

UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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STATEMENT OF ALBERT BALDEO, FMR. DISTRICT LEADER CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE & REDISTRICTING COALITION

TO THE NYC INDEPENDENT DISTRICTING COMMISSION

May 22, 2022

I am a former elected Democratic District Leader of the 38th Assembly District, a Community Advocate and retired Attorney-at-Law. I am also the Chairman of the United Communities Alliance and Redistricting Coalition, 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, housing 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, instead of being divided into CDs 28, 29, 32: Exhibit “A.”

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

Gerrymandering has cracked these natural “communities of interest” into unrecognizable portions, with concomitant suppression from participation in even the most basic structures of government, including at the City Council level. 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 cannot be lumped together any longer. They all deserve separate attention. We ask you, “How can you continue to force 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, or vice versa?” Indeed, the Supreme Court of the United States requires that districts be redrawn to encompass communities of common interest. See *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 920 (1995).

Like all of the esteemed members of this Commission, we are proud and patriotic Americans. We, our children and relatives have died fighting to preserve America's freedoms, and we have collectively shed our blood, sweat and tears for our great country. And so we have to ask you, "Why are we being relegated to second class citizens by institutionalized gerrymandering?" You have suppressed our fundamental freedom to speak, albeit with one voice, and to have our issues addressed.

Consequently, the present divisions fundamentally prohibit "fair and effective representation to these communities of interest," precipitate an ugly apartheid system no different than South Africa's with concomitant hate crimes and oppression, and is contrary to our greatest American jurisprudence and values. We are presently marginalized, split and diluted, into 3 City Council Districts. Unequivocally, these gerrymandered districts emasculate what the Federal Courts and US Constitution have articulated as factors which establish a community of interest. **Exhibit "B."**¹

Common problems abound, common issues are ignored, and common solutions are impossible to achieve. The bankruptcy of small business, COVID tragedies, 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, neighborhood quality, public safety, immigration, language assistance and the cost of living have marginalized our communities of interest from government services and funding. Our need for representation at all levels of government has never been more compelling.

Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park are a single neighborhood comprised mainly of Bangladeshis, Indians, Sikhs, and Indo-Caribbeans. The residents are homeowners and the neighborhood is zoned for single and multi-family homes. There are many extended families living together, reflective of their communities "back home" in South Asia and the Indo-Caribbean communities. Most residents are dependent upon public transportation and utilize the A train and J train subway lines for transportation services. There are a high number of senior citizens that reside in Richmond Hill, but the sole senior center is a small unit in Ozone Park on Sutter Avenue.

The neighborhood of South Jamaica, east of the Van Wyck Expressway, should not be grouped with Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park because the home property values are significantly less, the high school population is not comprised of students from any of Richmond Hill's, Ozone Park's or South Ozone Park's middle schools. Moreover, the population in South Jamaica is not comprised of many immigrants like Richmond Hill/Ozone Park, South Ozone Park; and the population of South Jamaica is mostly African-American who have settled in that neighborhood for a long time and who rely on different public transportation lines, mainly the E train subway line to Jamaica Center. It is also unfair for them to be annexed to us. Gerrymandering is stifling both groups. City Council Districts 28, 29 and 32 must be reconfigured accordingly.

Our plight is best understood when you consider that we suffered from the highest

¹ Jonathan P. Hicks, In District Lines Critics See Albany Protecting Its Own, N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 2, 2004, at B4

COVID infection rate, our area hospitals and sole high schools Richmond Hill High and John Adams face constant threats of closure, and we have the highest rate of COVID infections, unemployment, highest home foreclosures and small business closures in our district. Zip codes 11417, 11419 and 11420, covering Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, had the highest positivity rate in all of Queens, at 15.81%. Even if you want to designate us as a COVID disaster district, similar to leper colonies, we will take that, but just stop gerrymandering us out of existence! Exhibit "C."²

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. No other community comes close to this paradigm of utter despair.

Worse yet, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park are cracked into numerous City Council, State Senate and Assembly Districts. Consequently, there is reduced effectiveness in problem solving, shared bonds are destroyed, and constituents are reduced to mere statistics. The perverse goal here was no doubt to protect incumbents, divide and rule, and preserve their base of political support in their districts.³ You must purge the treacherous so-called "leaders, lobbyists and fakes" who will rather dump our cause under the bus, as they seek personal favors and progress."

It is respectfully submitted that this august body must fully comply with all of the factors the Federal Courts, Supreme Court and the redistricting jurisprudence 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*, 978 F. Supp. 96 (E.D.N.Y., Feb. 27, 1997) (bizarrely shaped Hispanic-majority 12th congressional district is an unconstitutional racial gerrymander), *aff'd sub nom. Silver v. Diaz*, 118 S. Ct. 36 (1997) (No. 96-1680), *Acosta v. Diaz*, (No. 96-1904), *Lau v. Diaz*, (No. 96-2008) (mem.)

The continued separation, bizarrely drawn 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.⁴

² Susan Lerner & Sean Coffey, How to Salvage N.Y. Redistricting Reform, TIMESUNION (Sept. 21,

³ For a fuller discussion of the need for majority-minority districts to promote minority representation see Janai S. Nelson, White Challengers, Black Majorities: Reconciling Competition in Majority-Minority Districts with the Promise of the Voting Rights Act, 95 GEO. L.J.1287 (2007).

⁴ Maintaining a "community of interest" traditionally also has been considered a legitimate goal in creating a districting plan. Courts will find the existence of a community of interest where residents share substantial cultural, economic, political and social ties. See. e.g., *Wilson v. Eu*, 1 Cal. 4th 707, 4

Moreover, as presently gerrymandered, these districts collectively fail to meet the compactness requirement of *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 106 S. Ct. 2752, 92 L.Ed.2d 25 (1986).⁵

It is imperative, therefore, that you unite Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park together, accepting the natural boundaries of the Van Wyck Expressway to the East, Queens/Brooklyn County (City Line) line to the West, Hillside Avenue to the North and the South Conduit/Belt Parkway to the South-as our City Council District: Exhibit “A.” This was the district unanimously agreed upon by both Republicans and Democrats in a rare and resounding show of unanimity by the recent NYS Independent Redistricting Commission (NYS IRC), for an Assembly District, before we were betrayed. This Commission has a compelling opportunity to unite us in the City Council, and must do so, accordingly, and not repeat the shameful errors of the recent NYS IRC, where the Courts had to take over the process.

Here 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 law-natural boundaries, and established ties of common interest and association-historical, economic, ethnic, religious or other commonalities.

The law, common sense, democracy and reason mandate 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 State legislature.

This configuration also complies with the requirements that districts must be equal in population and they cannot intentionally discriminate against minority voters, pursuant to the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. After these obligatory federal requirements, most states and localities also require that districts be reasonably compact,⁶ and “contiguous.”⁷ The borders should follow natural geographical and political boundaries, such that they do not cross bodies of water, or divide cities and counties.⁸ Finally, they encompass “communities of common interest,”⁹ groupings of people who have similar values, shared interests, or common characteristics.¹⁰ The Supreme Court of the United States has held these as “traditional redistricting criteria” to which all districts must encompass.

Cal.Rptr.2d 379, 407, 823 P.2d 545, 573 (1992) (*en banc*). In *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 907-08, 115 S. Ct. 2475, 2484, 132 L.Ed.2d 762 (1995), the Supreme Court found that the 11th Congressional District of Georgia failed to incorporate a community of interest.

⁵ Plaintiffs, as residents of the district, have standing to bring suit. See *United States v. Hays*, 515 U.S. 737, *Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952, 959-60 (1996); *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 647 (1993); *DeWitt v. Wilson*, 856 F. Supp. 1409, 1414 (E.D. Cal. 1994), *aff’d*, 515 U.S. 1170 (1995).

⁶ *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964)

⁷ *Shaw*, 509 U.S. at 647; *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 906 (1995).

⁸ *Shaw*, 509 U.S. at 647; *Abrams v. Johnson*, 521 U.S. 74 (1997).

⁹ *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 919-20; *Abrams*, 521 U.S. at 74

¹⁰ *League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry*, 548 U. S. 399, 435 (2006); *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 915-16. ¹¹ *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 915-16.

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 State legislature. Health care providers in this community also advise of the common problems patients living here face, like high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease. Moreover, 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, an apartheid effect!

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, consisting mainly of essential workers, yielding billions of revenue dollars to the City, State and federal governments. 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, John Lewis and other great visionaries have died for, we have come to "create good and necessary trouble" and 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 the business corridors of Liberty, Jamaica, Atlantic, 101, Rockaway, Lefferts Avenues and Boulevards, JFK Airport or Resorts World and you will be convinced as to who constitute this 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 and heritage. Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, must not be divided into different voting districts. We urge you to consolidate them now, or your actions will have been "made in violation of lawful procedure, was affected by an error of law or was arbitrary and capricious or an abuse of discretion."¹¹

¹¹ N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 7803(3) (CONSOL. 1909)

Districts that do not meet statutory criteria that must be applied “as practicable,” are void. In *Badillo v. Katz*, Badillo, 343 N.Y.S.2d 451, 461 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1973), aff’d 41 A.D. 829 (N.Y. App. Div. 1973), aff’d 32 N.Y.2d 825 (1973), the New York Supreme Court struck down two of the City Council’s planned thirty-three “councilmanic” districts. It held that those districts did not meet the statutory criteria of being contiguous, convenient, and compact. Your actions must comply with the law.

In *Favors v. Cuomo*, No. 1:11-cv-05632 (E.D.N.Y. March 19, 2012), the court ordered the Magistrate Judge to, “where possible, draw districts that preserve communities of interest, and consider other factors and proposals submitted by the parties, which... are reasonable and comport with the Constitution and applicable federal and state law.” Additionally, the court also authorized the magistrate judge to “consider other factors and proposals submitted by the parties, which...are reasonable and comport with the Constitution and applicable federal and state law.”¹³

In *Rodriguez v. Pataki*, 207 F. Supp. 2d 123, 124, 125 (S.D.N.Y. 2002), the court instructed the Special Master it appointed in the 2000 round of redistricting as follows: “adhere to and, where possible, reconcile the following guidelines:

- (a) Districts shall be of substantially equal population, compact, and contiguous.
- (b) The plan shall comply with 42 U.S.C. § 1973(b) and with all other applicable provisions of the Voting Rights Act.”

The federal courts in New York have given strong credence that they would consolidate, unite and uphold geographically defined communities of interest like Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park. This Commission is bountifully equipped with such resources and experience that litigation seems moot at this point, and we are confident that you will, collectively, unite us, as beseeched. However, we are prepared to defend our rights as Americans and taxpayers.

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 by previous partisan commissions.

It will be an unforgivable travesty for you to give us back our deserving check back yet 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. You cannot deny us any longer!

¹³ Order of Referral to Magistrate Judge, *Favors v. Cuomo*, No. 11-CV-5632 RR GEL, at 3 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 19, 2012).

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. Please do the right thing!

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Baldeo

Albert Baldeo

Chairman, United Communities Alliance & Redistricting Coalition

EXHIBIT A

Unite **RICHMOND HILL**

OZONE PARK, SOUTH OZONE PARK

**Communities
of
Interest**

AD 38

RICHMOND HILL

AD 24

**SOUTH
RICHMOND HILL**

AD 31

**SOUTH
OZONE PARK**

**AQUEDUCT
RESORTS WORLD
AD 23**

FAIR REDISTRICTING!



RAHAMAN
HALAL
BUTCHERY

LIBERTY GIANT DISCOUNT STORE INC.

WE DO
RENTALS

UNITE
RICHMOND HILL
OZONE PARK
SOUTH OZONE PARK
COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Keep Richmond Hill United
Fair Re-Districting

UNITE
RICHMOND HILL
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Keep Richmond Hill United
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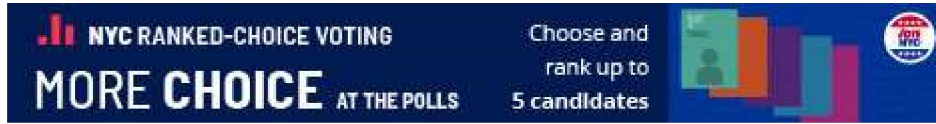
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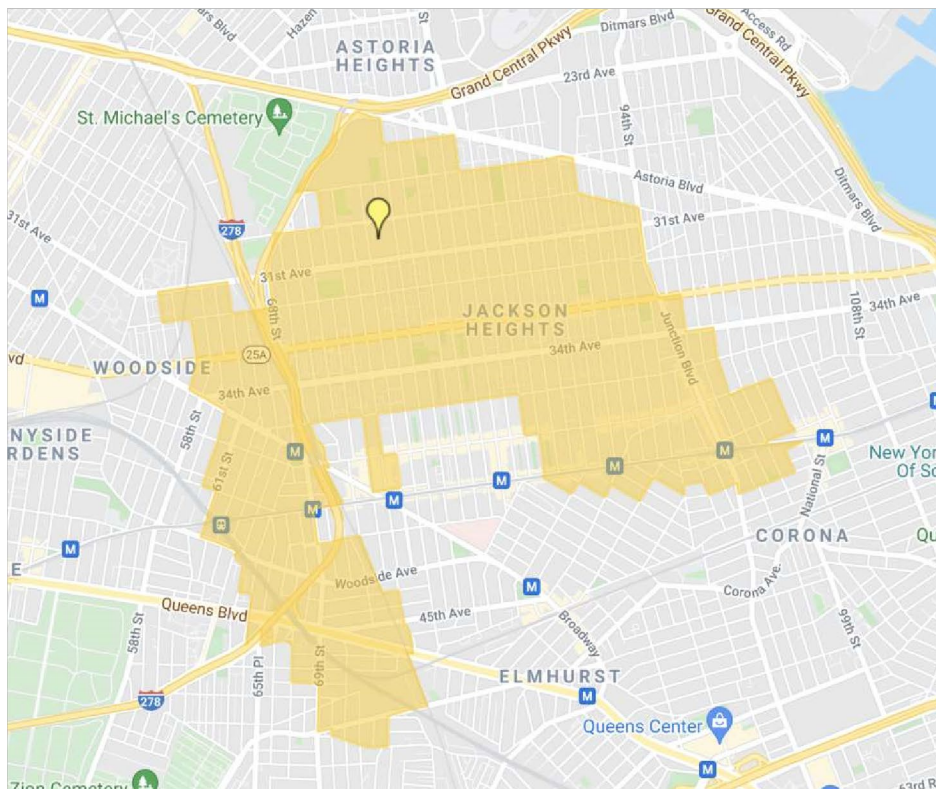
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Queens gears up for once-in-a-decade redistricting

July 19, 2021



QUEENS RESIDENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH IN ON HOW THE COUNTY'S ELECTORAL DISTRICTS, LIKE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34 PICTURED ABOVE, ARE DRAWN. MAP VIA JESSICA GONZÁLEZ-ROJAS/NYS ASSEMBLY

By Jacob Kaye and Rachel Vick

For the first time in history, Queens residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on the districts that will define the borough's representation in government for the next decade.

The redistricting process will begin with a public meeting for residents to share their thoughts on existing district lines with the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission. Using public input and census data, the commission will redraw electoral districts for congressional and State Legislature seats, potentially changing the make-up of who gets elected to office in Queens.

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“Residents have a chance to shape the next 10 years of representation,” said Douglas Breakell, one of the co-executive directors of the commission. “And it’s important that we have participation for this process to work.”

Redistricting was formerly a partisan process prior to 2014, when a state law was passed to bestow the map drawing powers into the hands of the commission, which is made of five Democratic and five Republican members and two co-executive directors.

Also new to the process is the public comment period. In Queens, residents will have the opportunity to submit testimony and speak about the ways in which they wish to see the lines redrawn at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 22.

Karen Blatt, the commission’s other co-executive director, said she hopes people share not only how they are negatively impacted but also how they are positively impacted by district lines.

After detailed census data is released next month, the commission will draw up a first draft of new districts. Following the first map, more public input will be collected and then the commission will present a final draft to the State Senate and Assembly.

If the legislature rejects the map twice, the lawmakers will have the opportunity to draw their own maps.

Queens representatives say that they have faith in the commission and in the process, which they feel should be independent of political motivations.

“It’s really critical that districts that are put together to reflect their communities and do so in an equitable and fair way,” said Assemblymember Nily Rozic. “You want [districts] that are contiguous, that are practical, that encourage people to participate in government, that look like the people that they’re aiming to represent and that that happen in an independent and fair way.”

Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, a first-term lawmaker representing Assembly District 34, said that while she believes the process should be independent, she’s hoping the new lines reflect her community’s interests and are more cohesive than the current map.

Assembly District 34 is made up of portions of several neighborhoods. The District 34 map resembles a handgun, with a slim portion running south through Woodside and into Elmhurst, with a larger portion running east into Jackson Heights and Corona.

“As someone who represents a community, I want to have a very strong stake in what the lines look like and how it’s carved up,” González-Rojas said. “[The Independent Redistricting Commission] is great. It should be a very independent process. But obviously, as someone who represents this district, it’s important to me what the lines will look like and how it will change.”

“I don’t actually have one community that’s intact,” González-Rojas said.

Other electoral maps in Queens represent the ideal scenario; connected neighborhoods that represent the population without being skewed for political gain.

“I’m lucky, compared to most, that my district actually seems to make some sense,” said Astoria Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani. “The way in which

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it's been drawn, it isn't leaps and bounds to cut out some things and add in others."

In districts that do cut through portions of neighborhoods, or leave out certain ethnic, racial or economic populations, voters have their franchise infringed upon, Mamdani said.

"There are some [districts] where it cuts into part of a neighborhood and then cuts out and is doing the work to ensure that certain constituencies have their voting power diluted," he said.

The commission is tasked with a balancing act, juggling fair redistricting for communities with an obligation to evenly distribute the population — a rule responsible for every congressional district in Queens except one crossing county lines.

There is only a small deviation allowed between districts, said Jeffrey Wice, director of the New York Law School's New York Census and Redistricting Institute.

"The question becomes how many congressional districts Queens [will] retain wholly in the borough or share with other counties and this will all depend on what the census data shows on the local level," Wice said.

"New lines will be set in place for 10 years and will help determine who represents Queens; everything is dependent on programs and dollars, and that's dependent on electoral districts," he added. "If you don't think your district is properly represented, this is the time to speak up. There's no second chance — we have one opportunity to take the census and one opportunity to redraw the lines and that... lasts for a decade."


Queens residents can sign up to speak at the Independent Redistricting Commission's hearing at nyirc.gov/meetings.

 Jacob Kaye  0 Comments

0 Likes

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 Redistricting, Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Zohran Ma, Nily Ro, State Assembly, State Senate, Congressional Districts, New York State Independent Redistricting Commission, Douglas Breakell, Karen Blatt

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EXHIBIT B



Around the World in New York City: A Neighborhood Itinerary

BY WHITNEY BROWN - October 9, 2020

New York City is an entire world, all on its own. Its residents come from countries spanning every continent, and the sizable immigrant population (from first generation to current inhabitants) has made the Big Apple feel more like home by establishing ethnic neighborhoods across the city. And while you've probably heard of Chinatown and Little Italy, there are many other neighborhoods for globetrotters to add to their New York City itinerary — or for residents to visit to simulate traveling the world while staying close to home. Here are just a few of them.

LITTLE SENEGAL

To find West Africa in New York City, simply head to Harlem. Little Senegal, also referred to as “Le Petit Sénégal,” is a thriving cultural enclave, where both the music and food have a distinctly

African flavor. Although most of the neighborhood's residents are Senegalese, people from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and other African nations have also made their homes here.

In Little Senegal, you'll find authentic restaurants like Africa Kine and Le Baobab, as well as Red Rooster, an American restaurant that sprinkles its food with African spices. No matter which Senegalese restaurant you choose, make sure to try the *yassa* (chicken or fish cooked with onion, garlic, lemon juice, and mustard) or the *thiakry* (a couscous dish topped with fruit, sour cream, and pure vanilla extract). You should also check out the Malcolm Shabazz Market, where vendors sell hand-carved figures, traditional garb, and jewelry. And if you happen to be visiting New York during September, you'll want to check the dates for the annual African-American Day Parade.



Photo by Camille Danielich

You can find Little Senegal on and around West 116th Street in Harlem. The most convenient subway stop is 116 Street/8 Avenue on the B train.

LITTLE GUYANA

Located in Queens, this neighborhood is an exciting hub of Guyanese life. The Guyanese are descendants of slaves brought from Africa by the Dutch and indentured servants brought from India by the British; today, Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America, and its culture is a smooth blend of Indian and Caribbean characteristics.

There are about 140,000 people of Guyanese descent living in New York City today, and they've left their mark. You'll notice Christians, Hindus, and Muslims roaming through Little Guyana. Liberty Avenue is the neighborhood's main thoroughfare, where you can find notable restaurants like Sybil's — but wherever you eat, consider ordering curry, fish, or oxtail.

Little Guyana is at its most vibrant during the Phagwah Parade, celebrating the arrival of spring during the Hindu festival of Holi. The parade makes Little Guyana feel vibrant and colorful, especially since people celebrate by tossing bright, colorful powders in the air.

You can find Little Guyana in the Richmond Hill area of Queens. The most convenient subway stop is Ozone Park – Lefferts Boulevard on the A train.

LITTLE ITALY

Without a doubt the most iconic “little” neighborhood in New York City, Little Italy can feel like a tourist thoroughfare. Its streets are crowded with Italian restaurants, clothing stores, and — of course — people.

Mulberry Street is the best-known road that runs through the neighborhood; as you walk it, keep an eye out for street art! As far as Little Italy's iconic buildings go, check out St. Patrick's Cathedral. You can also venture into NoLita (“North of Little Italy”) to see the former NYPD headquarters, now converted into luxury apartments.

Although there are good reasons to visit throughout the

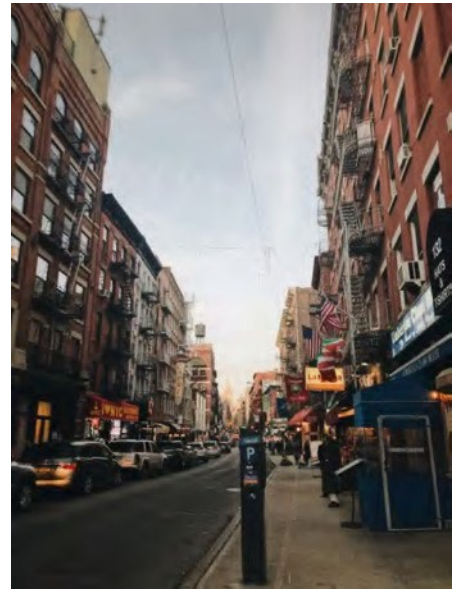


Photo by Milla Olsson

entire year, Little Italy is at its best in September during the Feast of San Gennaro, when a festive atmosphere settles over the neighborhood. Throughout the celebration, parades, live music, delicious food, and events like a cannoli-eating competition bring Little Italy to life, for both locals and visitors.



Photo by Oisín McEvoy

You can find Little Italy just northeast of Chinatown in lower Manhattan. The most convenient subway stops are Spring Street on the 6 train and Canal – Lafayette on the J, N, Q, R, W, Z, 4, and 6 lines.

LITTLE COLOMBIA

A perfect afternoon stop for anyone who loves salsa music, Little Colombia is a vibrant neighborhood in the Jackson Heights area of Queens. Along Roosevelt and 37th Avenues, you'll find plenty of traditional restaurants serving up delicious food — empanadas, fried fish, and arepas, to name just a few dishes. Try Pollos A La Brasa Mario for casual dining or La Pequeña Colombia for a more upscale experience. In the evenings, track down the Arepa Lady food truck for tasty street food options.

Little Colombia pulses with salsa music, so don't be surprised when you hear it playing in the streets. The neighborhood lights up even more during the summer, when several parades and parties pass through the area. The Colombian Independence Day Parade, which usually takes place on a Saturday in late July, is the most festive of all.

You can find Little Colombia in the Jackson Heights area of Queens. The most convenient subway stop is Jackson Heights – Roosevelt Avenue on the E, F, M, R, and 7 lines.

KOREATOWN

New York City has a huge Korean population, so Koreatown doesn't disappoint. And even though few people actually *live* here, the neighborhood is densely packed with businesses — from spas to stores, and from bars to Korean barbecue joints. Ktown is tucked in the shadow of the Empire State Building and, after sunset, it lights up in bright neon signs, with almost every business open 24/7. Swing by anytime for a taste of Seoul in New York City!

Some of Koreatown's highlights include Gagopa Karaoke (with a BYOB policy and more than 30,000 songs in its repertoire), deluxe spas dotted throughout the neighborhood, and Gaonnori (a fancy Korean barbecue restaurant offering panoramic views of Manhattan).

You can find Koreatown between Fifth Avenue and Broadway, with 32nd Street running down the center. The most convenient subway stop is 34 Street – Herald Square on the B, D, F, M, N, Q, R, and W trains.

CHINATOWN

From bakeries to bars, pharmacies to temples, there's a reason that New York City is home to one of the most famous Chinatowns in the world. Although the neighborhood is best known

English Language Proficiency by Country of Birth New York City, 2011

	Population 5 and over	Percent not English Proficient
Total, NYC	7,711,330	23.0
Native-born	4,665,425	6.2
Foreign-born	3,045,905	48.8
Dominican Republic	365,232	70.0
China	357,476	74.8
Mexico	178,295	82.1
Jamaica	169,504	1.0
Guyana	136,906	1.8
Ecuador	142,753	75.8
Haiti	102,042	49.6
Trinidad and Tobago	87,868	1.3
India	79,080	32.4
Russia	74,235	63.2
Bangladesh	74,323	58.4
Korea	68,049	62.8
Colombia	63,511	63.5
Ukraine	63,110	70.9
Poland	52,669	48.7
Philippines	45,115	24.4
Italy	50,413	45.0
Pakistan	37,418	45.4
United Kingdom	33,152	1.2
El Salvador	30,794	79.4

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

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News

Guyanese migrate to S. Ozone Park

By Sarina Trangle

0 comments

Posted on January 14, 2014



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QNS

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By Sarina Trangle

Guyanese migrating from Richmond Hill to South Ozone Park propelled the neighborhood into the top immigrant-adding neighborhood in the borough.

Surveys taken in 2000 and 2007 through 2011 show South Ozone Park's foreign-born population increased 14.5 percent from 39,899 to 45,681. The most current statistics included in the Department of City Planning's "Newest New Yorkers" report indicate that 58.3 percent of the neighborhood was born outside America, with 46.5 percent of its immigrant population hailing from Guyana.

The neighborhood also drew in Caribbean immigrants of Asian descent, with 14.4 percent of its foreign-born population from

Trinidad and Tobago, 3.7 percent from the Dominican Republic, 3 percent from Jamaica and 1.8 percent from Colombia.

"As with Guyanese immigrants, Trinidadian and Tobagonian immigrants of Asian and African descent each had a preferred borough of residence. Queens accounted for the overwhelming majority (73 percent) of New

The logo for Queens Neighborhood Stories (QNS) is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the letters "QNS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, centered within a white square. This white square is itself centered within a larger, light gray square.

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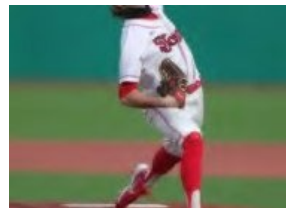


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York's Trinidadian and St. John's Tobagonian immigrants of Asian descent, while Brooklyn nearly two-thirds of those of African descent," the report



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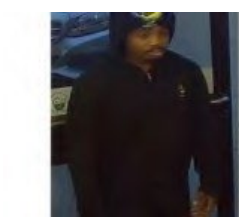
noted. **Queens Comprehensive Perinatal**
South Ozone Park has a large **teen**
population as well, with **new**
immigrants from the country
accounting for 5.4 percent of
foreign-born population. **tempted**

To a lesser extent, people from
Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador and
China have found a home in South
Ozone Park. The report indicates
each of those immigrant groups
accounts for less than 4 percent of
the area’s foreign-born population.

In the 1990s, the Guyanese enclave
in Richmond Hill began expanding
into South Ozone Park, according
to the report.



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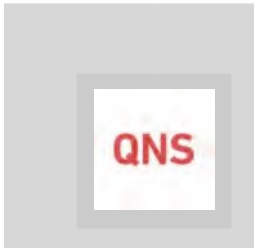


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SHOP N



Vishnu Mahadeo, founder and president of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council, said Guyanese families who grew tired of the more urban environment in Richmond Hill sought more residential homes in South Ozone Park.

By 2011, nearly a quarter of the city's Guyanese population resided in the two neighborhoods.

The Indo-Guyanese began a campaign encouraging the community to participate in the census, with the hopes that more accurate demographic statistics would help them mend city and state political districts and field the first Guyanese City Council candidate in 2001. To date, the Guyanese community is split between four Council and six state Assembly seats, according to Mahadeo.

“Gerrymandering works against the Caribbean community,” he said. “They have gotten so accustomed to being overlooked and neglected that everyone here has to rely on themselves.”

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Photo by Christina Santucci

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QNS

In Little Guyana, Proposed Cuts to Family Immigration Weigh Heavily

By Vivian Wang

Aug. 11, 2017

Richard David's face is plastered around the Richmond Hill neighborhood of Queens. Along Liberty Avenue, on posters in the windows of sari shops and roti restaurants, Mr. David advertises his campaign for City Council, which, if successful, would make him New York's first city councilman of Guyanese descent.

One of Mr. David's campaign promises: securing money for resources like immigration lawyers or language assistance for the diverse neighborhood that includes Little Guyana, a hub of the largest Guyanese community outside of the country itself.

It is also the community in New York City that could lose the most from a new federal effort to cut legal immigration in half, in part by limiting what are known as family preference visas, which go to the siblings, grandchildren, in-laws or adult children of United States citizens, as well as the spouses and children of legal permanent residents. That is exactly the kind of visa that allowed Mr. David to immigrate from Guyana in 1995, and that helped bring other members of his family into the country, too, as recently as last month.

"Eight family members of mine just came through family sponsorship on the Fourth of July," Mr. David said. His grandmother sponsored two adult daughters, who also brought their children. Of the proposed immigration bill, which was endorsed by President Trump last week, Mr. David said, "This could cease or significantly reduce Guyanese migration to the country."

It is unclear if the bill will ever become law.

The Guyanese community brings in more people through family preference visas than any other immigrant group in the city. Of the Guyanese in New York City who received legal permanent residence between 2002 and 2011, 60 percent entered on family preference visas, according to a 2013 report by the Department of City Planning. Thirty-seven percent entered as immediate relatives, an uncapped visa category that includes the spouses, parents and minor children of citizens.

Foreign-born Guyanese people make up a tiny share of the United States as a whole — just over 280,000 people in 2015, or 0.09 percent of the total population — but a hefty share of New York City's immigrant population. More than half of the Guyanese population in the United States lives in New York City, according to city data, making it the fifth-largest immigrant population in the five boroughs and the second-largest in Queens.

"Their propensity to come to New York City is very high," said Joseph J. Salvo, chief demographer at the Department of City Planning. "And they are heavily reliant on family preferences — and reliant on categories that, under this proposal, would disappear. There's no question that they would be affected in a dramatic fashion."

The bill, sponsored by Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia, seeks to reduce the number of people granted legal permanent residency each year — currently more than one million — by 41 percent in its first year and 50 percent by its 10th year, according to its sponsors' estimates.

To do that, it proposes narrowing the definition of immediate relatives, removing parents from the list and lowering the age of qualifying children to 18 from 21. Siblings of citizens, as well as the adult children of citizens or permanent residents, would no longer be eligible for family sponsorship. The total number of family preference visas would be cut to 88,000 a year, a 60 percent reduction from the current 226,000.

Of New York City's Guyanese immigrants who became legal permanent residents from 2002 to 2011, 45 percent were the parents, married children or siblings of citizens, or their spouses or children, according to the city's data. If the proposed bill had been law at the time, nearly half of new Guyanese immigrants to the city would have been ineligible.

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on New York businesses, arts, sports, dining, style and more.

For a community that relies upon tightly knit family units, where multiple generations live together in one house and grandparents often care for grandchildren while parents work, the constriction of family immigration would be especially wrenching.

“In our Guyanese community, nuclear family is not tied down to mother, father, children,” said Deborah Assanah, 56, associate director of the Guyana Cultural Association. “We have like a village of family members who assist with raising the kids.”

The Guyanese community, which includes people of Indian, African, Chinese and indigenous descent, has one of the highest rates of female labor force participation among New York City immigrants, perhaps aided by the availability of extended family to care for young children, said Philip Kasinitz, a sociology professor at the City University of New York.

And because many Guyanese immigrants send remittances to relatives at home, cutting off family immigration would effectively make immigrants responsible for financially maintaining two households, with no prospect of reunification, said Vishnu Mahadeo, president of the Richmond Hill Economic Development Council.



The Little Guyana neighborhood is a hub of the largest Guyanese community outside of the country itself. Damon Winter/The New York Times

Additionally, many Guyanese parents prefer for their children to come to the United States either as very young children or after they have completed their education, so that they can integrate more easily into American society or the work force, Ms. Assanah said. But that means many are older when they immigrate, making them targets of the new proposal. Ms. Assanah immigrated in 2008, sponsored by her husband, who is a citizen. A few years earlier, he also sponsored their twin daughters, who were 21 at the time — older than the proposed new cutoff.

Many Guyanese had not yet focused on the bill. Vrinda Jagan, a lawyer in Richmond Hill who works on immigration, said that immediately after the November election, clients flooded her office with questions and pleas for reassurance that they would not be deported en masse. But nobody had asked her about the new bill, she said. And applications for family sponsorship have not flagged since President Trump's endorsement of it.

“I sent out a few this week,” she said. “They’re continuing to petition for their family members, and they’re petitioning for their spouses, their children, a lot of children over 21. That hasn’t changed.”

The policy would be most devastating to people whose applications for family-sponsored visas had been pending for years, said Randy Capps, director of United States research at the Migration Policy Institute.

Especially for those with lower priority cases, like siblings or married children, the wait can be 10 years or even more.

At Singh's Roti Shop and Bar on Liberty Avenue, Sandra, who asked to be identified by only her first name because she feared disrupting her immigration proceedings, said she had been waiting on family sponsorship for 12 years; she was in the United States on a tourist visa.

She was being sponsored by her sister-in-law, who had submitted an application for her brother, Sandra's husband. Under the current system, Sandra and her three children would be allowed to enter as well.

If the bill were passed, Sandra said, "I would feel bad, because you wait so long." Her children, who have never been to the United States, are eagerly awaiting the day the application is approved. "They're so excited," she said.

Follow Vivian Wang on Twitter @vwang3

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 20 of the New York edition with the headline: In Little Guyana, Family Visa Cuts Would Be Painful

Little Guyana, an Indo-Guyanese enclave in Queens

By Ray Cavanaugh
October 9, 2014

Nobody told me about Little Guyana, a mile-plus-long stretch in the Richmond Hill neighborhood of Queens where the residents are Indian but sound like Bob Marley when they speak.

I discovered it by accident when I fell asleep on the A train, passed up my intended destination and was awakened by a fellow passenger telling me that the train had reached its last stop. The people here, known as Indo-Guyanese, are mainly descendants of indentured servants who were recruited from India (often by deceptive tactics) to work on the sugar plantations of present-day Guyana — formerly known as British Guiana — starting in 1838, when the British abolished black slavery in their colonies.

I was surprised to learn that the Guyanese are New York's fifth-largest immigrant group, according to American Community Survey figures reported by multiple media outlets. It's probably safe to say that many, if not most, Americans know little or nothing about Guyana, a small nation on the northeast coast of South America, although some may recall the 1978 Jonestown atrocity, in which cult leader Jim Jones persuaded (or forced) more than 900 of his followers to commit suicide by drinking poisoned Kool-Aid in the agrarian utopia he'd founded in that country.

Aside from a few Creole-sounding words, there's no real language barrier in this neighborhood. Guyana is South America's only English-speaking country. It's also considered part of the Caribbean, and this West Indies connection accounts for the Bob Marley accent here in Little Guyana, a neighborhood that began to take shape in the 1970s.

Upon my unplanned arrival, I exited from the subway station onto Liberty Avenue, which cuts through the Queens neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and Ozone Park, and is the throbbing heart of Little Guyana. Refreshed by my subway snooze, I felt like walking a mile or so in the direction of the place I'd intended to visit. This intended destination was soon forgotten, though, as the Little Guyana carnival atmosphere cast its spell on me.

It would be difficult to overstate the vibrancy: I was hard-pressed to pass a block of storefronts without witnessing the full color spectrum on display. Nearby 101st Avenue has considerable flavor, but nothing

approaching the bewitching carpet ride of Liberty Avenue. The Little Guyana strip runs from 104th to 130th

Street. I noticed an Indo-Guyanese presence before and after these streets, but the cultural dynamism began to dissipate. ^

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I kept hearing a wild type of music that I later learned is called “chutney.” It contains sounds of the Far East, but has a faster tempo and a more pulsating beat, reflecting the Caribbean influence. Because the weather was pleasant, cars with open windows kept delivering a loud dose of chutney. In many cases, though, open windows were superfluous; some vehicles were equipped with speakers that blasted the music as if it were a block party.

Aesthetically, Liberty Avenue is less than flawless. Suspended overhead is a subway rail, an old structure that emits a cacophony of squeaks every few minutes as a train passes by. I also had to dodge some bird droppings. Urban grit is rife, but there's no real danger.

The strip is bustling and unabashedly commercial. A house of worship might stand 30 feet from a rum joint and right next door to a henna tattoo parlor. Within three minutes of people-watching, I'd spotted Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and cross-wearing Christians passing by the same street corner. In a five-block radius you'll find a Pentecostal church, a Jehovah's Witness kingdom hall, a Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Hindu temple and an Islamic clothing store.

There's also a spiritual venue directly beneath a subway entrance. This is called the Sri Durgamatha Astrological Center, where you can ascertain your everlasting destiny, for better or worse. I tried to go in, but the place was closed. Hopefully, there was no deeper meaning there.

Although many women go about in Western garb, I saw no shortage of saris, the traditional Indian dress, or sari shops, where prices range from a few dollars to many times that amount. My bargain-hunting senses were titillated by the DVD boxes full of low-priced Bollywood flicks at many spots along the strip.

At one point along Liberty Avenue, I encountered a snacker's nirvana. I obtained a bite of heaven at the Little Guyana Bake Shop, where a mere 85 cents purchased me a coconut bun that was as sweet and fluffy as it was addictive. I then considered some pine tarts, cheese rolls and crunchy Guyanese sal sev biscuits. But I opted for jalebi (a circular sweet with the chewiest of textures) and salara (an especially decadent red coconut roll).

A few blocks from the Bake Shop, I met a machete-wielding man who offered, for \$3, to hack open a coconut and plunge in a straw for my exotic refreshment. I thought about it but declined. Then I asked whether I could take a picture of him swinging his machete. He declined.

An intriguingly high number of restaurants were serving Chinese food done Guyanese style. As it turns out, a small population of Chinese also once worked as indentured servants in Guyana; they left their culinary mark on their Indian counterparts.

Despite some occasional banality — CVS, 7-Eleven, McDonald's — the overall cultural thumbprint is strong, about as much as it's possible to find in the United States in 2014. That said, I've read that there has been discussion in the community about how to answer the classic multiple-choice ethnicity question: Despite

being from South America, the Guyanese are not Latino. Nor are they black, white or East Asian. So, what are they?

I'm not sure, except to say that they're a colorful and distinctive blend, just like their neighborhood.

Cavanaugh is a freelance writer in Massachusetts.

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IF YOU GO

GETTING THERE

From Manhattan, head to either the 42nd Street Port Authority subway stop or the 34th Street Penn Station subway stop, and take the A train to its final stop: Ozone Park — Lefferts Boulevard. Exit onto Liberty Avenue.

STAYING THERE

Days Inn and Suites

137-08 Redding St., Ozone Park

www.daysinn.com

718-845-6666

Newly built hotel offering free breakfast, exercise facilities and quick access to the subway. From \$109 a night.

EATING THERE

Singh's Roti Shop Restaurant and Bar

131-14 Liberty Ave.

718-323-5990

www.singhsrotishopnyc.com

Feast on dishes including curry, jerk chicken and fried shark. There is also an extensive vegetarian menu. Meals start at \$5.

Little Guyana Bake Shop

116-04 and 124-13 Liberty Ave.

718-843-6530; 718-843-4200

Enjoy breads, biscuits, cakes, tarts, and other forms of decadence from less than \$1.

SHOPPING THERE

Shakti Saree & Spiritual

124-15 Liberty Ave. 718-738-

1300 www.shaktisaree.com

Find a vibrant selection of old-world Indian apparel, religious relics and musical instruments.

— R.C.


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Ray Cavanaugh

Ray Cavanaugh is a freelance writer from Boston.

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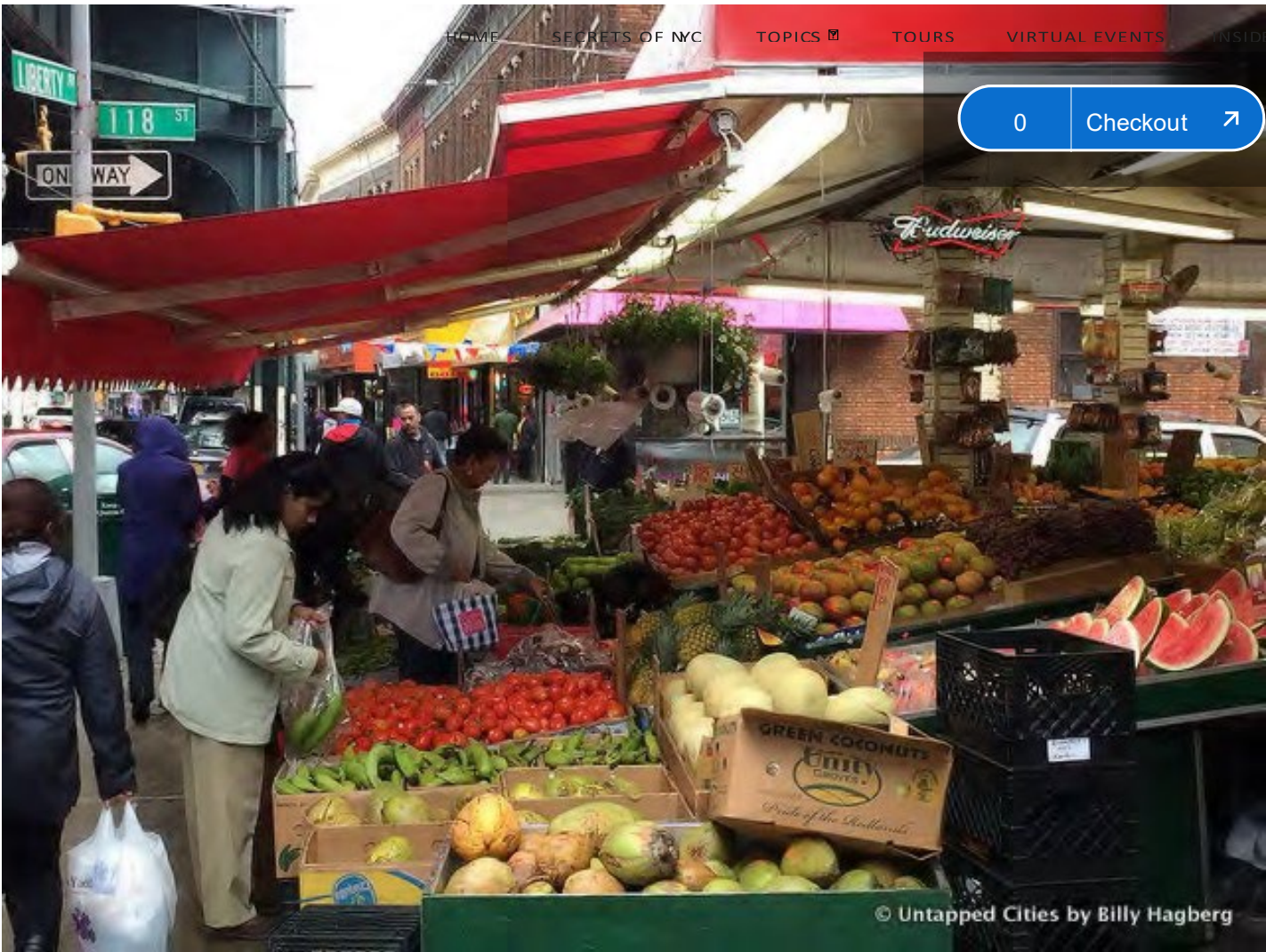
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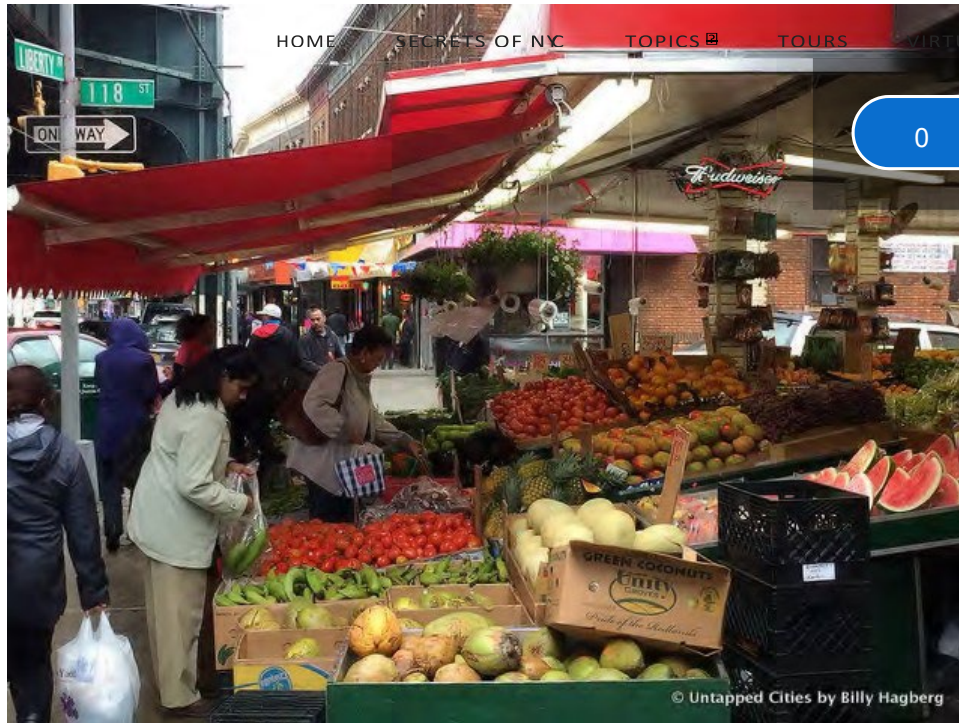
NEW YORK

NYC'S MICRO NEIGHBORHOODS: LITTLE GUYANA IN RICHMOND HILL, QUEENS



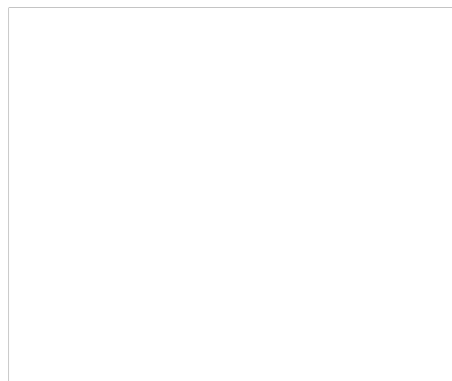
BILLY HAGBERG

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Open air markets are a common sight in Little Guyana

Welcome back to our Untapped Cities series on [NYC's Micro Neighborhoods](#), where we delve into long standing ethnic enclaves.



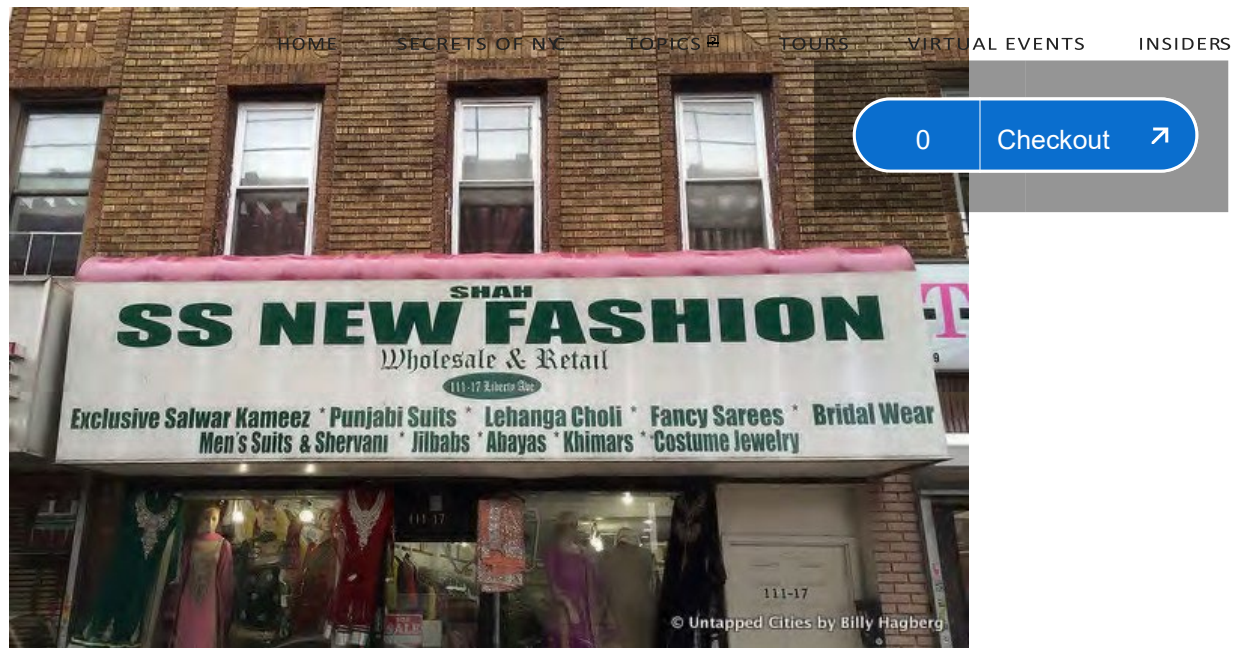
Bordered by Kew Gardens to the north, Woodhaven to the west and Jamaica to its South, Richmond Hill in [Queens](#) has long been home to a hodgepodge of European immigrants. More recently, and occasionally making the news, Richmond Hill also houses the [largest Sikh population in NYC](#). However, since the 1970s, many Caribbean Indians have been calling the southern part of the neighborhood home, one of the largest populations being from Guyana.



Fresh fruit with pepper sauce on sale

Along Liberty Avenue, named for being the only toll-free road in the area during a bygone era, you'd be hardpressed to find a pizza or deli. Dotting the main drag are roti and dooble (a street sandwich consisting of fried bread, curried chick peas and topped with Caribbean spices, cucumber, coconut and a hot pepper sauce) shops interspersed with clothing stores selling fabric and traditional Indian clothing.

Guyana itself is a small South American country of mixed cultural and ethnic heritage, predominantly a mix of Indian and local peoples. This combination of Caribbean and South Asian culture is extremely unique and while many Guyanese immigrants have settled in [Bushwick](#) and Canarsie, one of the largest pockets has settled into Richmond Hill.



Local stores offer a variety of traditional Indian clothing

Most easily accessible by the [A train](#), getting to the heart of Little Guyana can be a long but fairly straightforward trip, and well worth it for the culinary-minded. As diverse as its citizens, Little Guyana offers Caribbean twists on traditional Indian cooking. While predominantly Indian, you can find Caribbean, African and Chinese food—and every combination therein—to accommodate any price range. Guyanese restaurants and bakeries are abundant, notably Sybil's Bakery and Restaurant Shop where you can taste the gambit of traditional Guyanese meals and the [Little Guyanese Bake Shop](#) which offers a variety of traditional cakes, breads and sweets.



Inside the Little Guyanese Bake Shop

The neighborhood has various sit-down [restaurants](#) and street-fare stalls as well, from Caribbean-Suriname crossover to Trinidadian “bake and shark” (exactly as it sounds; fried shark on a dough bun) to Chinese-infused curry dishes. Near the larger markets, it’s not unusual to find a picnic table selling fresh peppered mangoes and melons.



With active commerce throughout the day and bars offering a variety of spiced rum and live music at night, Little Guyana is strip of bright and flavorful sights and sensations running through Richmond Hill. While larger chains have begun moving onto the main drag, visitors to the neighborhood can still find themselves in the middle of an incredibly unique intersection of cultures.

Read more about [Richmond Hill's Sikh population](#) and watch a session with Indian singer [Laddi B](#). The author can be contacted via Twitter [@jimipage26](#)

EXHIBIT C

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86°



CORONAVIRUS

Richmond Hill Sees Highest COVID-19 Pos i tivity Rate in NYC

BY SHANNAN FERRY | NEW YORK CITY

Vishnu Mahadeo is sounding the alarm about the high rate of coronavirus in his neighborhood.

As of Tuesday night, the city reported zip code 11419 with a COVID-19 positivity rate of 16.31%, making Richmond Hill, Queens the highest across the five boroughs.

“You know how sad it is, imagine this, I take a senior to the hospital they get tested positive, and that’s the last I see them,” he said.

Mahadeo is a longtime resident of Richmond Hill and a community activist who involved in several organizations.

On Tuesday, he distributed masks and literature throughout the neighborhood, including at a park at 125th st and 9th Avenue.

86°

ALL BOROUGH Mahadeo says the city is not providing enough resources, testing, or doing enough outreach here. He believes holiday gatherings are to blame for the spike in cases. | JULY 20, 2021

“Many people took it for granted that their family members were not impacted or infected and now we are beginning to find it out there are consequences,” he said.

Kennard Lall was among those to pick up face masks from Mahadeo. He too is frightened to hear about the positivity rate in this zip code.

“Because of the virus, you need to always get this in stock you know, this is something you need more than food right now,” Lall said.

Zip code 11420 nearby in South Ozone park also had a high rate of nearly 15% as of Tuesday evening. Mahadeo says he will try to lower the positivity rate one conversation at a time.

“Some people are very skeptical they say oh this is a way of getting more money and I say no this is an opportunity for you to make yourself better,” he said.

Mahadeo will be distributing masks again Saturday at L Fernandez Pharmacy on Liberty Avenue from 11a.m. to 1pm.

He also plans to distribute them on Sunday at the Sikh Cultural Society on 118th St from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Neighborhood Data Profiles

Search for data summaries of NYC neighborhoods by ZIP code to see how COVID-19 is affecting your community.

Enter your ZIP code or neighborhood:

11417: Ozone Park

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Your Neighborhood: 11417: Ozone Park

Totals

Population: 31,041

Totals

One out of every 8 people in this neighborhood was
3,610 diagnosed with COVID-19.

Cases:

One out of every 369 people in this neighborhood died of

Deaths:

84

COVID-19.

People

Vaccinated:

(at least 1
dose)

19,452 Of these people, 17,970 people are **fully vaccinated**.

Comparisons

Case rate:

11,629.65 Higher than the Queens case rate of **10,285.56**. per
100,000 **Higher** than New York City's case rate of **9520.43**.

Death rate:

270.61 Lower than the Queens death rate of **384.23**. per
100,000 **Lower** than New York City's death rate of **340.53**.

Vaccination:

(at least 1 dose)

Lower than the Queens vaccination rate of **64.17%**.
62.66% Higher than New York City's vaccination rate of
58.19%

Rates are numbers that are adjusted for population (similar to per capita). They help us compare areas with different population sizes by showing how common cases or deaths are. Some neighborhoods may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

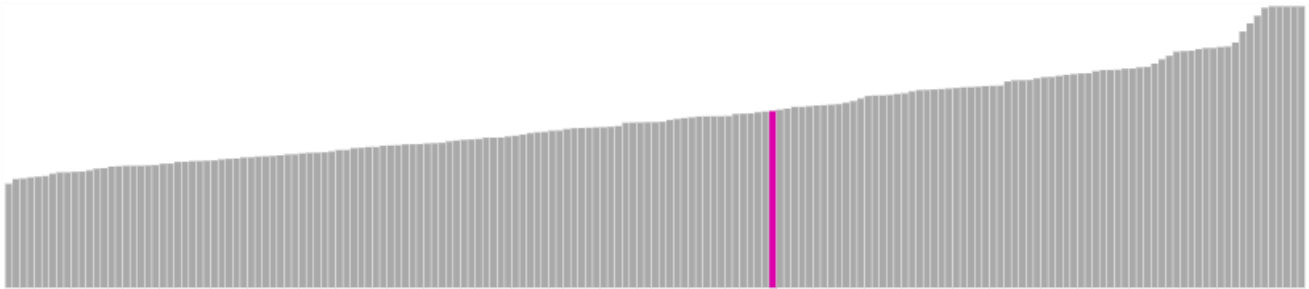
For more data since February 29, 2020, visit [COVID-19 Data: Totals](#).

Vaccination Rates

At least 1 dose Fully vaccinated

Lowest ZIP: 36.9 %

Highest ZIP: 99.36 %



In **11417: Ozone Park**:

- **62.66 %** of people have had at least 1 dose.
- That is **Higher** than the median, **58.76%** of people.

The **median** is the middle value of all the values. Half of neighborhoods have a higher value than the median and half have a lower value. Neighborhoods with 99.9% may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

For more vaccination data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Vaccines](#).

Trends Over Time

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is controlled if neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in **11417** , **Queens** , and **all of NYC**



For trend data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Trends](#).

All data is provided at the modified ZIP Code Tabulation Area level. Get more information about modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Additional Resources

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Neighborhood Data Profiles

Search for data summaries of NYC neighborhoods by ZIP code to see how COVID-19 is affecting your community.

Enter your ZIP code or neighborhood:

11419: Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park

Submit

Your Neighborhood: 11419: Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park

Totals

Population: 48,504

Totals

One out of every 8 people in this neighborhood was
5,952 diagnosed with COVID-19.

Cases:

One out of every 288 people in this neighborhood died of

Deaths:

168

COVID-19.

People

Vaccinated:

31,854 Of these people, 29,072 people are **fully vaccinated**.

(at least 1
dose)

Comparisons

Case rate:

12,270.92 **Higher** than the Queens case rate of 10,285.56. per
100,000 **Higher** than New York City's case rate of 9520.43.

Death rate:

346.36 **Lower** than the Queens death rate of 384.23. per
100,000 **Higher** than New York City's death rate of 340.53.

Vaccination:

Higher than the Queens vaccination rate of 64.17%.
65.67% **Higher** than New York City's vaccination rate of
58.19%

(at least 1 dose)

Rates are numbers that are adjusted for population (similar to per capita). They help us compare areas with different population sizes by showing how common cases or deaths are. Some neighborhoods may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

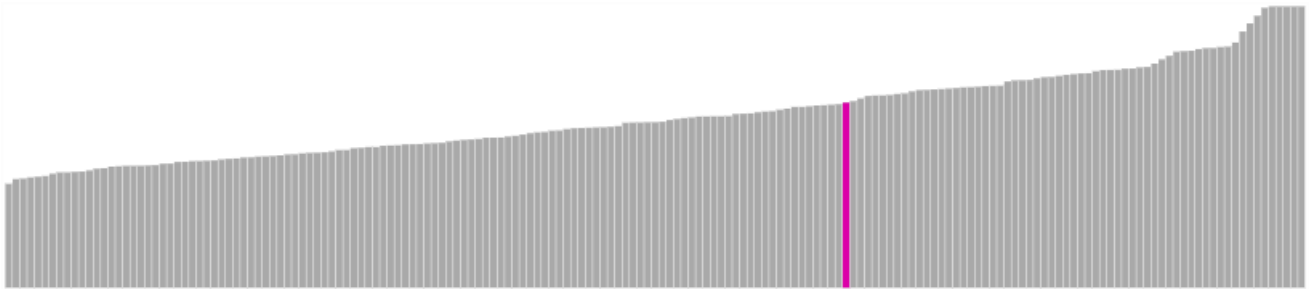
For more data since February 29, 2020, visit [COVID-19 Data: Totals](#).

Vaccination Rates

At least 1 dose Fully vaccinated

Lowest ZIP: 36.9 %

Highest ZIP: 99.36 %



In **11419: Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park**:

- **65.67 %** of people have had at least 1 dose.
- That is **Higher** than the median, **58.76%** of people.

The **median** is the middle value of all the values. Half of neighborhoods have a higher value than the median and half have a lower value. Neighborhoods with 99.9% may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

For more vaccination data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Vaccines](#).

Trends Over Time

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is controlled if neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in **11419** , **Queens** , and **all of NYC**



For trend data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Trends](#).

All data is provided at the modified ZIP Code Tabulation Area level. Get more information about modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Zone Finder](#)
- [About the Data](#)

Menu



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COVID-19: Data

Select 

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- Prevention and Groups at Higher Risk
- Vaccine
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- Community Services
- Posters and Flyers

[Latest Vaccines](#) [Variants](#) [Trends](#) [Totals](#) **Data by ZIP**

[Milestones](#)

Neighborhood Data Profiles

Search for data summaries of NYC neighborhoods by ZIP code to see how COVID-19 is affecting your community.

Enter your ZIP code or neighborhood:

11420: South Ozone Park

Submit

Your Neighborhood: 11420: South Ozone Park

Totals

Population: 47,835

Totals

One out of every 8 people in this neighborhood was
5,611 diagnosed with COVID-19.

Cases: **One out of every 283** people in this neighborhood died of
Deaths: 169
COVID-19.

People

Vaccinated: 29,142 Of these people, 26,866 people are **fully vaccinated**.
(at least 1 dose)

Comparisons

Case rate: 11,729.89 **Higher** than the Queens case rate of 10,285.56. per
100,000 **Higher** than New York City's case rate of 9520.43.

Death rate: 353.3 **Lower** than the Queens death rate of 384.23. per
100,000 **Higher** than New York City's death rate of 340.53.

Vaccination: **Lower** than the Queens vaccination rate of 64.17%.
(at least 1 dose) 60.92% **Higher** than New York City's vaccination rate of
58.19%

Rates are numbers that are adjusted for population (similar to per capita). They help us compare areas with different population sizes by showing how common cases or deaths are. Some neighborhoods may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

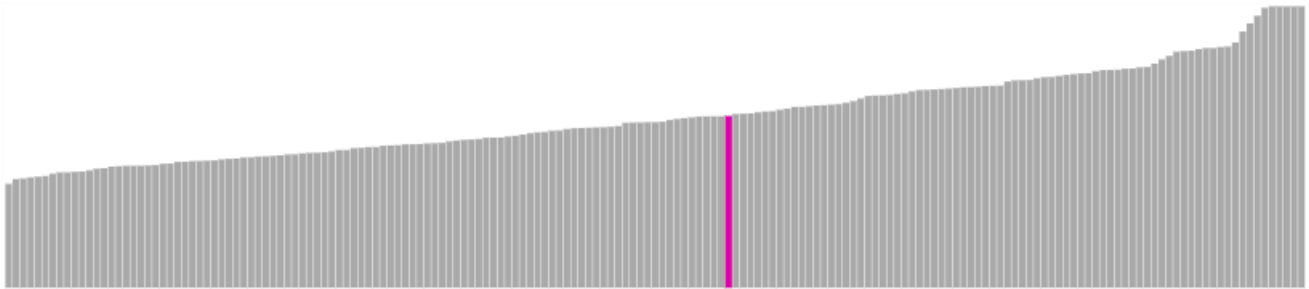
For more data since February 29, 2020, visit [COVID-19 Data: Totals](#).

Vaccination Rates

At least 1 dose Fully vaccinated

Lowest ZIP: 36.9 %

Highest ZIP: 99.36 %



In **11420: South Ozone Park**:

- **60.92 %** of people have had at least 1 dose.
- That is **Higher** than the median, **58.76%** of people.

The **median** is the middle value of all the values. Half of neighborhoods have a higher value than the median and half have a lower value. Neighborhoods with 99.9% may have more people reported vaccinated than our estimate for the underlying population.

For more vaccination data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Vaccines](#).

Trends Over Time

These charts compare data for your selected ZIP code to your borough and the city. They show whether the pandemic is getting better, getting worse or staying stable. The virus is controlled if neighborhoods have a high test rate, low percent positivity and low case rate.

Case rate Test rate Percent positive

Case rate (per 100,000 people) in **11420** , **Queens** , and **all of NYC**



For trend data, visit [COVID-19 Data: Trends](#).

All data is provided at the modified ZIP Code Tabulation Area level. Get more information about modified ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Zone Finder](#)
- [About the Data](#)

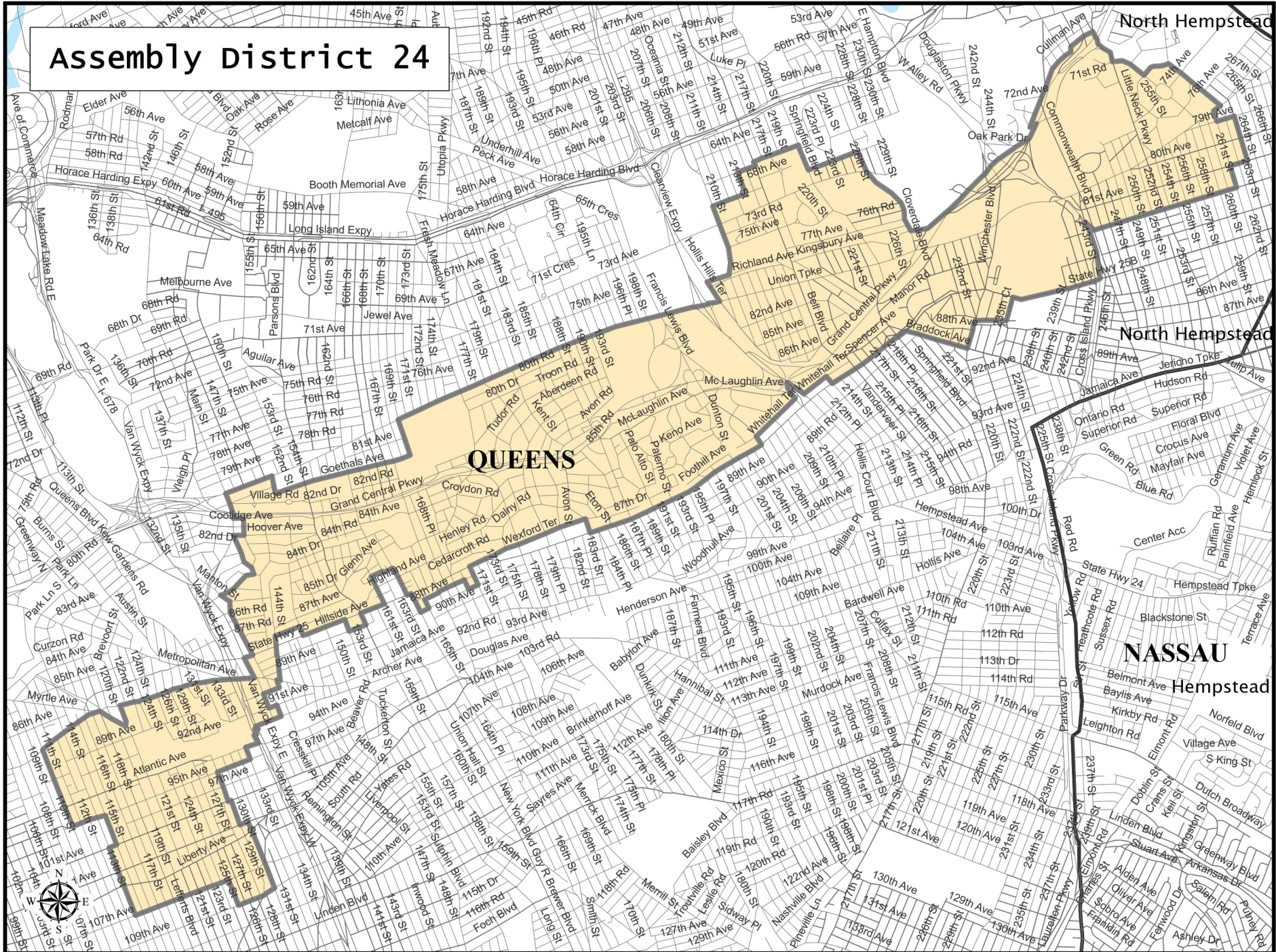
Assembly District 24

QUEENS

North Hempstead

North Hempstead

NASSAU
Hempstead



Assembly District

Adjusted Total Population :



124,134

Deviation :-4,955 Deviation

Percentage : -3.84

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown	
Total			63,257		12,968	921	115	6,882	6,191	4
% of Total			50.96	26,741	10.45	0.74	0.09	5.54	4.99	0.00
Total 18+			45,902	21.54	9,905	552	88	5,187	4,590	4
% of 18+			50.37		10.87	0.61	0.10	5.69	5.04	0.00
		7,055		18,720						
		5.68		20.54						
		6,176								
		6.78								

Department Of Justice

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown	
Total			63,628		13,155	950	119	6,232	6,250	4
% of Total			51.26	26,741	10.60	0.77	0.10	5.02	5.03	0.00
Total 18+			46,103	21.54	10,020	571	92	4,806	4,632	4
% of 18+			50.59		11.00	0.63	0.10	5.27	5.08	0.00
		7,055		18,720						
		5.68		20.54						
		6,176								
		6.78								

Assembly District 38

QUEENS

KINGS



124,105

Deviation : -4,984 Deviation

Percentage : -3.86

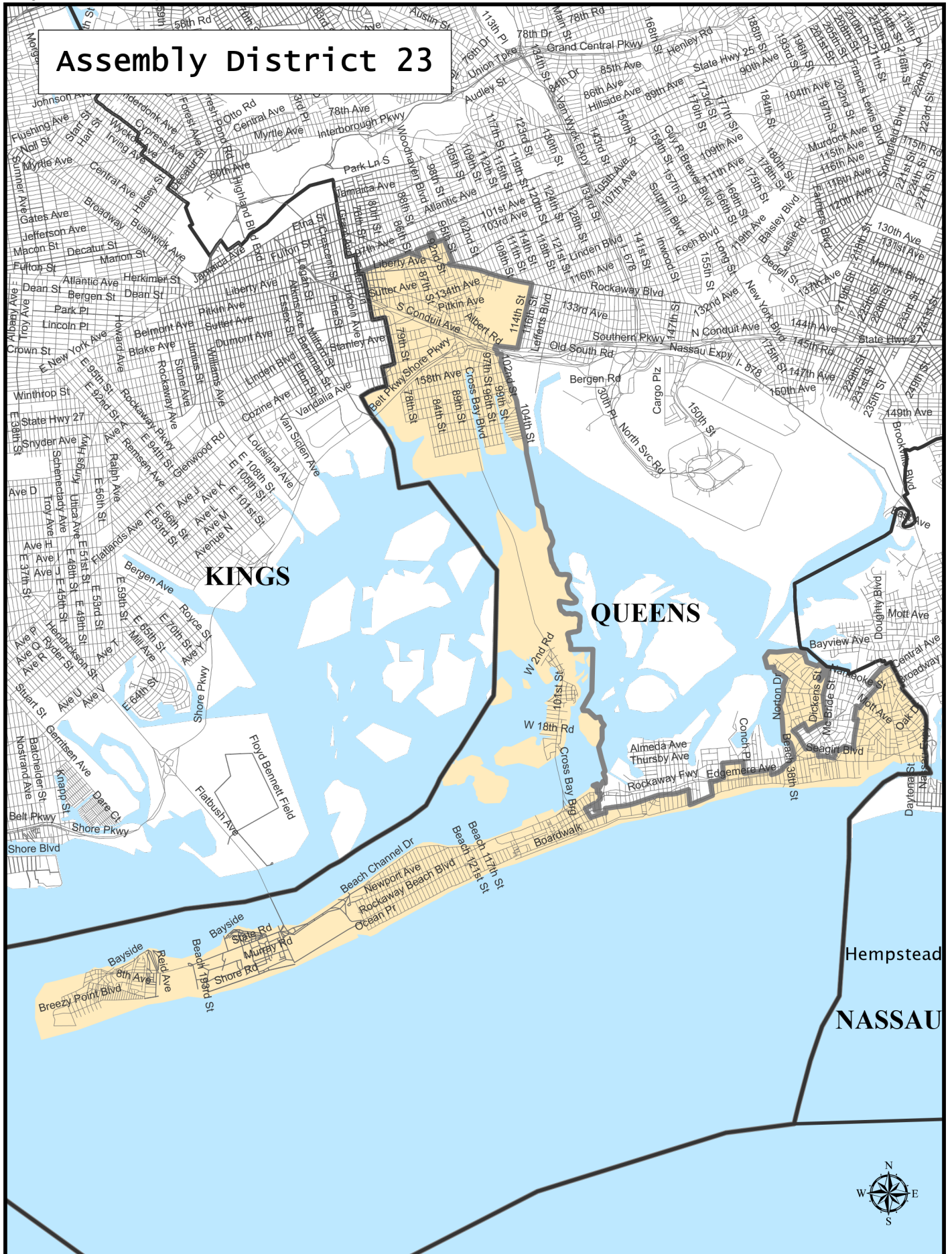
	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total		6,803		18,621	648	88	3,873	3,351	0
% of Total	28,397	5.48	62,324	15.00	0.52	0.07	3.12	2.70	0.00
Total 18+		5,053	50.22	14,386	369	59	2,839	2,415	0
% of 18+		5.40		15.36	0.39	0.06	3.03	2.58	0.00
	22.88		44,392						
	24,136		47.40						
	25.77								

Department Of Justice

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH AmInd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown
Total			7,021	19,014	695	123	3,080	3,451	0
% of Total	28,397	5.66	62,324	15.32	0.56	0.10	2.48	2.78	0.00
Total 18+		5,162	50.22	14,631	408	82	2,355	2,483	0
% of 18+		5.51	15.62	0.44	0.09	2.51	2.65	0.00	
	22.88		44,392						
	24,136		47.40						
	25.77								

Assembly District

Adjusted Total Population :



124,114

Deviation :-4,975 Deviation

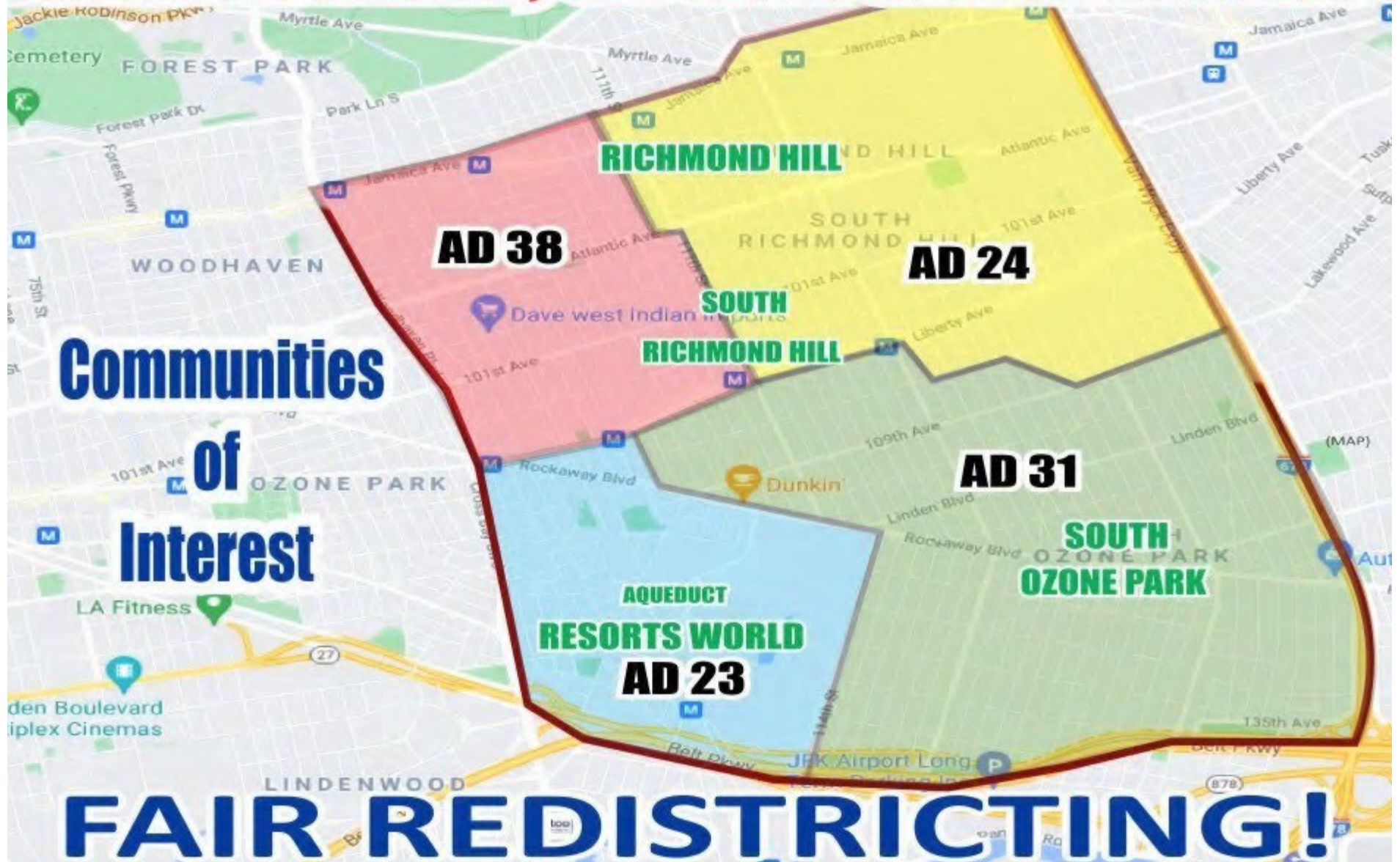
Percentage : -3.85

	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic	NH Asian	NH Amlnd	NH Hwn	NH Multi	NH Other	Unknown	
Total			19,871		7,926	335	66	2,300	1,294	2
% of Total	65,904	16.01	26,416	6.39	0.27	0.05	1.85	1.04	0.00	
Total 18+			14,912	21.28	6,071	221	51	1,551	920	2
% of 18+			15.55		6.33	0.23	0.05	1.62	0.96	0.00
	53.10		18,976							
	53,208		19.78							
	55.48									

Department Of Justice

[illegible]

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of
Interest**

FAIR REDISTRICTING!

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Little Guyana, Richmond Hill, Queens

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The 8 best ethnic neighborhoods in New York City





Link Copied

New York is home to around 140,000 Guyanese, making them the fifth-largest group of immigrants in the city. You might not be able to place Guyana on a map, but it's taken over Richmond Hill. The small country on South America's Caribbean coast, east of Venezuela, has a population that's a colorful mix of South Asian (mostly from east India) and Afro-Caribbean.

Liberty Avenue is Little Guyana's nucleus, featuring sals and spices, roti and rum, as well as businesses like the Little Guyana Bake Shop (<http://www.littleguyanabakeshop.com/>) and The Hibiscus Restaurant & Bar (<https://plus.google.com/112308708329891687975/about?gl=us&hl=en>).

Advertisement

Koreatown, West 32nd Street, Manhattan



It features dozens of Korean restaurants, karaoke clubs, and even 24 hour spas, most of them stacked on top of each other thanks to the narrow borders of the area. K-Town, a highly concentrated strip along Manhattan's West 32nd street, between Broadway and 5th Avenue, is a slice of Seoul (<http://www.businessinsider.com/koreatown-new-york-2011-11?op=1#ixzz3fPUubpNY>) in the city, and officially known as "Korea Way."

New York is home to over 140,000 Korean residents — the second largest Korean population in the US — and while they may not all live in Koreatown (many live in Flushing, Queens, another Korean hotspot), they do frequent it enthusiastically, giving the area a super local and authentic vibe.

While there's always a debate as to where the food is better, Flushing or Manhattan, K-Town is steadily gaining a stellar foodie rep.

Little India, Jackson Heights, Queens



Jackson Heights is incredibly diverse, and it can make you feel like you've been transported to a different country with every block.

incense.

However, India (and Bangladesh and Pakistan) has staked its claim on 74th Street between Roosevelt and 37th Avenue, where women will shop for jewelry and rich fabrics while wearing colorful saris, and stores are full of Bollywood films and

Like an open air market, the air is thick with the smell of curries and spices, and the streets are lined with sweet shops, curry houses, and eateries selling fresh curry leaves and chutneys.

Advertisement

[Ad] Retirement Plans for NRIs

Best Retirement Plans for Indians Living in USA.

An advertisement for Policybazaar targeting Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). It features a man in a suit holding a smartphone with the Policybazaar logo. The text reads: "Best Planning of Retirement for NRIs. Achieve Your Goals." Below this, a box states "Invest 18k & Get 2 Cr Return". A "Know More" button is present. The Policybazaar logo is in the top right corner.

Best Planning of Retirement for NRIs.
Achieve Your Goals.

Invest 18k & Get 2 Cr Return

Know More

policybazaar

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Recommended by Colombia

Little Odessa, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn 10 Fast Facts About Guyanese Immigrants In The US You Should Know

By NewsAmericas - May 9, 2016



Guyanese immigrants make up a significant portion of the foreign-born population in NYC.



Guyanese immigrants make up a significant portion of the foreign-born population in NYC.

By NAN Staff Writer

News Americas, NEW YORK, NY, Tues. May 10, 2016: Come May 26th, the CARICOM South America-based nation of Guyana will mark its 50th year of independence from Britain. Thousands of Guyanese call the U.S. home, and in New York, Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee will mark the anniversary with a week-long series of events between Saturday, June 4th and Sunday June 12, 2016. Here are ten fast facts about Guyanese in the U.S. you may not know:

1: The United States has the highest number of Guyanese outside of Guyana. An average of 6,080 people a year emigrated from Guyana between 1969 and 1976, increasing to an average of 14,400 between 1976 and 1981. As of 1990, 80 percent of Guyanese-Americans lived in the Northeast United States.

2: According to the latest U.S. Census' American Fact Finder, there are an estimated 273,000 people in the U.S. claiming Guyanese as their first ancestry as of 2013.

3: The majority of Guyanese live in New York City – some 140,000 – making them the fifth-largest foreign-born population in the city.

4: In Queens, NY – which has the largest concentration of Indo-Caribbeans in the five boroughs – Guyanese represent the second largest foreign-born population with some 82,000. A large concentration of them can be found in the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and Ozone Park, Queens according to the 'Population Analysis of Guyanese and Trinidadians in NYC' by the Indo-Caribbean Alliance using *New York City* Department of City Planning data.

5: Guyanese are the second largest immigrant group in Queens, NY. Other Guyanese populated areas in the U.S. include Orlovista, FL; Irvington, New Jersey; Orange, New Jersey; East Orange, New Jersey; Flatbush, Brooklyn; Canarsie, Brooklyn; East Flatbush, Brooklyn, Rockland County, New York, Schenectady, New York; Verona Walk, FL; Oakland, FL; Emerald Lakes, PA; South Plainfield, NJ; Olanta, S.C.; Lincoln Park, GA; Bladensburg, MD and Loganville, FL.

6: The first Guyanese to arrive in the U.S. came around 1968, either as "private household workers" or as nurses' aides and were of African descent according to research from Jacqueline A. McLeod in "Guyanese-Americans." Some 70,523 came post 1964.

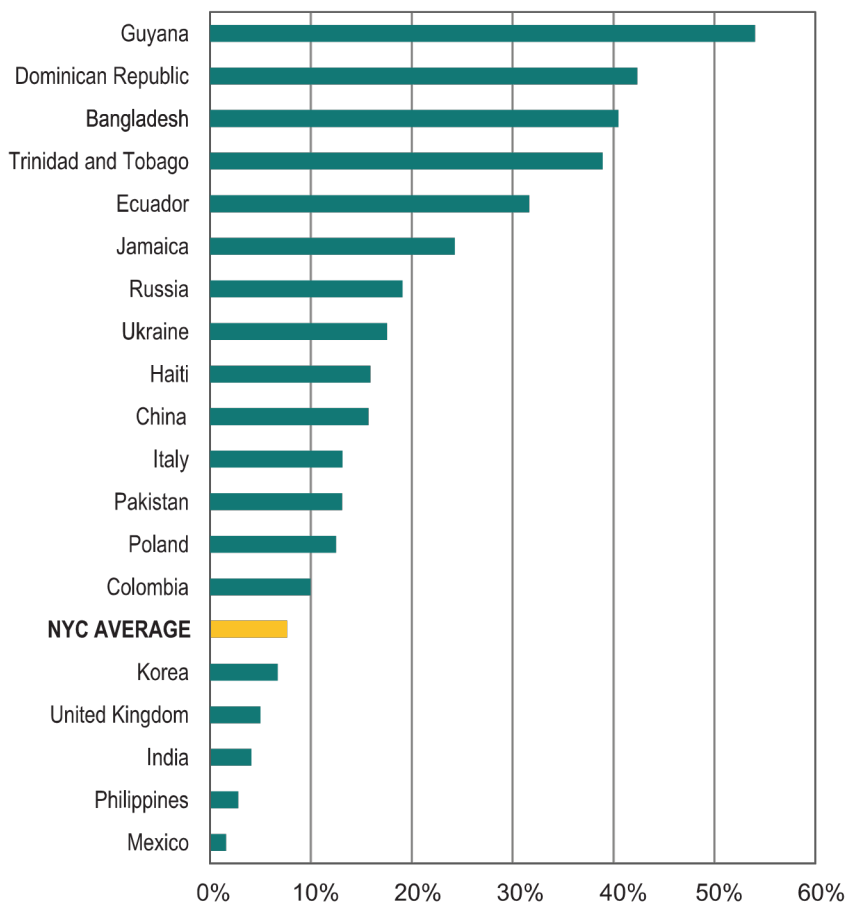
7: According to Monica Gordon in 'In Search of a Better Life: Perspectives on Migration from the Caribbean,' more Guyanese women than men settled in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, making them primarily responsible for securing immigrant status for their families. These women, Gordon concluded, tended to see migration as a means to improve their economic and social status and the educational opportunities of their children.

8: Some 17 percent of Guyanese in the U.S. are seniors (ages 65 and older) but 74 percent of all immigrants from Guyana had the highest naturalization rates, meaning they are more likely to be U.S. citizens and can vote.

9: Recent remittances from the United States to Guyana totaled some US\$438 million, (G\$ 90.7 billion), according to the Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF).

10: Famous Guyanese and those of Guyanese ancestry include: late elected politician Shirley Chisholm; actors Derek Luke, C. C. H. Pounder, Nicole Narain, Sean Patrick Thomas and Mark Gomes; baseball player Mark Teixeira and highly recognized HIV researcher, Dr. Deborah Persaud.

Figure 2-5
New York City's 2011 Share of the U.S. Foreign-born Population
by Country of Birth



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

the city's top 20 list of the foreign-born had a below average propensity to settle in New York. These countries were Mexico (under two percent of the nation's Mexican-born population lived in the city), Philippines (three percent), India (four percent), the United Kingdom (five percent) and Korea (seven percent).

The top sources of the foreign-born population for the U.S. differed markedly from those for New York City (Figure 2-6). Mexicans dominated the U.S. immigrant population, accounting for nearly three-in-ten of the nation's 40 million foreign-born. In contrast, the city's immigrant population was more diverse—Dominicans, the largest immigrant group in the city, accounted for only 12 percent of the foreign-born. China was the second largest source country for the U.S., followed by India, the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, Korea, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. Six countries on the nation's top 10 list—Philippines, El Salvador, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, and Guatemala—were not among the city's top 10 groups, and the last 3 were not even among the city's top 20 groups.

saw declines in their populations and were replaced by the United Kingdom and El Salvador, respectively.

In 2011, New York City's 3.1 million immigrants comprised under 8 percent of the country's foreign-born population (Figure 2-5). But most of New York's top 20 immigrant groups disproportionately made their home in the city. The Guyanese had the highest proclivity to settle in New York, with over one-half of Guyanese immigrants in the U.S. making their home in the city. Other countries that were disproportionately represented in the city included the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, and Trinidad and Tobago—around four-in-ten immigrants in the U.S. from these sources settled in New York. Only five countries in

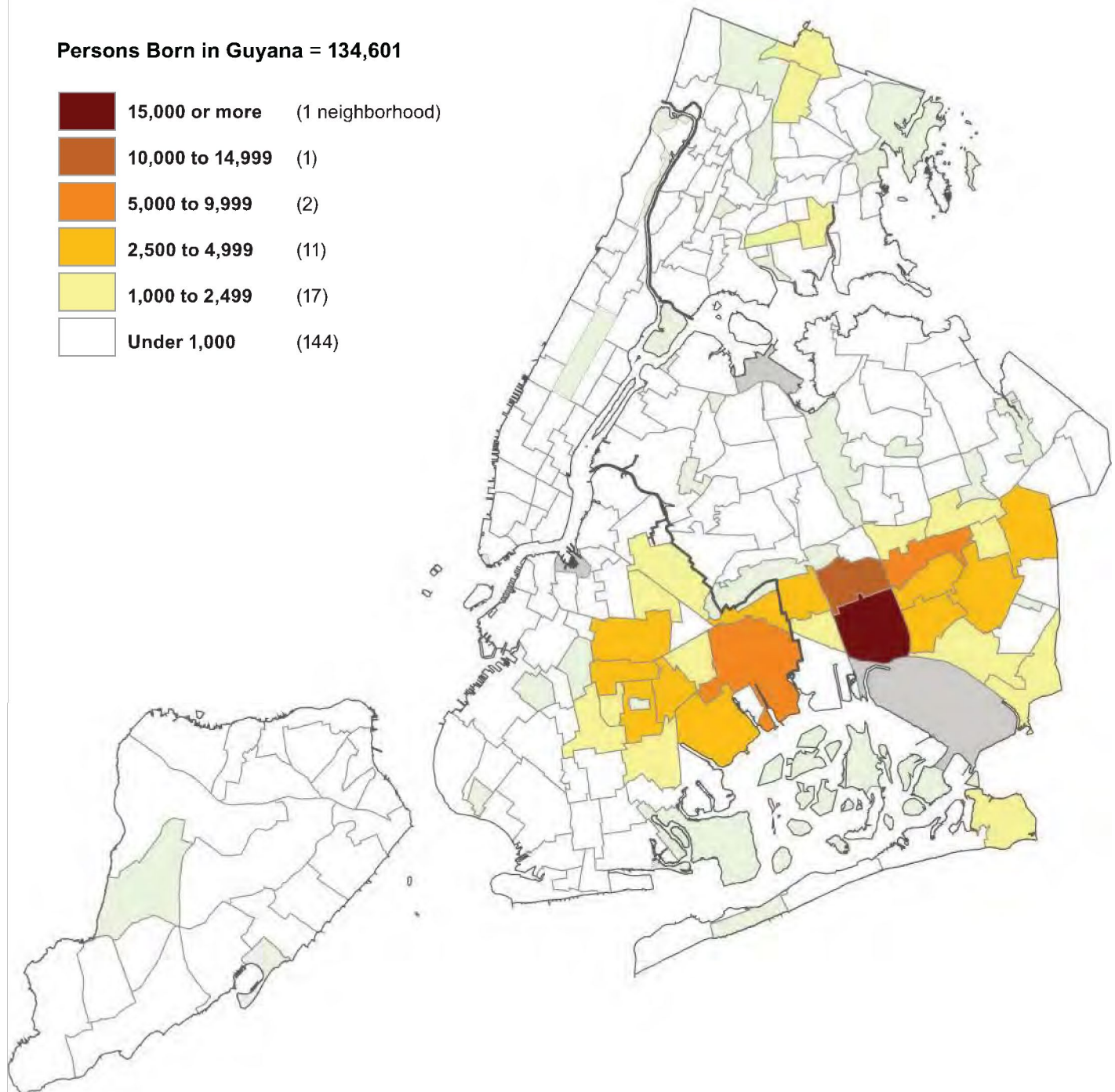
Change in the Composition of the Immigrant Population, 1970–2011

This section examines the changing composition of the foreign-born population since the passage of the 1965 amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act. For the years 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2011, Tables 2-3 and 2-4 show the area of origin and top source countries of the foreign-born populations of New York City and the U.S., respectively, while Figure 2-7 shows the share of each area of origin during this period.

In 1970, of the 1.44 million immigrants in the city, 64 percent (922,800) were from Europe, and the top five source countries were all European. Those born

Figure 3-25

**Residential Settlement of Persons Born in Guyana by Neighborhood
New York City, 2007–2011**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007–2011 American Community Survey–Summary File
Population Division–New York City Department of City Planning