



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

## Addabbo Honors Guyanese Heritage at MTA Unveiling of 'Welcome to Little Guyana' Plaques at Train Station in Richmond Hill

JOSEPH P. ADDABBO JR. March 25, 2024



Senator Addabbo joins elected officials and community leaders for the unveiling of the plaques.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), working with Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. and the Richmond Hill-South Ozone Park Lions Club, proudly unveiled two plaques today at the Ozone Park-Lefferts Blvd A-Train Station in Southeast Queens, honoring the rich heritage of the Guyanese-American community. The plaques, bearing the inscription "Welcome to Little Guyana," serve as a tribute to the vibrant Guyanese culture that thrives in the surrounding neighborhood, affectionately known as "Little Guyana."

The initiative to install these plaques was spearheaded by the Richmond Hill-South Ozone Park Lions Clubs, who enlisted the support of Senator Addabbo. The Senator's recommendation led to the approval and implementation of the plaques by the MTA. Crafted to withstand environmental elements, these plaques are designed to endure for years to come, serving as a lasting symbol of cultural pride and unity.

"This is a snapshot of how government should work, the resident comes to the elected official, the elected official goes to the agencies and good things happen for a community," Senator Addabbo said. "These plaques serve as a symbol of unity and recognition of the vibrant culture that adds so much to the fabric of our diverse city. Let us continue to embrace and honor the traditions and positive contributions of our Guyanese neighbors in 'Little Guyana' and beyond."

Located in the station's mezzanine on both sides of the station booth, these plaques are strategically placed for the nearly 27,000 daily riders to appreciate. The installation of the plaques coincides with the Holi festivities, a joyous celebration of light, color, and spring observed by the Guyanese-American community and the wider Indian diaspora.

With approximately 140,000 Guyanese residents calling New York City home, the city boasts the largest Guyanese community in the United States. The unveiling of these plaques not only recognizes the contributions of the Guyanese-American community but also highlights the diversity and richness of New York City's cultural tapestry.

"As we work on addressing the serious issues facing our residents these days, the unveiling of these signs spreads much needed happiness and creates a positive feeling for this community." Addabbo concluded.

Videos from the ceremony can be viewed on Senator Addabbo's YouTube Channel at the links below.

<https://youtu.be/kEpM3ITQhrQ?si=AUnEfddzu71H6yWh>

<https://youtu.be/p3kSJnM55Ik?si=CAxFUqUzdQlsEJh>