

**Paul Trust**  
**Submitted Testimony City Council Redistricting**

Hello, my name is Paul Trust, and I am a resident of Richmond Hill Queens. My wife, three daughters and I moved here from Jackson Heights over the summer, on August 4th. On August 12th, Gothamist released an article entitled 'Divided Neighborhoods Press for More Political Sway with New Redistricting Maps.' As the article eloquently states, my new neighborhood is what experts in political representation refer to as a 'cracked community,' where Richmond Hill represents only a small fraction of several districts, rather than having the majority in one. The article goes on to describe Richmond Hill as one of the most 'cracked' neighborhoods in the city. This is problematic in that not all the needs of various districts are the same, whether it is trash collection or transit, and diminishes our voice in decision making. Why listen to the needs of our community when it represents only a few square blocks of a much larger district? Such gerrymandering is also an effective form of voter suppression.

One aspect that attracted me to Richmond Hill was its ethnic diversity, and in that way RH is similar to my old neighborhood of Jackson Heights. What I quickly discovered however is that, largely due to our fractured districts, communities of color did not have nearly as much political sway or pull as they do in JH. Considering the wonderful micro-communities of Little Punjab, Little Guyana, and my Bangladeshi neighbors, I feel Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park deserve to have a unified district to represent the unique needs of the people residing there. I strongly believe that all Asian American Communities of Interest should be kept whole to the extent possible, and at all levels.

I am submitting this testimony along with the recommended AALDEF Community of Interest Unification Map for Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park.

In summary, redistricting means power. United we stand, divided we fall. Let's end this fracturing and unify these Asian American communities of Interest to ensure the representation they deserve. Thank You.

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