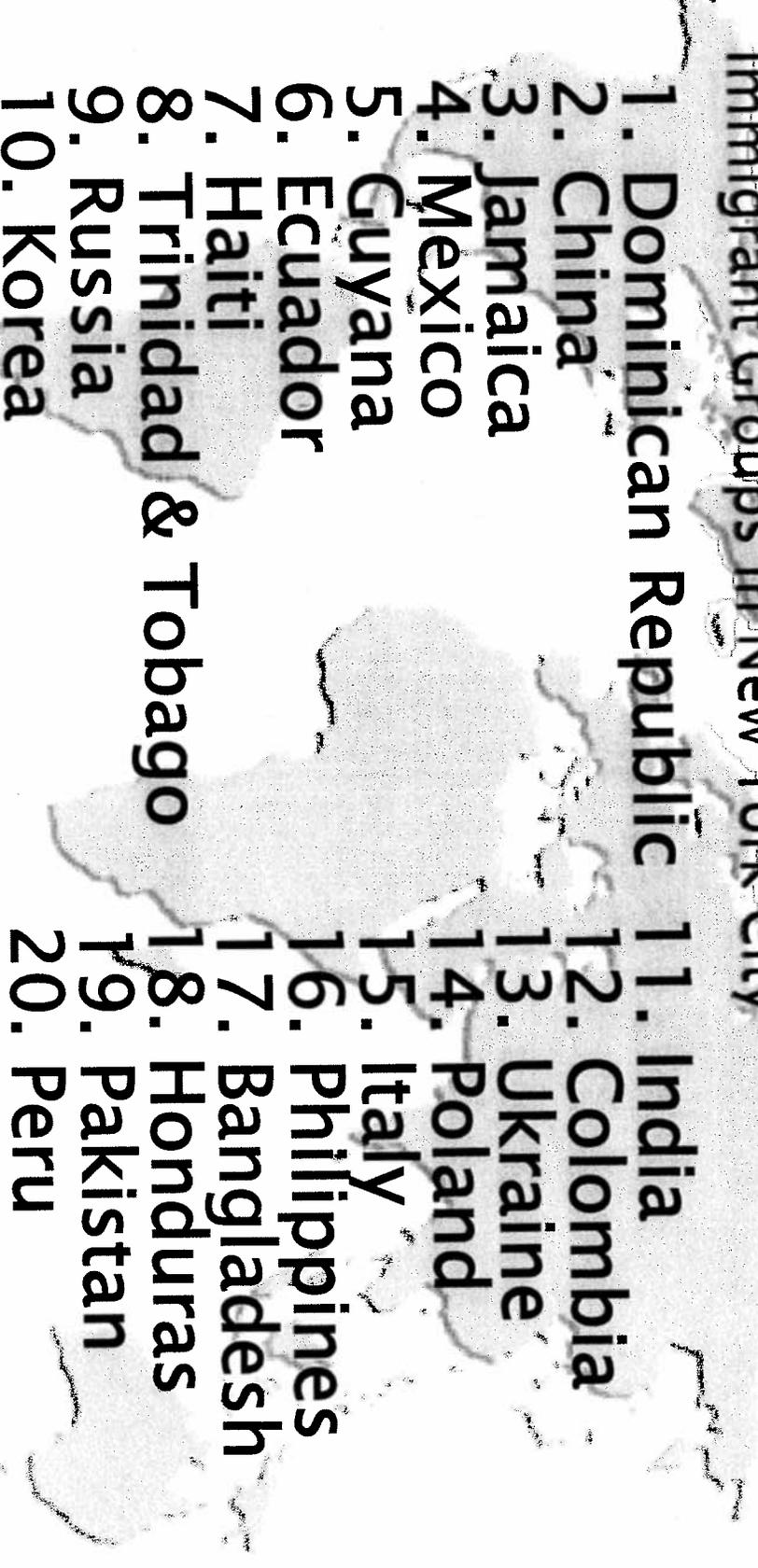
Reach Reporter Domenick Rafter at drafter@queenstribune.com or (718) 357-7400, Ext. 125.

[Share |](#)

[\[HOME\]](#)

Source Countries for the Twenty Largest

Immigrant Groups in New York City

- 
- A map of New York City is shown in the background, with various regions shaded in light gray. The map is partially obscured by the text of the list. The list is arranged in two columns, with the top 10 countries on the left and the bottom 10 on the right. The countries are listed in descending order of immigrant population.
1. Dominican Republic
 2. China
 3. Jamaica
 4. Mexico
 5. Guyana
 6. Ecuador
 7. Haiti
 8. Trinidad & Tobago
 9. Russia
 10. Korea
 11. India
 12. Colombia
 13. Ukraine
 14. Poland
 15. Italy
 16. Philippines
 17. Bangladesh
 18. Honduras
 19. Pakistan
 20. Peru

*fastest growing immigrant groups in NYC