

The movie *In Jackson Heights*, directed by Frederick Weissman, documents the everyday lives of various communities within the Queens neighborhood. The film captures cross-sections of human activity throughout the neighborhood, recording community meetings, advocacy efforts, religious gatherings, and daily conversations of its residents. The movie reminded me of a comment I once heard: how students typically don't think about what happens to their teachers after class. They see them primarily as educators, not as individuals with personal lives, hobbies, and dreams. It reminded me of that idea; how I often walk past hundreds, if not thousands, of people every day without thinking about their lived experiences. It brought to mind the daily struggles of those I encounter in passing and also the people that live in close proximity, but don't get to meet for one reason or another.

For example, I've always known that there are people studying for their naturalization exams, but I've never seen what that process actually looks like; the obstacles and challenges that such people go through while navigating bureaucratic hurdles. It reminded me of a friend who expressed frustration with delays in obtaining her green card and social security number; barriers that prevented her from legally working or applying for internships in computer science.

Another scene that captured my attention was the focus on small business owners being informed about a proposed law that would raise property taxes in order to fund neighborhood clean up efforts and aesthetic enhancements. Many of the owners were unaware of the proposal's costs, having either ignored mailed pamphlets, misunderstood the language, or even failed to ask what the costs for such a program were. Community advocates tried to bridge this gap by emphasizing the importance of completing government surveys to ensure their voices were heard. This scene, in tandem with footage from the office of former council member Daniel Dromm, highlighted how difficult it can be for governments and citizens to communicate effectively.

In short, this documentary showed a detailed view of the every day lives of the residents in Jackson Heights, a view that most people might not be fully cognizant of.