



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

March 14, 2016

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

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

*Meenakshi*

I write to express my ongoing support of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP)'s appeal for the recognition of Julius' Bar at 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street as an historically significant building to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community's cultural and civil rights history within the Greenwich Village Historic District. This site has already been identified as an eligible listing on the National Register of Historic Places, associated with the LGBT civil rights movement. Designating this site as an individual landmark will not only recognize it as the oldest gay bar in New York City, but it will commemorate the site of the 1966 "Sip-in" protest that led to overturning the New York State ban on serving alcohol to known homosexuals.

I applaud LPC for designating the Stonewall Inn as the first landmark in recognition of the LGBT community, and I urge the Commission to continue recognizing diverse, culturally significant struggles in New York City and referring to this history in the designation reports. In addition, I ask the LPC to provide GVSHP with a timeline of designating Julius' Bar as an individual landmark.

Thank you for your consideration of this significant cultural building.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

**DANIEL DROMM**  
25TH DISTRICT, QUEENS  
**COREY JOHNSON**  
3RD DISTRICT, MANHATTAN  
**CARLOS MENCHACA**  
38TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN



**ROSIE MENDEZ**  
2ND DISTRICT, MANHATTAN  
**RITCHIE TORRES**  
15TH DISTRICT, BRONX  
**JIMMY VAN BRAMER**  
26TH DISTRICT, QUEENS  
**JAMES VACCA**  
13TH DISTRICT, BRONX

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS**

February 18, 2016

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

As members of the New York City Council's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus, we are writing to ask the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) to consider designating Julius' Bar, located at 159 West 10th Street, in Manhattan as an individual landmark.

This is a site of great historic importance and cultural significance to the LGBT community. April 21, 2016 will mark 50 years since the first planned act of civil disobedience for LGBT rights, when gay men visited Julius' Bar to challenge the State Liquor Authority's (SLA) discriminatory regulations. After they were refused service, the three men filed a complaint with the New York City Commission on Human Rights. This led to a 1967 state court ruling that declared the SLA needed "substantial evidence" of indecent behavior to close a bar and not just same-sex kissing or touching. The decision was a landmark case that reversed years of discrimination and became a key catalyst in the gay rights movement. The movement is internationally recognized coming into its own with the 1969 rebellion and riots at the Stonewall Inn which, as you know, was landmarked by LPC in June 2015.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has deemed Julius' Bar eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places due to its historical significance. We believe it is important that this building receives individual landmark status so that future generations can learn about its key place in our history.

Thank you,

Rosie Mendez  
District 2

Daniel Dromm  
District 25

Corey Johnson  
District 3

James Vacca  
District 13

Ritchie Torres  
District 15

Jimmy Van Bramer  
District 26

Carlos Menchaca  
District 38



February 16, 2016

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

Re: Request for Landmark Designation of Julius' Bar, 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

We are writing to affirm our strong support for the designation of Julius' Bar as an individual New York City landmark. The historic nature of Greenwich Village was first recognized by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) over 40 years ago. This formal recognition ensured that the aesthetic, and spirit, of Greenwich Village would be preserved for future generations. While some buildings within this Historic District have been individually recognized, others still warrant recognition by the LPC. Last summer, the LPC took the historic step of recognizing the Stonewall Inn for its unique significance in the LGBT Civil Rights Movement. This was a groundbreaking endorsement for a building that is central to the struggle for LGBT Civil Rights and was applauded by the community.

Similar to the historically significant Stonewall Inn, Julius' Bar at 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, at the corner of Waverly Place, is another location in Greenwich Village that is central to the history of the LGBT Civil Rights Movement. In 1966, Julius' Bar was host to the Mattachine Society's "Sip-In," an act of civil disobedience that challenged State liquor laws barring openly gay persons from being served freely in bars. Though the now-famous Stonewall Uprising was still three years away, this event was an important early step towards allowing LGBT Americans the right to freely and openly be a part of society.

As times have changed, so has our understanding of what constitutes the full history of a site. While we understand that individual locations within broader historic districts are already granted the general protections of a historic district, there is nothing in the designation report of the Greenwich Village Historic District that highlights the LGBT achievements at Julius'. The lack of such information within the designation report results in a failure to present the full history of Greenwich Village, which is inextricably linked to the overall LGBT Civil Rights Movement. Highlighting individual sites within the district is an important component of disseminating that full history.

Your actions help define the historic record. We believe that the struggle for the LGBT community to achieve equal rights is a part of history that should be commemorated and recognized. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerrold Nadler". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah J. Glick". The script is cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Deborah J. Glick  
New York State Assemblymember

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman". The script is cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Brad Hoylman  
New York State Senator



Village Independent Democrats  
26 Perry Street  
New York, New York 10014

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

## **Support the Designation of Julius' Bar/159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street (AKA 188 Waverly Place), Manhattan**

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

April 21<sup>st</sup> this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first planned act of civil disobedience for LGBT rights which took place at our establishment Julius' Bar at 159<sup>th</sup> West 10<sup>th</sup> Street. We would like to urge you to consider individual landmark designation of this site, which also houses by many accounts the oldest gay bar in New York City, and one of the oldest continuously-operating bars in New York City. The formal designation of Julius' Bar will give the location protection and recognition that it deserves and alternatively could expose the location to the threat of demolition, irrevocable alteration.

The History of the location has been well documented and when gay men were banned from being served, organized protests known as "Sip-ins" were activists would go bar to bar asking to be served in order to challenge the State Liquor Authority ban on serving gays. This was the precursor to the creation of the Mattachine Society in 1950, one of the earliest organizations dedicated to promoting gay rights.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation deemed Julius' Bar as eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places on the basis of its place in LGBT and Civil Rights history. The site's designation enjoys board support by elected officials, the LGBT community, the Preservation League of New York State and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and GVSHP in requesting that the LPC consider such a designation.

Sincerely,

Nadine Hoffmann  
*President*  
*The Village Independent Democratic Club*

Tobi Bergman, *Chair*  
Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*  
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*  
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Keen Berger, *Secretary*  
Daniel Miller, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

February 22, 2016

Meenakshi Srinivasan, *Chair*  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor North  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

At its Full Board meeting on February 18, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

**12. \*159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street (a/k/a 188 Waverly Place) – Julius' Bar.** Site of the first planned act of civil disobedience for LGBT rights

### **A resolution requesting LPC to move forward and designate this building as an Individual Landmark**

**Whereas**, 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street is by many accounts the oldest gay bar in New York City history and the oldest continuously operating bar in New York City (since 1864); and

**Whereas**, on April 21, 1966 three gay men from the New York City Mattachine Society, an organization dedicated to promoting gay rights, organized a "Sip-In" to challenge the State Liquor Authority's discriminatory regulations; and

**Whereas**, this protest led to the 1967 state court ruling that reversed years of discrimination and became a key catalyst in the eventual gay rights movement beginning in 1969; and

**Whereas**, this action is considered by most accounts the very first planned act of civil disobedience on behalf of LGBT rights; and

**Whereas**, the building is intact and substantially in the same condition from the 1960's; and

**Whereas**, although Julius' Bar is located within the Greenwich Village Historic District, the designation report makes no note of its significance to cultural and civil rights history and as a result enjoys no formal recognition or protection from the Landmarks Preservation Commission on the basis of its LGBT history; and

**Whereas**, Greenwich Village and CB2, Man. contain many sites of great significance to the history of the LGBT rights movement, few of which have received the formal recognition from the Landmarks Preservation Commission they deserve; and

**Whereas**, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important civil rights event is approaching; and

**Whereas**, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has requested that the LPC designate this site as well as several other sites in CB 2 as landmarks based upon their significance to LGBT history; and

**Whereas**, the NYSHPO has already determined the site eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places based upon this history and the intact condition of the building and the bar;

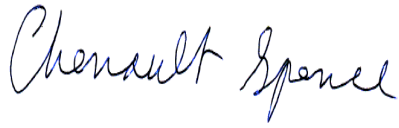
**Therefore, be it resolved** that CB2, Man. Recommends that LPC designate 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street as an Individual Landmark, and

**Therefore be it further resolved** that CB2, Man. Recommends doing so in time to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1966 “Sip-In” this April.

Vote: Unanimous, with 35 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Chenault Spence, Chair  
Landmarks & Public Aesthetics Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CS/fa

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator  
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member  
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Member  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Man. Borough President  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member  
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member  
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member  
Lauren George, Director of Government & Community Relations,  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Emily Rich, Public Information Officer, Landmarks Preservation Commission





# JIM OWLES

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

New York's Citywide Progressive LGBT Democratic Club

Honorable Meenakshi Srinivasan  
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

April 4, 2016

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

The Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club urges the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate Julius' Bar at 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street as an individual landmark – recognizing its status as one of the oldest gay bars in New York City and the site of a “Sip-In” that led one of the early important legal victories for the LGBT community.

While originally built in 1845 as a single family home, the ground floor of 159 W.10<sup>th</sup> Street became a bar in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and by the 1950's one popular with the gay community. On April 21, 1966 three gay men from the New York City Mattachine Society organized a “Sip-In” to challenge New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) rulings that being homosexual per se was considered “disorderly,” enabling bartenders to not serve them and for bars to evict them. After stating “We are homosexuals. We are orderly, we intend to remain orderly, and we are asking for service,” the three men were denied service, which they then challenged by filing a claim at the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Eventually the state courts ruled that the SLA needed “Substantial Evidence” of indecent behavior to close a bar or evict “disorderly” customers, not just same sex kissing or touching. As noted in the NYC LPC's 2014 Presentation **150 Years of LGBT History**, “The Sip-In” was therefore a significant pre-Stonewall assertion of LGBT rights and paved the way for the legalization of gay bars, as well as later political action.”

The gay rights movement to date has moved forward through two major actions – civil disobedience/protest and legal battles. Last year, the NYC LPC designated the Stonewall Inn as an historic landmark because of the importance of the protest and civil disobedience actions there in 1969. It seems appropriate for the NYC LPC to follow that up with a recognition of 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street for the important legal battle that began there in 1966.

Given its important role in one of the first successful legal actions in the modern LGBT fight for equal rights, we feel 159 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street meets the NYC LPC criteria that the site be at least 30 years old and have “a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation.” The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Sip-In” seems an appropriate time to move forward on the overdue designation.

Sincerely yours,

Allen Roskoff  
President