

ALLIANCE OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN LABOR (ASAAL)

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NYC Districting Commission
253 Broadway, 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

The Alliance of South Asian American Labor (“ASAAL”) is a community-based organization comprised of South Asian Americans that are part of the trade unionist movement. We seek to share our experiences in politics and labor unions to create a more dynamic culture of civic participation in the wider South Asian American community. We are a membership-based organization with chapters in Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens.

The current Council district lines can be shifted to better serve our community, and increase our political standing in this city. Presently, the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park, Queens—one of the densest concentrations of South Asian Americans in this city—are gerrymandered into four Council districts. This community of interest must be united and has enough population to be its own district.

The neighborhood of Jamaica Hills, Queens is also one of the most substantial concentrations of South Asian Americans. Presently, this community is united in one Council district (24th district), and we urge you to maintain its unity. Similarly, the neighborhoods of Bellerose and Floral Park, Queens represent another substantial concentration of South Asian Americans. This community of interest is presently united in one Council district (23rd district), and we encourage you to maintain the unity of this community of interest.

Although these latter enclaves are well preserved in separate districts, we believe that it is beneficial to unite them into a single district, and we encourage you to explore this option. These communities not only share a similar racial identity and immigration history, but also language, rates of homeownership, family structure and common political interests. Joining these two areas would not be unprecedented; parts of these two enclaves have been combined by the state legislature into the new 24th Assembly district, and we believe this body can do even better for this community by including the entirety of these enclaves together.

We implore you to keep our community united and adhere to your duties under the Charter of the City of New York to preserve communities of interest.

Sincerely,

Maf Misbah Uddin
President, ASAAL

Empowerment through Education, Activism, and Participation