#### UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE 106-11 Liberty Avenue, Suite 102 Ozone Park, NY 11417 (718) 529-2300 albaldeo@aol.com

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF THE UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE & REDISTRICTING COALITION TO THE NYS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

#### ADDENDUM to testimony previously submitted testimony 7/22/21 Petition to please unite our communities of interest-Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park into one State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional Districts, in accordance with the NYS, US Constitutions, Voting Rights Act, justice and fairness

This addendum to our petition takes into account the recently released census numbers which show a very large increase in the numbers of South Asians residing in Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park. In Queens, our Asian population grew 29%, to nearly 706,000 out of 2.4 million residents, far outpacing the borough's overall 7.8% population growth. See, e.g.,

https://www.thecity.nyc/2021/8/12/22622709/nyc-asian-surging-populationelectoral-power

https://www.qchron.com/editions/queenswide/queens-outperforms-populationestimates-in-census/article\_b6bc1494-fc5e-11eb-9f0b-73f0acfc108a.html

<u>https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/us/politics/marginalized-groups-redistricting.html</u>

In accordance with the IRC's invitation to submit additional testimony to assist it in its deliberations, this additional testimony is respectfully submitted accordingly.

With respect to the State Senate and Congressional districts, we respectfully submit this enlarged community of interest district, which is compact and contiguous, and large enough to constitute a State senate district, and a Congressional seat-in addition to the State Assembly District.

Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park alone had enough population to constitute a State Assembly district, cycles ago. See attached 2010 district data, which has increased significantly. These communities of interest have also surged past these 2010 boundaries in greater numbers.

With the addition of Ozone Park extended to the Cityline/Eldert Lane boundary bordering the Queens and Brooklyn county lines, the combined areas of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, the quintessential community of interest, will easily constitute a State senate district and a Congressional District, also. You will appreciate that only having a State Assembly representative, with no corresponding State senate and Congressional representative, will not only result in the dilution and suppression of our voices, issues and problems, and will only be a token seat in decision making-the proverbial voice in the wilderness.

Equally importantly, these districts will also keep our neighborhoods and communities intact, with established ties of common interest and association, historical, racial, cultural, economic, ethnic, religious and otherwise, as previously emphasized.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted, *Albert Baldeo* (President)







CENSUS

# NYC Asian Activists Seek to Turn Surging Population Into Electoral Power

New Census numbers showing a 43% increase of Asian New Yorkers in Brooklyn and a 29% jump in Queens fuel demands for more representation as the process for redrawing elected officials' district lines heats up.

BY CHRISTINE CHUNG, CLIFFORD MICHEL AND WILL WELCH | AUG 12, 2021, 8:37PM EDT



The southern side of 8th Ave. at 46th St. in Sunset Park, Brooklyn which is in a different Senate district than the northern side of the street. | Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY

New Census numbers out Thursday show a robust 7.7% population increase for New York City since 2010 — and even bigger surges for Asian New Yorkers at a time when Asian candidates and community groups are moving to build out political power.

In Queens, the Asian population grew 29%, to nearly 706,000 out of 2.4 million residents — far outpacing the borough's overall 7.8% population growth.

In Brooklyn, the number of Asian residents counted by the Census swelled to nearly 420,000, a nearly 43% increase from 2010, compared with a 9.2% hike in the borough's population overall.

With strength in numbers, New York City's diverse Asian communities are organizing to build political power that reflects them and their needs, as a state commission readies to <u>redraw</u> congressional and state legislative district lines.

"In the past, they would divide a neighborhood or a community who they felt were not politically engaged or were not visible," said Elizabeth OuYang, who is coordinating a redistricting task force composed of 20 Asian community groups across the city. "We are going to make sure that we are very visible in this redistricting round."

The new coalition is already at work to break down what members call artificial borders dividing communities and leaving them shortchanged on elected leadership and public services.

Case in point: Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. These Queens neighborhoods have more Asian residents — including many of Guyanese, Trinidadian or Punjabi heritage — than Black or white ones, past population surveys have shown.

Yet these hubs of Asian life in Queens are currently sliced into seven different Assembly districts — making it difficult for the communities to coalesce around a representative focused on their priorities or receive services tailored to their language, dietary or other needs, activists say.

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The Queens neighborhood of <u>Richmond Hill</u> (center) is split between seven Assembly districts. | Redistricting & You/CUNY Center for Urban Research (redistrictingandyou.org)

"For us, redistricting is not an academic exercise, nor simply a mathematical equation. It means power, accountability, and equal access to services that we are entitled to for the next 10 years," OuYang said.

### **No Representation**

Every decade, following the U.S. Census, lawmakers <u>redraw district lines</u> to reflect population changes, with the goal of achieving equal representation. By law, and backed by litigation, so-called communities of interest, such as racial groups, are not supposed to be divided in a way to weaken their political power.

This year, for the first time in New York, the process for seats in Congress and the state Senate and Assembly is being overseen by an independent commission.

Its 10 members are largely appointed by the party leaders of the state Legislature, and working under updated rules that explicitly require equal apportionment and compact districts, while forbidding racial discrimination.

Queens and Brooklyn residents packed online hearings last month to voice concerns about what they described as divisive lines thwarting their chances of electing representation. For much of the July 22 Queens hearing's five hours, the focus was on Richmond Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. During the July 29 Brooklyn hearing, speakers pointed out that despite continued Asian population growth in southern Brooklyn neighborhoods such as Bensonhurst and Sheepshead Bay, Asian residents are outnumbered in every single Assembly and Senate district as currently drawn.

Brooklyn has no Asian representatives in the state Senate or Assembly, Congress or City Council.

## **District Divided by Water**

Richard David, a Guyanese-American district leader who ran for an Assembly seat last year spanning South Ozone Park and part of the Rockaways, said that area's political divisions have created dire outcomes for the community, including a lack of funding for social services.

There are no city or state-funded senior centers in Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, or South Ozone Park that primarily serve South Asians and Indo-Caribbean people, he told THE CITY. When constituents seek to reach elected officials, they either don't know whom to call or are overwhelmed by the long list of people to contact, David added.

He cited his District 31, which encompasses parts of South and Southeast Queens, along with the Rockaways, as a "textbook example of gerrymandering."



South Ozone Park, Queens, near the convergence of three Assembly districts. | Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY

The eight neighborhoods within the district, especially those in the Rockaways, each have a very distinct cultural identity, he noted, making it challenging for one candidate to build a broad coalition of support.

"Public transportation does not connect these three parts, so in addition to a car, it would be faster to go by boat to the different parts of the district," said David, who lives in South Ozone Park.

More than 42% of the district's population is foreign born, nearly double the rate in New York State. Closer looks within the district's lines more clearly illuminate significant racial disparities.

The borough's <u>Community District 14</u>, which encompasses most of the Rockaway peninsula, is about 36% Black, about 34% white, and roughly 4% Asian. <u>Community District 10</u>, including Ozone Park and South Ozone Park, is 23.7% Asian, 21% white, and 14% Black.

In the June 2020 Democratic primary, David <u>won the district's northern half</u> in Ozone Park and south Ozone Park resoundingly, but fell short in its southern

region. He ultimately <u>lost</u> by about 800 votes to Khaleel Anderson, a 25-year-old Black progressive candidate who then won the November general election. The overall Assembly district is now 45% Black and 12% Asian, the new Census numbers show.

Aminta Kilawan-Narine, founder of the South Queens Women's March, contends that the lines reflect a "blatant disregard for the natural communities of interest that exist." She contends that they also run afoul of the federal Voting Rights Act's requirement for compact and contiguous districts.

"The way in which the lines have been drawn divides and dilutes our ability to be a stronger voice," Kilawin-Narine added. "When a naturally occurring community of interest like ours is so very divided, electeds don't have the kind of vested interest in serving us — after all, we become but a fraction of their constituency."

### A Neighborhood Divided

Brooklyn's Sunset Park was once defined by the docks where its largely white residents worked — only to change dramatically after the region's ports mostly moved to New Jersey in 1958.

Today, in addition to a sizable Hispanic population, the area is home to a large number of Asian residents and businesses, part of a revival that is redefining commercial strips in several southern Brooklyn neighborhoods.

But walking north on the area's bustling Eighth Avenue corridor, with scores of Asian-owned businesses, a short stroll from 46th street to 39th street takes a pedestrian through three different State Senate districts.

Those districts and two others in southern Brooklyn are home to more than 220,000 Asian residents. But because the population is splintered into three districts, activists argue they can't effectively rally around a political candidate.



The Brooklyn neighborhood of <u>Sunset Park</u>, upper left, is divided between three state Senate districts. | Redistricting & You/CUNY Center for Urban Research (<u>redistrictingandyou.org</u>)

The lines were drawn a decade ago by Albany Republicans with the objective of diluting downstate Democrats' power.

"It's always said that we don't vote in the right numbers, but no one ever talks about how our communities are gerrymandered that even if we all would come out to vote it would not make a difference," said Don Lee, the chairperson of Homecrest Community Services, a nonprofit that provides meals, translation services and social events for Asian American immigrants and seniors.

Homecrest was started in 1997 after its founders saw Asian seniors riding the N train daily to Chinatown in Manhattan to receive social services in a language they could understand. Today, activists say that there are still many needs that aren't being met for vulnerable Asian residents.

Many Asians in New York City were born outside of the U.S., and the need is pressing for services offered in languages other than English. As of 2018, 21.7% of Asian New Yorkers lived in poverty, according to an annual City Hall survey, <u>higher</u> than the city overall rate.

### 'No Rhyme or Reason'

Yet, nonprofits and civic groups say it's difficult to get the ear of elected officials to support these communities.

"The most active in Sunset Park is Senator [Zellnor] Myrie, but he definitely does spend more time in the Crown Heights neighborhood that he also represents because that is the majority of his district," said Mon Yuck Yu, vice president and chief of staff of the Academy of Medical and Public Health Services, which focuses on helping immigrant New Yorkers.

"A lot of resources go there and Sunset Park is seeing less. In terms of the other senators that represent Sunset Park, we've hardly seen any active outreach or activity or funding levels coming into the neighborhood."

Matt Baer, a spokesperson for Myrie, said that the senator's office does a "particularly good job" at representing constituents in Sunset Park — and that there is no "rhyme or reason" as to how the lines were drawn for the district.

"I couldn't find anybody to defend why Brownsville and Sunset Park are in the same district," Baer said. "I don't think any rational person could explain why the lines are drawn the way they are."

State Sen. Diane Savino (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn), whose two-borough district juts into Sunset Park, agreed that the neighborhood was overly divided in the last redistricting cycle.

"This time there should be an effort to provide more complete representation. A Senate district is always going to be difficult," said Savino. The redistricting commission, she said, "should examine whether this form of gerrymandering is fair to anyone."



Brooklyn State Senator Simcha Felder attends a meeting in Albany, March 20, 2019. | Photo Courtesy of NY Senate Media Services

Not all of its reps see the division of Sunset Park as unfair.

State Sen. Simcha Felder, whose predominantly Borough Park and Midwood district includes small slice of Sunset Park, said that "since the beginning of creation, every part of the district complains that the other part is getting more attention."

He said he's allotted a "disproportionate amount" of attention and resources to Sunset Park.

A decade ago, the Republicans who controlled the state Senate <u>created his</u> <u>Brooklyn district</u> with the objective of electing an Orthodox Jewish state senator to help support GOP control — a possible precedent for creating an Asiancentered district now.

### **Drawing New Lines**

Over the past 10 years, the number of Asian residents in Brooklyn increased by more than 110,000, to nearly 371,000, far outpacing any other racial group, the latest Census figures show.

Activists see an opportunity to unite Sunset Park, Bensonhurst and Sheepshead Bay — the three Asian population centers of Brooklyn — into a Senate district that could elect an Asian senator.

Dr. Wah Lee, a lifelong Bensonhurst resident who has a private medical practice in the neighborhood, said he hopes a unified district brings more focused attention to issues like the increase in assaults on Asian New Yorkers.

Lee said that he and his wife were both recently accosted — and that patients have been showing him items they've purchased for self-defense.

Said Lee: "If there were enough services the citizens wouldn't have to do this on their own."

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Vol. 67, No. 86

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021

# QUEENS TODAY AUGUST 16, 2021

U.S. REP. GRACE MENG IS ENCOURaging families to check their bank accounts to make sure that they received the second installment of their expanded Child Tax Credit payment, which started July 15. "Last month, hardworking middle-class families in New York and across the United States began receiving these monthly tax cut payments, and I'm glad to see that the second round of funds is now being sent out," Meng said. "These tax cuts will put money back in the pockets of families as we work to tackle the pandemic, move forward with our recovery, and get our economy back on track."

JAMAICA RESIDENT TYRONE Absolam, 42, was arraigned Friday by a grand jury on a 16-count indictment with charges including aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular manslaughter and driving while intoxicated for allegedly driving drunk and killing a mother and her 10-year-old daughter. He faces up to 25 year if convicted. "As alleged, a family now mourns the loss of a mother and her 10 year-old daughter because of the defendant's selfish decision to ignore the rules of the road," Katz said. "Drunk driving is never acceptable."

THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN announced that Catholic schools will have a mask mandate for all students, faculty, and staff when classes begin on Sept. 8. "This is the most responsible approach to take when we begin the new school year," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Chadzutko. "I know the return to these safety measures is not the situation parents, teachers or students were hoping for in the 2021-2022 school year, but we cannot ignore the trends."

A 22-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT MORE than a dozen times outside the K-Show Bar in Flushing early Friday morning, NBC reported.

A BAYSIDE GRANDMA UNVEILED A Free Little Library on Thursday in honor of the newest member of the family, Patch reported. Patricia Manley Silverman told Patch she hopes the dedication will help inspire her first grandchild to love reading. "There'll be a lot of foot traffic, and people can just walk by on the sidewalk and help themselves," Silverman said.

JAMAICA CENTER WAS NAMED among the city's most stress-inducing subway stations after 67 percent of respondents said they experienced frustration, according to a Fleet Logging report.

# Queens' grows by over 7 percent, census shows

Queens' population grew by 7.8 percent over the past decade, according to 2020 Census data. The borough is now home to over 2.4 million people. Photo via Wikimedia Commons

#### By Rachel Vick and Jacob Kaye Queens Daily Eagle

After a landmark effort to ensure a complete count in the 2020 Census, the results are in and Queens is up.

The World's Borough grew by 7.8 percent in the past decade, according to early data released by the U.S. Census Bureau. With 2,405,464 people in Queens, the borough is the second most populous in the city. Only Brooklyn grew more in the past de-

cade. The data was released in an effort to aid states in their attempt to draw new electoral district lines, a process that began in New York last month. The Independent Redistricting Commission, the body tasked with drawing the lines, began a listening tour in July and heard feedback from over 100 Queens residents who mostly said the old lines divided communities and weakened political power for Queens residents of color throughout the borough.

Continued on page 16

### Transwomen call for violence to end in Queens

By Jacob Kaye Queens Daily Eagle

A group of transwomen gathered in Jackson Heights last week to demand an end to violence against trans and queer people. Organized by Make the Road New York

Organized by Make the Road New York and supported by lawmakers Sen. Jessica Ramos and Assemblymembers Catalina Cruz and Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, the group spoke out against several instances of trans and queer violence from inside Lorena Borjas Triangle, a pedestrian square recently renamed for the trans activist who called Queens her home.

Make the Road reported that it had been notified of six instances of trans or gender non-confroming people being assaulted in Brooklyn and Queens in the past week.

Jennifer, one of the trans women who spoke at the rally, said that she had been attacked in Jackson Heights over the weekend while waiting for a taxi.

"Last Saturday, while my friends and I waited for a taxi we were attacked by a man who threw rocks and glass bottles at us," said Jennifer, a Queens resident. "I ran away, but fell down, and the man continued to attack me. I tried to fight to save my life and ended up *Continued on page 2* 



Jennifer, a trans woman from Queens, spoke about a recent attack in Jackson Heights that left her in a sling, at a rally against trans violence last week. Photo via Make the Road/Twitter



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### NYC Asian activists seek to turn surging population into electoral power

#### By Christine Chung, Clifford Michel, and Will Welch THE CIT

New Census numbers out Thursday show a robust 7.7% population increase for New York City since 2010 - and even bigger surges for Asian New Yorkers at a time when Asian candidates and community groups are moving to build out political power.

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With strength in numbers, New York City's diverse Asian communities are organizing to build political power that reflects them and their needs, as a state commission readies to redraw congressional and state legislative district lines.

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Case in point: Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. These Queens neighborhoods have more Asian residents - including many of Guyanese, Trinidadian or Punjabi heritage - than Black or white ones, past population surveys have shown.

Yet these hubs of Asian life in Oueens are currently sliced into seven different Assembly districts - making it difficult for the communities to coalesce around a representative focused on their priorities or receive services tailored to their language, dietary or other needs, activists say.

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The Queens neighborhood of Richmond Hill (center) is split between seven Assembly districts Redistricting & You/CUNY Center for Urban Research (redistrictingandyou.org)

Ozone Park that primarily serve South Asians and Indo-Caribbean people, he told THE CITY. When constituents seek to reach elected officials, they either don't know whom to call or are overwhelmed by the long list of people to contact, David added.

He cited his District 31, which encompasses parts of South and Southeast Queens, along with the Rockaways, as a "textbook example of gerrymandering.

The eight neighborhoods within the district, especially those in the Rockaways, each have a very distinct cultural identity, he noted, making it challenging for one candidate to build a broad coalition of support.

"Public transportation does not connect these three parts, so in addition to a car, it would be faster to go by boat to the different parts of the district," said David, who lives in South Ozone Park.

More than 42% of the district's population is foreign born, nearly double the rate in New York State. Closer looks within the district's lines more clearly illuminate significant racial disparities.

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#### 'No Rhyme or Reason'

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Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY



The southern side of 8th Ave. at 46th St. in Sunset Park. Brooklyn which is in a different Senate district than the northern side of the street. Jason Scott Jones/THE CITY

ficult to get the ear of elected officials to support these communities.

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THE CITY is an independent, nonprofit news outlet dedicated to hard-hitting reporting that serves the people of New York.

Brooklyn neighborhoods. But walking north on the area's bustling

> Those districts and two others in southern Brooklyn are home to more than 220,000 Asian residents. But because the population is splintered into three districts, activists argue they can't effec-

The lines were drawn a decade ago by Albany



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## Census data shows big growth in Queens

#### Continued from page 1

Ivan Garcia, national political director for Make the Road, said that the lines drawn after the 2010 Census did not evenly distribute populations or represent communities — a wrong that "must be fixed in the next map."

This process should center the needs of the community, not political parties," Garcia said. "In an ideal world a benefit is any growth anywhere should see fair representation. that the representation would reflect the increase.

"We already saw in the last state senate map that Queens, and in reality all of New York City, got disproportionately low representation," he added. "One of the challenges is what we've seen time and again of politics as usual."

Oueens residents will have another chance to provide comments on redistricting after the committee completes and submits a first draft to the State Legislature.

The commission will release their first draft Sept. 15.

Queens, which saw significant change in its population, could potentially see that change reflected in its electoral maps

The borough has around a dozen Assembly Districts that have fewer people than the average district, meaning the lines will be redrawn to include more people, according to maps provided by the CUNY Graduate Center.

The Asian population in Oueens grew by 29 percent and is heavily represented throughout northwest, central and eastern Queens.



Some Queens residents hope the census data will help reshape the electoral lines drawn throughout Queens, including in Richmond Hill, which is divided among several Assembly Districts. Map via nyc.gov

According to the data, the borough is 25.8 percent white, 16.8 percent Black, 27.5 percent Asian, 10.1 percent two or more races, 1.3 percent American Indian or Alaskan Native and 0.1 percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Around 27 percent of 2020 Census respondents in Queens said they were Hispanic or Latino.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards celebrated the borough's growth in both population and diversity.

'The large jump in our borough's population underscores what we in Queens have known for a long time; that Queens truly is a fantastic place to live and raise a family,' Richards said in a statement. "My heartfelt appreciation goes to all of the 2.4 million people who make Queens their home, including the more than one million people who have come here from across the globe to build new lives 'The World's Borough.'"

New York City as a whole also experienced a decade of growth and remains the city with the largest population in the country.

The growth was echoed across metro areas in the U.S., which grew by 9 percent in the past decade. Around 86 percent of all people in the country live in a metropolitan area. However, New York City's growth wasn't consistent across the state.

Steve Romalewski, the director of CUNY Mapping Service, said that though the state will be down one congressional seat, it will most likely be lost from a region upstate. Districts in New York City and Long Island are juggling the need to meet state averages within a small margin of error and balanced populations.

"Because of tremendous population growth in New York City, pressure will be downstate in terms of how district lines will be drawn," Romalewski said. "Where the lines are redrawn and how that turns out is the question."

Romalewski said that "the real issue is making sure districts are drawn fairly and that they reflect the communities but with the additional public awareness this year and changes to both the require-ments and redistricting process "there's hope."

The Independent Redistricting Commission, which is made up of four Democratic and four Republican appointed members, is scheduled to submit its final maps to the State Legislature by January 2022.

New Yorkers will vote on a ballot measure that includes redistricting reform in November. If the measure passes, the commission's timeline will be moved up and it will be required to submit the final draft to the legislature earlier in the month of January than it is currently scheduled to.

### Queens Community Board to vote on member's expulsion proceedings

#### By Jacob Kaye Queens Daily Eagle

Queens Community Board 7 will meet Monday to vote on whether or not to expel member John Choe from its ranks.

The vote will center around several alleged instances of Choe's misconduct. The accusations, brought by the board's Vice Chair Chuck Apelian in May, range from slander to violating the rules of the Campaign Finance Board. Choe has repeatedly denied committing any wrongdoing

A simple majority either way will determine Choe's future with the board.

The meeting, being held at 7 p.m. at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Whitestone, comes after a five-person special committee created by the board's chair, Eugene Kelty, voted unanimously to bring four of the five charges against Choe to the full board.

Choe, who was invited to the special committee meeting to defend himself, chose not to show because he didn't want to give the proceedings any "credibility."

Choe told the Eagle Friday that he plans to show up to the Monday meeting and give a statement on his behalf.

'I feel, not just for my own sake but for the sake of the community, I need to really call out the community board's executive committee for pushing such false charges in a very transparent attempt to silence [dissent]," Choe said.

Prior to the special committee's July meeting, the full board voted 42-3 with one abstention in June to begin the process of hearing the allegations against Choe, who recently finished third in his City Council race in District 20.

Apelian declined to comment ahead of Monday's meeting. Choe said he suspects the outcome to be

similar to the previous meetings and that come Tuesday, he'll be off the board.

"This is a very tightly run community board,"



Community Board 7 will meet on Monday at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Whitestone to vote on whether or not to expel member John Choe. Photo via Google Maps

he said. "They don't schedule meetings unless they know what the vote will be ahead of time." Apelian alleges that Choe violated the City Charter on multiple occasions as a member of the board.

The special committee found cause on the allegations that Choe violated the charter by emailing his fellow board members requesting campaign contributions, started an unauthorized Facebook group for the board, had a poor attendance record and defamed members of the board by accusing them of being corrupt.

The special committee didn't find cause on the fifth and final allegation brought by Apelian, which alleged that Choe told then-acting Borough President Sharon Lee that his opinion could be swayed "for the right price" during a hearing on the Flushing Waterfront Development plan in February 2020. Choe's comment was met with laughter at the Borough Board meeting and the special committee said the context didn't warrant moving forward with the allegation.

Oueens Borough President Donovan Richards reappointed Choe to the board in April, despite City Councilmember Peter Koo recommending against it.

In a statement to the Eagle Friday, the borough president's office said it was the office's policy "to consider and address specific complaints regarding community board conduct in confidential manner.

Koo did not respond to request for comment. In December 2020, Kelty filed a formal complaint against Choe with the city's Conflicts of Interest Board concerning his campaign fundraising email sent to board members

A COIB spokesperson told the Eagle that

they are unable to disclose "whether it has received a complaint, is pursuing an investigation of a matter, has initiated an enforcement action against a public servant, or even whether a case exists involving a public servant unless or until the Board issues a public disposition in such case.

Regardless of the outcome of Monday's meeting, Choe said he's worried that the entire process the executive committee has brought against him will have a chilling effect on dissent within the board.

"My concern is that it will send the wrong message that people shouldn't get involved and speak up because what people may interpret from what's going on is that the establishment has so much power that there's really no tolerance for different views and perspectives, he said.



# 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%

