

ASHOOK RAMSARAN APPOINTED TO QUEENS BOROUGH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Long time Queens New York resident Ashook Ramsaran has been appointed as a Delegate to the **Queens General Assembly (QGA)** by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards at the installation event held on March 29, 2023.

The tenure is for 1 year beginning with the swearing in ceremony today which was administered by QBP Richards. The 2023 Queens General Assembly (QGA) comprise of 20 carefully selected persons representing diverse backgrounds, ethnicity, expertise and levels of community service.

There were 2 other delegates of Indian origin, namely Stancy Saji and Robin Singh.

The Queens General Assembly (QGA) is an intercultural dialogue group, which began 20 years ago in February 2003, a vision of former, late Queens Borough President Helen Marshall who was also of Guyanese origin. The goal of the QGA is to promote greater appreciation for difference, mutual respect, and community building at the borough level, engaging in cultural sharing and encouraging QGA members to share their insights, talents, and expertise. Topics of interest include racial equity, the histories of diverse communities in Queens and current issues of interest and concern.

The QGA, a borough-level intercultural working group, brings together community stakeholders of diverse backgrounds and specialties for monthly dialogues and community actions that promote leadership enhancement, coalition building, and networking.

Ramsaran's nomination was recommended by Sherry Reisner of Utopia Estates Civic Association, vetted by QGA Program Director Susan Tannenbaum and approved by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards.

Remarked Ramsaran upon accepting the position: "As a resident of Queens for over 50 years, I am grateful for this opportunity to continue serving the various communities of Queens and New York City – striving for betterment of life for all residents of our tremendously diverse borough of 2.3 million people with origins from over 130 countries, speaking 190 languages. I am looking forward to working closely and collaboratively with this special group of people in this QGA on matters that are meaningful to our everyday lives".

Summary Biography of Ashook Ramsaran viewed at the Installation Event on March 29, 2023:

Ashook Ramsaran is a resident of Queens since emigrating from Guyana in 1968, and earned advanced engineering degrees at Polytechnic-New York University. After working for a major national company, he established his own family owned electronics manufacturing company in Queens. He is married to Camille (also of Guyana) and father of Arnold and the late Gerald, grandfather of Jaden and Gavin, all residing in Queens. Ramsaran is Executive Vice-President, Queens Civic Congress (QCC); Chair, Community Advisory Council, NY Presbyterian Hospital/Queens (NYP/Q); President, Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC); Past President, GOPIO International (2011-2016); Board Member, Center for Caribbean & Latin Amer. Studies, St. John's University (SJU/CLACS); Executive Board Member, India Empire (a Diaspora Publication); Financial Co-Chairman/Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Flushing, New York (FPC); Board member (1998-2022) of Fresh Meadows Civic Association, New York (FMHCA); Member, District 24 AM Weprin South Asian Advisory Panel (SAAP), New York; Member of Queens Borough President's Census 2020 Committee; Member, Queens Borough President's Civic Engagement Committee, New York; 2023 Delegate on Queens Borough President's General Assembly (QGA). Ramsaran collaborates with Center for Caribbean & Latin American Studies at St. John's University (SJU/CLACS) (and previously with New York City Mayor's Office on Migration) on a series of annual seminars and conferences on immigrant issues. He conducts lectures on diaspora matters, human rights, youth and women's empowerment, and is actively engaged in community issues such as civics, housing, tax equity, social justice and inter-ethnic relations. He writes articles, essays and perspectives in major publications, as well as chapters in books and magazines. He had done, and is doing, several street co-namings in Queens and to recognize outstanding citizens and institutions. He is a financial supporter of charitable causes, social, racial and economic justice, human rights and anti-poverty programs.