



Indian Diaspora Council

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Rhonda Binda Appointed Deputy Borough President of Queens, New York

The **Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)** joins with its global membership and affiliates in congratulating **Rhonda Binda**, attorney and community leader, on her appointment as one of the two Deputy Borough Presidents of Queens, New York. Food justice expert Michael Hurwitz is the other Deputy Borough President. The appointments were announced by newly elected Queens Borough President (QBP) Donovan Richards. **Rhonda Binda** and Michael Hurwitz will focus on land use, technology, food insecurity, criminal justice reform, parks and transportation, Richards said.



Binda is chair of South Asian American Voices, vice president of the organization Guyanese Girls Rock Foundation and former executive director of the Jamaica Center Business Improvement District (BID). She served in the US West Wing and US State Department. Binda has been driven and grounded by her upbringing and roots as a Queens's girl. The daughter of immigrants from Guyana, she was raised in the richness of the melting pot that makes Queens the most diverse community in the USA. Binda returned to Queens and worked steadfastly to strengthen her hometown, contributing to the economic growth of Jamaica, Queens, and all of New York. Her career has always revolved around building stronger communities and strengthening ties that foster economic opportunity.

“As a woman of color, it is also important to me that QBP Richards is committed to ensuring that women continue to have a strong voice in our government and community,” Binda said. “I’m honored and humbled to have this opportunity to serve as Dep. QBP of Queens, and I am excited to help QBP Richards implement his inspirational vision for our Borough. I am deeply inspired by QBP Richards, and his story, an immigrant fulfilling the American dream and holding the doors to opportunity open for those behind him. I am also honored to follow in the footsteps of the late QBP Helen Marshall, who like myself was of Guyanese descent, and like QBP Richards, helped so many young people in our Borough achieve what was possible. I am also honored to follow in the footsteps of the late QBP Helen Marshall, who like myself was of Guyanese descent, and like QBP Richards, helped so many young people in our Borough achieve what was possible”.

Binda is an internationally recognized People's Choice leader in building smart and connected communities. She is an Adjunct Professor at City University of New York (CUNY) and served on both the 21 Century Government and Foreign Policy teams for the Biden-Harris 2020 Presidential campaign. Rhonda attended Queens's public schools and because of her academic potential was recruited for the prestigious Prep for Prep program, which provided her a path to scholarships to The Lawrenceville School, Duke University, Georgetown University Law Center and Oxford University. Rhonda has travelled to 6 continents, 40+ countries and hundreds of cities working with state and local leaders, and lives in Jamaica Estates, Queens.

IDC takes pride in Rhonda Binda being a person of Indian Origin becoming Deputy QBP and conveys its best wishes for continued progress. **IDC** looks forward to a very progressive agenda in New York, in particular in Queens, on urgent social issues, education, healthcare, senior care, and economic development. **IDC** is encouraged that that Deputy QBP Rhonda Binda intends to seek valuable input, suggestions and advice from community advocates and others to address these pressing issues and fulfill her tenure with timely responsiveness to the needs of the diverse communities of Queens, New York.