

July6,2022

Dear Honorable Commissioner,

Good Evening & I hope all is well. My name is Mazeda Uddin and former commissioner under 3 NYC Speakers of the Board of elections & Now I am the newly elected District Leader in Part B of Assembly District 24, and have been both an owner & resident of Parkchester apartments for the past 2 decades: 20 years. There are 12,000 apartments in Parkchester, which is the largest apartment complex, condominium, in America. From 1990 to 1999, there was a large influx of the Asian American population, specifically South Asians, in the Bronx — especially in the Parkchester /Westchester Square /Castle Hill areas by means of DV-1 and OP-1 Lottery. We are the highest English proficient immigrants & we have made endless contributions to make the Bronx and the entire area as great as it is today.

As a mother of 5 beautiful children, I started my activism journey many years ago to introduce the Bengali language in New York City & beyond; in addition, advocating relentlessly for both Halal & Kosher foods in New York City public schools. Needless to say, my hard work, persistence & advocacy has gotten both dreams of mine accomplished today. All 5 of my children graduated from New York City public schools & they always came back from school hungry because there were never any halal options. We can now say that change has come & this is only the beginning.

Since 2006, I have been involved with AALDEF and I strongly support the Asian American (COI) boundary/ redistricting lines that AALDEF submitted for our community of interest. Asian Americans are a protected group under the Voting Rights Act and thus, the city charter requires that our community have “fair and effective” representation before preserving other communities of interest (COI). Thus, the Parkchester, Westchester Square & Castle Hill communities of interest should not be divided & kept whole within one City Council district. In addition, Asian Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in the country, let alone the entire city. The new city council lines should reflect this growth & thus the needs of the fastest growing community in the great city in the world.

As a longtime AALDEF volunteer and founder of the South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training, I urge you to please keep Parkchester, Westchester Square & Castle Hill together as a whole, within one City Council District. Then, and only then, can my community truly rise.

Thank you, be well & God bless.

In Unity,

Mazeda Uddin  
In Solidarity,  
Jamilla Uddin