

Testimony of **ASHOOK RAMSARAN**

December 16, 2020

To the attention of:

Members of NYC Council Committee on Parks and Recreation
NYC Committee on Parks and Recreation Hearing on Dec 17, 2020

Ref: **Pandit Ramlall Way** T2020-6964

Co-Naming 1 block of 133rd Street between Liberty Ave & 105th Ave in Queens

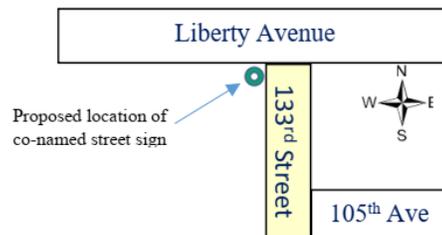
We are seeking your approval for co-naming 1 block of 133rd Street between Liberty Ave & 105th Ave in Queens as **Pandit Ramlall Way**, in honor of the late Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall, a selfless and avid community advocate, who passed away on January 26, 2019 in Queens, New York at the age of 91 years.

There is overwhelming community board, community residents, religious, business and organizational support for this application (over 5,000 signatures, dozens of letters of support and petitions submitted), in particular the Arya Spiritual Center of New York (ASC-NY) founded by the late Dharmacharya Pandit, the same being extensively used for various community events, including the annual Gandhi Peace March, Diwali Parade, Ramayana in the Park, etc. ASC-NY is located at 104-36 133rd Street in Ozone Park where we are seeking to co-name the 1 block of 133rd Street between Liberty Ave and 105th Avenue.

As can be seen from his extensive biography, the late Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall was a well-respected iconic spiritual leader and scholar, a pioneering community advocate who has been recognized locally and internationally for his life-long community service. He founded the annual Phagwah (Holi) Parade in New York and Queens Borough President declared March 23, 2003 at “**Pandit Ramlall Day**”. He was indeed a tremendous asset to the community with a lifetime of service to spirituality, justice and freedom.



133rd Street between Liberty Ave & 105th Ave
Ozone Park, Queens, New York



All protocols and procedures for the application filing, meeting with CM Adrienne Adams, community board members, and other supporters have been diligently followed.

Queens is the most diverse community and the late Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall represented the best and brightest among us. Our community eagerly looks forward to this New York City Council's approval.

With appreciation,

Ashook Ramsaran

Committee for Co-naming 1 block of 133rd Street between Liberty Ave & 105th Ave, Queens
In honor of the late Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall

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