

**New York Senate Majority Conference
Senate Legislative Task Force on
Demographic Research and Reapportionment**

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

**Testimony of Frank Singh
Inter-Community Civic Association**

My name is Frank Singh and I am the President of the Inter-Community Civic Association of Richmond Hill, a retired sergeant - **USMC** and treasurer of the Indo-Caribbean Federation for the past 10 years. This organization that has been in existence for the past 25+ years.

Today, I am here to testify before this committee because it is in my opinion that the citizens of the Richmond Hill community does not have the proper political representation. During the Census 2010 count there were many issues that were raised and not addressed properly. They were the following:

1. Of the 1800 employees that were hired, less than 50 Indo-Caribbean were assigned to serve the area and the ones that were hired were reassigned to different areas.
2. Be Counted Sites and (QAC) Question/Answer Centers were not supplied with census forms and it was like pulling teeth to get the necessary Census materials.
3. The personnel that were hired could not connect and communicate with the community residents.
4. No media coverage in the Richmond Hill area (even though funds are allocated for that purpose in other ethnic areas, e.g. Latino, polish, Jewish, etc.)
5. No Indo Caribbean in the Field Operation Management
6. My office was designated as a QAC (Question and Answer Center), Training Center, and Partnership Center. Personnel that were hired only worked on SITE and not on the streets. They sat at my office and did nothing all day long. When I asked them to go out on the streets and speak with the people they told me it was not their job until I was able to convince one of the workers to put a table out on the sidewalk.

7. Census Personnel of Indo Caribbean Ethnicity took the exam and passed but was not hired. We needed people of the same ethnic background knocking on the doors so they could communicate with the people. People are afraid to open their doors today because they are afraid that it is the building dept knocking to give them violations for their basements being finished. This is another issue that these residents face here in this community but it is acceptable in other areas.
8. The Census Personnel that was hired in 2000 did a lousy and sloppy job in counting the residents of Richmond Hill. As a result the 2000 Census count was so low that the Richmond Hill High School count shows only 1,500 children attending when in reality there are 4,000 students in attendance. This community, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park does not receive any discretionary funds from any level of politicians. It has been proven over the past 20 years. Homeowners pay more taxes on the properties in Richmond Hill than on the other side of the Van Wyck Expressway and Howard Beach and Maspeth yet they receive little or nothing for discretionary services, this is unfair. Presently, as a result of being undercounted, millions of dollars are not allocated from the Federal government to this community. There are no escalators at any of the subways in these areas.

In 2000 the district was chopped up and re-drawn to accommodate the person that was running. Today if any Indo Caribbean were to run for public office they will not win because the system is set up to fail. This is why it is so important to re-draw the district.

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