



May 28, 2015

Meenakshi Srinivasan
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

We are writing again to ask the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to formally recognize sites of significance to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) movement within previously designated New York City Historic Districts.

As we approach the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion that spurred the modern movement for LGBT equality in our nation, we are reminded of the need to preserve and memorialize our LGBT history. We appreciate the LPC's acknowledgement of LGBT history in recent historic district designation reports, including the South Village Historic District and East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. Unfortunately, these reports do not go far enough to acknowledge the significance of individual historic sites.

A few of these sites include the Stonewall Inn at 51-53 Christopher Street, Julius' Bar at 159 West 10th Street, and the LGBT Center at 208 West 13th Street, all of which lie within the Greenwich Village Historic District, and the Gay Activists' Alliance Firehouse at 99 Wooster Street, within the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District. These sites are neither individual city landmarks nor are they referenced for their role in LGBT history in the districts' designation reports. The lack of such information within the designation reports effectively ensures that the full history of this historic district is incomplete. Amending existing designation reports to reflect places of significance to the LGBT movement would go a long way toward preserving this chapter of civil rights history, as would consideration of designating these and other sites as individual landmarks based upon their place in LGBT history.

In February 2014, your predecessor Robert Tierney wrote that he agreed "the city's list of designated landmarks and historic districts should reflect the contributions of New Yorkers of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds," and that LPC would evaluate our request to recognize these individual sites. With more than a year passed, we await action or an update on this assessment.

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission

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Thank you for your consideration of our request and the LPC's commitment to preserving our city's heritage. We look forward to your response. Should you have any questions or to follow up, please contact Senator Hoylman at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator



Deborah J. Glick
New York State Assembly
Member



Margaret Chin
New York City Council
Member



Rosie Mendez
New York City Council
Member



Corey Johnson
New York City Council
Member

cc: Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Tobi Bergman, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 2

Encl: Robert Tierney, February 3, 2014 Response