

## Richmond Hill Street Co-Named ‘Punjab Avenue’ To Honor Neighborhood’s South Asian Residents

The southwest Queens community came together on Oct. 23 to witness the installation of the new local landmark as the intersection of 101st Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard in Richmond Hill was officially co-named “Punjab Avenue” as a part of a celebration commemorating the contributions made to Queens by its South Asian residents.

“Today is a celebration of our great multicultural mosaic. It is so important that diverse communities like ours see themselves and their cultures represented in the historical landscape and we see the Punjabi community in every corner of Richmond Hill and our city as a whole,” said City Council Member Adrienne Adams.

Although the occasion was joyous, Adams said as we celebrate the ever-diverse Queens’ area, we must also recognize that we have all lost loved ones due to the pandemic. Each person represents a part of the fabric this community, she said before asking that everyone in attendance take a moment of silence to remember those lost. “Today is a celebration meant to unite. We are one district. We are one people. And we must have unity in our entire community” .

NYS Assembly Member David Weprin Queens Community Board 9, Sikh Cultural Society President Jatinder Singh Boparai, Sikh Cultural Society Former President Harpreet Singh Toor, and other community leaders who each extended their support for the street sign unveiling.

Indian Diaspora Council president Ashook Ramsaran remarked about the long history of Sikhs in USA, from the time of 1927 attacks in Bellingham WA, to this moment of recognition and community pride.

Democratic nominee for State Assembly District 38 Jennifer Rajkumar was also in attendance and said she was “filled with pride.”

