

LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE Unveiling – An AWESOME, HISTORIC, MILESTONE EVENT

It was a spectacular and exhilarating jubilation of Guyanese in New York, as well a massive online crowd, witnessing the historic unveiling of Little Guyana Avenue street sign at the corner of Liberty Ave and Lefferts Blvd by the Mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio, accompanied by a throng of officials, community leaders and attendees, as well as extensive press coverage.

Neither the unusual rain and cold weather could dampen the enthusiasm of the crowds and occasion, as the spirit of the occasion overcame the obstacles. We pulled it off successfully – thanks to planning, community and official support, high profile official representation: Mayor, US Congr Meeks, Borough President Donovan Richard, NYC Council member Adrienne Adams who championed the street NYS, NYC officials; Guyana Government representatives: Min Kwame Mc Coy (Information) and Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud. Lots of Guyana & TT flags and Little Guyana Avenue signs (courtesy of Dr Dhanpaul N. and Ashook R.). Little Guyana Avenue a very big hit, a treasured memento. The sash for the Mayor enhanced the occasion and unveiling. A huge, jubilant crowd, well behaved and supportive Tremendous coverage: mainstream, Caribbean and Guyana.





COUNCIL MEMBER ADRIENNE ADAMS
INVITES YOU TO THE HISTORIC

LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE CO-NAMING CEREMONY

MAY 29, 2021 | 10AM-12PM

103-33 LEFFERTS BLVD.
RICHMOND HILL, NY 11419
(LEO KEARNS PARKING LOT)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:
RICHARD DAVID, DISTRICT LEADER
917-310-5148 (TEXT) OR RICHDADIDNYC@GMAIL.COM



Designed by Aminta Kilawan-Narine





A BRIEF HISTORY

Since the 1960s, with the end of colonialism in the Caribbean and the civil rights movement in the United States, hundreds of thousands of Guyanese made New York City their home. Prominent Guyanese-Americans include Shirley Chisolm, the first Black woman to campaign for President of the United States, to Helen Marshall, the former Queens Borough President. In Queens alone, Guyanese are the second largest foreign-born immigrant group, and the fifth largest in New York City based on the 2010 Census.

This presence is most visible in Richmond Hill along Liberty Avenue which has become a hub for business, activism, culture and religion. New York traditions like the Phagwah Parade, which is over 30 years old, the Diwali Motorcade, and the Gandhi Peace March were born here. Working families continue to build this neighborhood which is proudly celebrated as "Little Guyana" and this event is in honor of their migration, sacrifice and commitment to the fabric of the Big Apple. With COVID-19, this event is a community affirmation of resilience after sorrow the likes of which this generation has never seen.

Today's "Little Guyana Avenue" co-naming is a historic recognition of the contributions of the Guyanese-Americans. We thank Council Member Adrienne Adams for sponsoring the Little Guyana Avenue co-naming bill which was voted on by the New York City Council in December 2020, and signed into law by Mayor Bill de Blasio.



PROGRAM

Welcome remarks, Richard David & Annetta Seecharan

Pledge of Allegiance, Cloyette Harris-Stoute

Invocation Prayers

Shaykh Safraz Bacchus, Masjid Al Abdin
Pastor Ejaz Nabie, Faith Assembly
Pandit Ganesh Maharaj, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir

National Anthems of the United States and Guyana

History of Little Guyana, Dr. Dhanpaul Narine

Community organizations, businesses and activists

Patrick Kearns, Leo F. Kearns
Mohamed Q. Amin, Caribbean Equality Project
Romeo Hitlall, Richmond Hill South Ozone Park Lions Club
Simone Devi Jhingoor, Jahajee Sisters
Anoop Dhanpat, Trinidadian & Tobagonian Association of USA
Jeany Persaud, Community activist
Aminta Kilawan-Narine, South Queens Women's March
Ray Persaud, NYC Corrections Dep't Desi Society
Ashook Ramsaran, Indian Diaspora Council
Patricia Jordan Langford, Guyana Tri-state Alliance
Vijah Ramjattan, United Madrassi Association

Performances by Son Son Sonipersaud, Chitra and Pritha Singh,
Terry Gajraj & Raging Fire Tassa Band

Elected officials and dignitaries

Small business, Sybil's Bakery and Restaurant

Special thanks to media partners, vendors and our volunteers.



Planning Committee

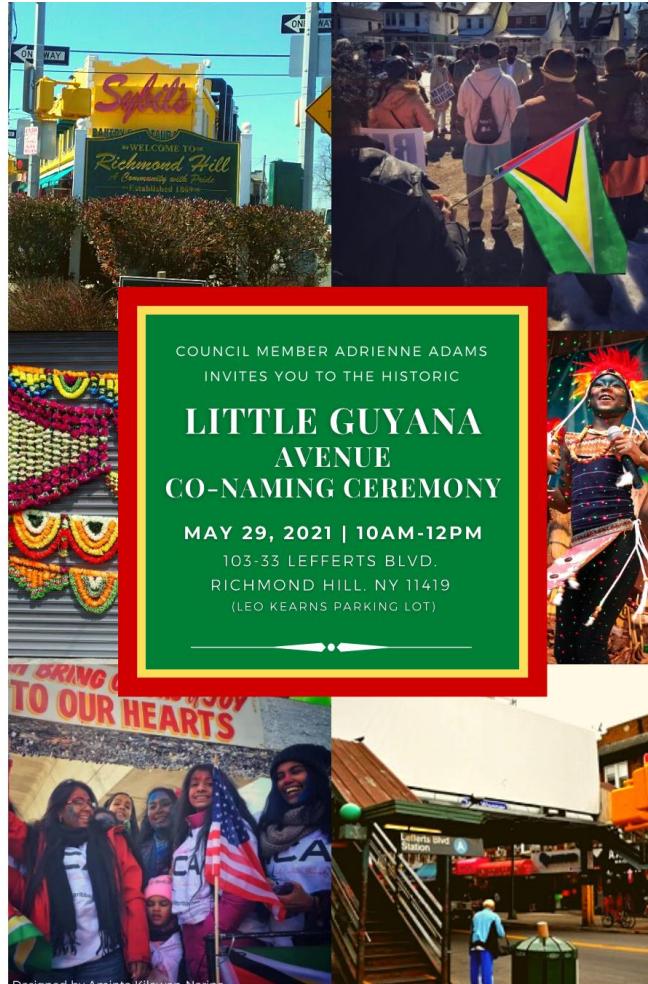
Adrienne Adams, NYC Council Member, District 28
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Federation of Hindu Mandirs
Phagwah Parade of New York
Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park Lions Club
United Madrassi Association, Inc.
Jahajee Sisters: Empowering Indo-Caribbean Women
New York City Corrections Department Desi Society
Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Inc.
New York Hindu Milan Mandir, Inc.
Shri Trimurti Bhavan
Queens Book Fair
Caribbean Equality Project
Indian Diaspora Council
South Queens Women's March
South Asian American Voice
Abee Chunes Radio
Jamaica Rotary Club
Leo F. Kearns Funeral Homes
Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir
Dave's West Indian Imports
Trinidadian and Tobagonian Association of USA
New Americans Voters Association
Sybil's Bakery and Restaurant
Shri Tulsi Mandir
Richard S. David, District Leader, NYS Assembly District 31



COUNCIL MEMBER ADRIENNE ADAMS
INVITES YOU TO THE HISTORIC

LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE CO-NAMING CEREMONY

MAY 29, 2021 | 10AM-12PM
105-33 LEFFERTS BLVD.
RICHMOND HILL, NY 11419
(LEO KEARNS PARKING LOT)



Designed by Aminta Kilawan-Narine

Ashook Ramsaran



LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE

May 29, 2021











LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE Speech by Ashook Ramsaran May 29, 2021

I am Ashook Ramsaran, a proud resident of Queens for over 50 years. Of NY Presbyterian Hospital Community Advisory Council, Queens Civic Congress and Indian Diaspora Council.

We Guyanese have roots in Africa, India, Portugal, China, UK and the Americas. We pay homage to those who came before us.

And recently we have journeyed to America. **LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE** is a significant milestone marking our 2nd journey as Guyanese.

We have nurtured strong roots here, and established ourselves with remarkable successes. Such is the nature of a Guyanese – making it better with each journey, seeking opportunities, thriving, excelling in pursuits, peaceful co-existence and contributing to betterment of ourselves and the community.

And we take enormous pride in this history and achievement.

LITTLE GUYANA AVENUE is a big thing, really. It extends from Van Wyck to Woodhaven. I would have liked 2 processions with banners, marching bands and music, marching from Van Wyck and Woodhaven and meeting at the corner of Liberty & Lefferts – for the unveiling. That would have been be awesome, folks.

This event is historic, a significant milestone of achievement for the Guyanese-American community of New York, a testimony to the many remarkable accomplishments and contributions of our vibrant community of Guyanese living in NY: The social, cultural and economic fabric of New York.

It's another giant step in making more progress – while there is significantly more to do in social justice, civic engagement, education, seniors, youth, & political representation.

New York has been good to us and for us.

We are only limited by our vision.

We are the Guyanese Diaspora in spirit and in deed.

It is truly a moment of jubilation and pride which we share with Guyanese living everywhere in USA, Canada, UK and Guyana.

Examples of our markers:

- **Officer Jonathan Narain – sadly** - May 5, 2019
- **Ramesh Kalicharran Way** - May 25, 2019
- **Little Guyana Avenue** - today
- **Pandit Ramlall Way** - June 27, 2021

Our thanks to The Mayor for recognizing this milestone, signing the bill and attending here today.

And Council Member Adrienne Adams and her staff who championed Little Guyana and Pandit Ramlall Way. We are grateful.

Thanks to District Leader Richard David who filed the application and organized this unveiling event. As well as my colleagues Dr Dhanpaul Narine, Aminta Kilwan, Dr. Vishnu Bisram and Rohan Narine, Lakshmee Singh, Vishnu Mahadeo, Mohamed Hassim and so many others. We owe so much to their commitment and support.