

UNITED COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE
106-11 LIBERTY AVENUE
Ozone Park, NY 11417
Email: [REDACTED]

September 29th 2022

Testimony to the New York City Redistricting Commission

Dear Commission Members,

I am an elected District Leader in the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and South Ozone Park area, a veritable community of interest. Having listened to the current live hearings, I am sending this letter to you overnight because we are concerned that the Commission may be heading in the wrong direction regarding proposed CD 28, 32.

Our membership consists of hundreds of religious, community, business and other leaders. We are informed that we are a protected class, entitled to representation by virtue of being the quintessential community of interest with common characteristics, issues, problems and solutions.

We urge you all to implement the historic State Assembly Map “AL”, and/or alternative versions, attached, as a unifying, compact and contiguous district, which unites the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park communities under a single City Council District, with the additional population. The Van Wyck Expressway is a natural and geographical divide.

Map “AL” was strongly agreed upon by BOTH Republicans and Democrats on the NYS IRC, and must be adopted and implemented by you also, being bound by similar principles of redistricting. Every member must approve and incorporate this, and add in the additional population to this core district, if needed, to meet the population required for a Council district. This historical, bipartisan agreement is unprecedented, and instructive, as well.

Public interest and concerns demand that you unite the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park communities into a single City Council District also. Indeed, the area east of the Van Wyck Expressway belongs more naturally to City Council Districts 27, 31.

You will be collectively contradicting your mandate, which is not right, nor legally or morally acceptable, to divide communities that are one, like the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park communities. They are seamlessly interconnected, one and the same, in identity, history, customs, heritage, common issues that affect them, and rely on the same solutions to those issues. To properly address their problems, we respectfully demand that this Commission redraw these marginalized communities into a single City Council.

More importantly, depriving the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park communities of a common, logical City Council seat will be an aberration. Moreover, there is tension and differences that go to the heart of redistricting principles when you choose to divide communities with uniting heritage, culture, ethnicities and commonalities, such as the South Asian, Latino, African Americans and Caribbean immigrants, who live like families in the Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, and South Ozone Park communities. You are suppressing and stifling those communities from growing, and having a voice, unconscionably, which will be at odds with your charter, duties and mandate.

In conclusion the communities of South Ozone Park, Ozone Park, and Richmond Hill must be united under one City Council District, and it behooves you, as an independent redistricting commission, to unite them, in accordance with your mandate and the law. Thank you.

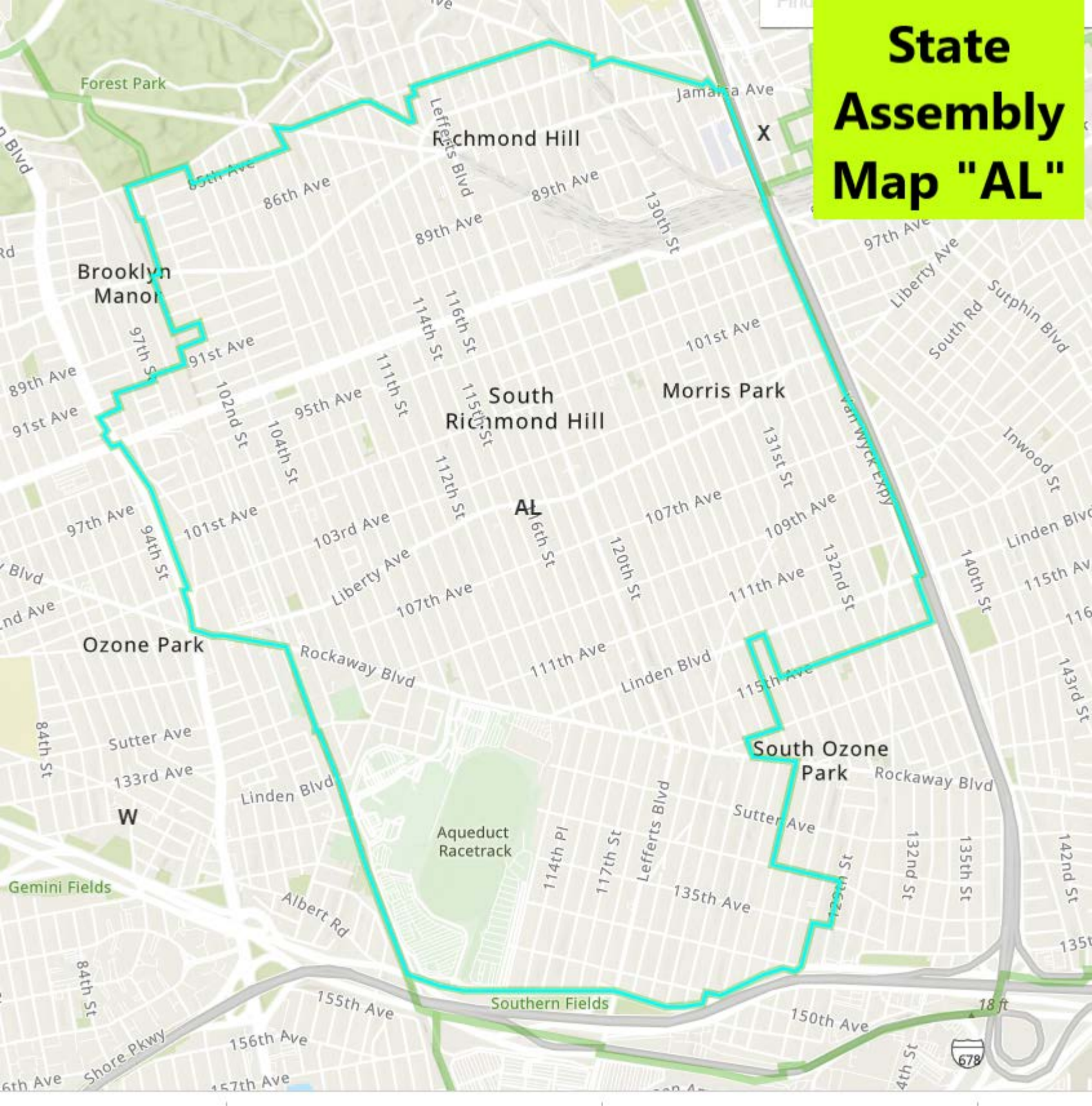
Albert Baldeo

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PRESIDENT

DISTRICT LEADER

State Assembly Map "AL"



Richmond Hill

Brooklyn Manor

South Richmond Hill

Morris Park

Ozone Park

South Ozone Park

Aqueduct Racetrack

Gemini Fields

Southern Fields



