



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

February 20, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair, NY Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

I am writing on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support the pending request that the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission formally recognize the critical LGBT history connected to key sites in New York City such as the Stonewall Inn, Julius' Bar, and the Gay Activists Alliance Firehouse.

We believe that it is vital to identify and protect places that embody LGBT history. New York City has some of the most important sites connected to the LGBT rights movement in the country and the world, of which these three are among the most prominent. In recent years, states such as New York and the federal government have taken steps to formally recognize the critical LGBT history of sites such as these, and both have specifically recognized the historic significance of both the Stonewall Inn and Julius' Bar.

However, we believe it is important for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to do the same – both to reflect our understanding of the importance of this history, and to ensure that it is protected. None of the sites identified are currently recognized for their LGBT history by the NYC LPC, though all three are located within existing historic districts. As has been suggested by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and others, these properties could be safeguarded by amending the existing designation reports to include the LGBT history, or these sites could be considered for individual landmark designation.

We hope that the NYC LPC will act soon on this request. These sites are of paramount importance in understanding the American story, and they are vulnerable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Lane".

Roberta Lane
Senior Field Officer and Attorney

Cc: Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

MARGARET CHIN
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February 20, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Recognizing and Protecting Sites of Significance to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) History

Dear Chair Tierney:

We write to urge the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to take steps to recognize and protect sites of significance to New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community. These sites are important for their historical significance to the LGBT community, and for adding texture to the fabric of New York City.

Our districts are home to some of the most important LGBT sites in our city. We are supportive of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP)'s appeal to protect these historical institutions, and would appreciate LPC's action to make sure these sites continue to be places where residents and tourists can visit locations that had significant roles in the civil rights movement of the LGBT community.

We support the formal recognition of The Stonewall Inn, the location which many site as the flash point for beginning the modern gay rights movement. LPC's acknowledgment of this site's significant role in history will help regulate and preserve this building, and protect it from potential future changes that could compromise the Inn's prominent role in our city's history. We ask the commission to review this building and location for landmark designation.

We also support GVSHP's request that the LPC amend the Greenwich Village Historic District report to bring attention to historical LGBT sites and others in and around the Village that were important to the community and its role in the Village's makeup and

character. This would include Julius's Bar on West 10th Street and the Gay Activists Alliance House on Wooster Street.

We hope the LPC will consider formally recognizing these sites for their historical significance for our city. It would be a tragic loss to the city's history and communities if we do not act to protect these sites from future development and give them the recognition they deserve in the designation report.

If you have any questions about these sites, please contact Jeffrey LeFrancois in Council Member Corey Johnson's office at 212-564-7757 or by email at jlefrancois@council.nyc.gov; or Matt Viggiano in Council Member Chin's office at 212-788-7259 or by email at mvgiggiano@council.nyc.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Chin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Margaret Chin
Council Member
1st District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corey Johnson". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Corey Johnson
Council Member
3rd District



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

February 14, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:


I express my support for the Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street New York, New York City 10014, Julius' Bar at 159 West 110 Street, and the Gay Activists' Alliance Firehouse at 99 Wooster Street to be recognized as sites of historical significance to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. The buildings are located in designated Historic Districts, however, they have yet to be recognized for their specific historical and cultural significance to the LGBT community by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC).

I applaud LPC for including references to LGBT history into the findings of the recent designation reports of South Village Historic District and East Village/Lower East Side Historic District and I strongly support the continuation of this practice to include the Stonewall Inn, Julius' Bar, and the Gay Activists' Alliance Firehouse.

The Stonewall Inn was the location of the 1969 Stonewall riots and is considered to be the foundation of the LGBT Rights Movement. Julius' Bar is the oldest gay bar in New York City and was the site of the 1966 protest and part of the movement to overturn the New York State ban on serving alcohol to known homosexuals. The Gay Activists' Alliance Firehouse was the site of similar important moments in LGBT history.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. If you require additional information contact my staff or me at 212-669-8300.

Sincerely,


Gale A. Brewer

THE CENTER

February 7, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Recognizing and Protecting Sites of Significance to
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History

Dear Chair Tierney:

I am writing to add the support of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center to the recent request sent to you by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. I want to offer the Center's story as an example of the points that Andrew Berman makes in that letter about acknowledging LGBT history in the Commission's deliberations about historic buildings.

At the time of the Greenwich Village Historic District designation report, the building at 208 West 13th Street was the Food and Maritime Trades High School. The trade school was closed not long after and in 1984 the City sold the building to the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center Inc. – the first property transfer recorded in the City register by a party with the words "gay" and "lesbian" in its name.

Over the subsequent 30 years, many noteworthy events have taken place at the Center. I draw your attention to a few examples:

- Creation of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) in March of 1987.
- The exhibit of 50 site-specific installations called The Center Show, which ran from June to September 1989. Among the works in that exhibit was the mural entitled "Once Upon a Time," by Keith Haring, which has been preserved and is visited by people from around the world every year.
- Even before the Center was the Center, 208 West 13th Street housed the first office of the first LGBT-identified social service organization, Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE, now Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders).

Like the Stonewall Inn and Julius' Bar, the Center is located in the Greenwich Village Historic District, and like those sites, much of the contributing significance of 208 West 13th Street – its LGBT historical significance – needs to be formally incorporated into the Commission's institutional memory so that the Commission can exercise proper stewardship over the district and its noteworthy constituent properties.

Part of the Center's mission is to tell and preserve the stories of LGBT people. We created the Center's National Archive of LGBT History in 1990, at a time when the dominant culture was ignoring – and losing – the history of LGBT people. Today, the Center Archive is a resource that is recognized across the country for the quality and breadth of its collection.

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER**
208 W 13 ST NEW YORK, NY 10011

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But it is not enough that LGBT organizations preserve that history. Those responsible for acknowledging the important structures and events that have shaped our City must take into account LGBT individuals and organizations and events that have made a difference in the place we live, and that have influenced LGBT rights movements around the world.

We strongly support the suggestions made by GVSHP to update the Greenwich Village Historic District designation report, and to consider sites such as the Stonewall Inn and Julius' Bar – and others, including the Center – for individual landmark designation because of their significance in LGBT history.

Sincerely yours,



Glenda Testone
Executive Director

Copies to:

Mayor Bill de Blasio
Public Advocate Letitia James
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
State Senator Brad Hoylman
State Senator Daniel Squadron
State Assemblymember Deborah Glick
New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
New York City Councilmember Jimmy van Bramer
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New York City Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Community Board #2, Manhattan
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation League of New York State
Municipal Art Society
New York Landmarks Conservancy
Historic Districts Council
Empire State Pride Agenda
Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats
Stonewall Democratic Club
Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
Village Independent Democrats
Village Reform Democratic Club
Downtown Independent Democrats
SoHo Alliance
New York City AIDS Memorial

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January 28, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

I appreciate the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (LPC) acknowledgement of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) history in recent historic district designation reports, including the South Village Historic District and East Village/Lower East Side Historic District. I am writing to ask LPC to begin formally recognizing sites of significance to the LGBT movement within previously designated New York City Historic Districts.

The Stonewall Inn at 52 Christopher Street and Julius' Bar at 159 West 10th Street, both within the Greenwich Village Historic District, and the Gay Activists' Alliance Firehouse at 99 Wooster Street, within the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District, are just a few such sites, which carry enormous historical significance for the LGBT community and its struggle for equality. Yet they are neither individual landmarks nor referenced for their role in LGBT history in their districts' designation reports. 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman".

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation





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February 3, 2014

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Protection of sites significant to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
(LGBT) History


Dear Chairman Tierney,

On behalf of the Preservation League of New York State, I write in support of recognition and protection of significant sites relating to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender history.

The Preservation League applauds the Landmarks Preservation Commission's designation of the South Village Historic District. In particular, we appreciate the attention to sites of LGBT significance in the district designation report. We encourage the LPC to consider including this important history in dated designation reports, such as the Greenwich Village Historic District report, which predates the Stonewall riots, catalytic events that sparked the LGBT rights movement and served as the basis for the Stonewall Inn's National Historic Landmark designation.

The Preservation League appreciates the hard work of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you once again for your consideration of these important historic events. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Jay A. DiLorenzo
President

cc: Andrew Berman, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation