

NEWCOMERS FLOCK TO QUEENS INFLUX LEADS THE CITY

Daily News (New York)

November 04, 1999, Thursday

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Section: Suburban; Pg. 3

Length: 642 words

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Body

Queens' population is booming, and the borough's continuing reputation as a haven for new Americans is the reason, says the commissioner of the city's Department of City Planning.

In remarks last week at a conference "The Changing Face of Queens" at Long Island City's LaGuardia Community College, Joseph Rose noted that over the last eight years, the population of Queens increased by 47,300 people, a jump of 2.4%, which puts the borough's population at 2 million.

By comparison, Rose said, the overall increase in the city's population over that same period was 1.3%.

Both increases, he stressed, were largely due to a significant boost in the numbers of immigrants to Queens in particular, and to the city as a whole.

Rose told the forum, sponsored jointly by the college and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, that the flow of immigrants into New York City "has been our strength throughout our history."

Perhaps no place is the spirit of openness more evident, he said, than in Queens.

"It is almost a cliché that Queens has 190 different nationalities represented within its borders and has 150 languages spoken," said Rose.

"There is no county in the United States, probably nowhere in the world, that is as diverse as Queens County. Nothing comes close."

The percentage of foreign-born Queens residents has been rising steadily over the past few decades, he said, adding that now, "there are more foreign-born residents in Queens than in any other borough."

The 1990 Census showed that 707,200 Queens residents, or 36% of the borough's population, identified themselves as foreign-born. Citywide, that figure was 28%.

But City Planning number crunchers estimate that when the final Census 2000 count is in, it will show that 40% of all Queens residents are foreign born.

The agency's figures for the period from 1990-1996 show that Queens saw new settlers arrive in these numbers:

Latino 54,450.

Caribbean 34,278.

Chinese 27,555.

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Former Soviet Union 21,400.

Southeast Asian 10,920.

Korean 8,496.

Haitian 5,160.

Irish 2,640.

Israeli 1,380.

Rose also noted that during that same six-year period, there was a migration of people from the borough. That, he said, represented a continuing cycle of "people coming to New York to make it. People making it. People then moving out to the suburbs or different parts of the region or country."

"The most important thing is that the people come with their energy, with their desire to make it," the commissioner concluded. "It doesn't matter what part of the economic strata you come from. If you come with the values of making a life for yourself and your family and taking advantage of what New York City . . . has to offer, that is the energy that we need."

PERCENTAGE

CITYWIDE LIVING IN

TOTALQUEENSNEIGHBORHOOD SETTLED

Latinos217,80025%Corona, Jackson Heights,

Elmhurst, Astoria and Woodside.

Caribbeans118,200029%Richmond Hill, Cambria Heights-St.

Albans, South Ozone Park,

Springfield Gardens-Laurelton-

Rosedale and Jamaica Hillcrest.

Fmr. Soviet Union107,00020%Forest Hills-Kew Gardens, Rego

Park, Jamaica Hills, Flushing

and Kew Gardens Hills.

Chinese83,50033%Flushing, Elmhurst, Woodside,

Jackson Heights and Forest Hills-

Kew Gardens.

Southeast Asian27,30040%Elmhurst, Astoria, Woodside,

Jamaica-Hillcrest and Flushing.

Haitian21,50024%Springfield Gardens-Laurelton-

Rosedale, Cambria Heights-St.

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Albans, **Queens** Village South,
 Hollis-Holliswood and
 Jamaica-Hillcrest.
 Koreans 11,800 2% Flushing, Elmhurst, Woodside,
 Astoria and Sunnyside.
 Irish 6,000 44% Woodside, Astoria, Sunnyside,
 Maspeth and Elmhurst.
 Israelis 6,000 23% Forest Hills-Kew Gardens, Kew
 Gardens Hills, Rego Park, Fresh
 Meadows and Jamaica Hills-
 South Jamaica.
 Source: NYC Dept. of **City** Planning

Graphic

BILL TURNBULL DAILY NEWS DIVERSITY Asians celebrating new year typify one of the many threads in the multicolored fabric of **Queens**.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (90%); POPULATION GROWTH (90%); **CITY** GOVERNMENT (90%); POPULATION SIZE (90%); CENSUS (89%); **CITIES** (89%); POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS (78%); COMMUNITY COLLEGES (76%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (71%); JEWS & JUDAISM (68%); LANGUAGE & LANGUAGES (66%); SUBURBS (64%)

Industry: COMMUNITY COLLEGES (76%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (71%); COMMUNITY RELATIONS (68%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (93%); NEW YORK, USA (93%); UNITED STATES (92%); CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (79%)

Load-Date: November 4, 1999