

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to designate a new national monument recognizing the significance of the Stonewall Rebellion as the seminal event of the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement. The creation of a monument in the vicinity of the Stonewall Inn, located in New York City which we represent, under the auspices of the National Park Service (NPS) would represent a significant step forward for the inclusion of the stories of LGBT Americans in our nation's history.

Greenwich Village has long been a location known for its progressive ideals – one that has fostered social and cultural innovation. It was in this hotbed of cultural change that on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn, a longtime gathering point for the LGBT community and a subject of countless police raids, a spark struck that ignited what would become the modern LGBT civil rights movement. The sudden vocal and forceful resistance over the following days demanded an end to police harassment, arrests and raids on LGBT establishments, raised awareness of the unequal treatment of the LGBT community and emboldened individuals to fight for their civil rights.

Today, Stonewall's legacy continues to grow as the global movement started by these few brave individuals carries on. In the more than 45 years since 1969, the name 'Stonewall' has become synonymous with the American struggle for LGBT civil rights and the fight for equality. Few have spoken of this heritage more eloquently than during your second inaugural address, when you spoke of our nation's struggle through Seneca Falls, Selma and, ultimately, Stonewall.

As the steward of our nation's historic resources, the NPS tells some of the most important American stories through our national parks and monuments. The narratives woven by the NPS reflect the growth of our country and our culture, encouraging us to celebrate, learn and reflect on our past. It is vital that our retelling of history reflect the broad spectrum of American experiences and events that have shaped who we are as a country today. We applaud the NPS' efforts towards more inclusive interpretations through its LGBT Heritage Initiative. A Stonewall National Monument would be the first unit within the National Park system dedicated to the history of LGBT Americans and is integral to fully incorporating LGBT stories into the history presented by the NPS.

On July 23, 2015 Manhattan Community Board Two, the most local form of government representing the community surrounding the Stonewall Inn, unanimously voted in support of the

creation of a monument, seeking to partner with the NPS and establishing a working group toward that end. Again, we request that you continue your exemplary leadership on behalf of the LGBT community by designating a Stonewall National Monument.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Maller

Kirsten Gillibrand

Chuck Schumer

Marco Rubio

Joseph Crowley

Gene Meyer

Eliot L. Engel

Carolyn B. Maloney

Nydia Velázquez

Charles B. Rangel

Grette D. Clarke

Gregory W. Meeks

Jon E. Sorenson

Members Signing Stonewall National Monument Letter

Rep. Jerrold Nadler	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand
Sen. Charles Schumer	Rep. Hakeem Jeffries
Rep. Joseph Crowley	Rep. Grace Meng
Rep. Eliot Engel	Rep. Carolyn Maloney
Rep. Nydia Velázquez	Rep. Charles Rangel
Rep. Yvette Clarke	Rep. Gregory Meeks
Rep. José Serrano	



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER

August 21, 2015

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This June, nearly 46 years after violent protests erupted at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, the nation's LGBTQ community won a historic victory when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all remaining bans on same-sex marriage. The decision affirmed, once again, that the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection applies to all Americans.

Three days later, thousands of New Yorkers marched down Christopher Street in the annual NYC Pride March, celebrating a hard-fought victory. But it was also a day to remember those who didn't live to see this victory—including many of the patriots who took a brave stand against discrimination and oppression at the Stonewall Inn in 1969. After all, it was their courage that launched the movement for LGBTQ rights.

Earlier this year, our City's Landmarks Preservation Commission honored their legacy by designating the Stonewall Inn as a New York City landmark—the first time the commission designated a site primarily for its significance to LGBTQ history. But while this was a welcome step, Stonewall's legacy clearly transcends New York City.

I believe we must begin the process of preserving and protecting our shared cultural history by designating Christopher Park—the plaza outside the Stonewall Inn—as a National Monument. I am writing to ask that the National Parks Service commence a study of this proposal. We are confident that it will pass muster as worthy of a National Monument, and request that you issue an Executive Order making it a reality.

The Stonewall Uprising wasn't just a catalyst for the LGBTQ civil rights movement. It signified another moment in the history of American social justice when a small group of marginalized people stood up and sent a clear message that their rights must be respected. A federal designation for Christopher Park, which is currently City-owned, would enable this site to take its place along similar places of historical

significance in New York City—from Castle Clinton and the Statue of Liberty to Governors Island and the African Burial Ground.

Mr. President, you eloquently linked the battles for civil rights from Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall in your second inaugural address. Now, you can strengthen this linkage by issuing an Executive Order designating Christopher Park as a National Monument. I would be pleased to work with you in supporting this worthy endeavor, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Stringer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Stringer" clearly distinguishable.

Scott M. Stringer
New York City Comptroller



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

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www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

September 17, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Manhattan Borough President, I support the designation of a new national monument in New York City to recognize the significance of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall Uprising to U.S. history. The creation of a monument at the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village would honor the heroic actions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans in their struggle for equality and civil rights.

The spontaneous demonstrations that erupted at the Stonewall Inn constituted a major turning point in LGBT history. Brave New Yorkers stood up and demanded an end to police harassment, arrests, and raids on LGBT establishments, actions that raised awareness of the unequal treatment of the LGBT community, and came to symbolize the start of the modern LGBT civil rights movement worldwide.

Our national parks have long provided some of the most important narratives on U.S. culture and history. These special places allow Americans to celebrate and learn about our shared past. They preserve historic spaces and bring renewed commitment to the communities that have shaped our nation's country. I applaud the National Park Service (NPS) for undertaking the LGBT Heritage Initiative, an important review of ways to incorporate LGBT stories into NPS narratives. A Stonewall National Monument would be the first unit in the National Parks system dedicated to the LGBT community.

Manhattan Community Board 2, which represents the local area, has expressed unanimous support for partnering with the NPS to recognize these significant events. A Stonewall National Monument would preserve and protect this important historical landmark and sustain the living history of the LGBT movement in America.

Most respectfully,

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

INVESTIGATIONS &
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES

AGING

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS
& RECREATION

HEALTH

JUDICIARY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



**SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN**
27TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF NEW YORK

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
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website:
hoylman.nysenate.gov

September 17, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As State Senators who represent New York, we urge you to designate a new national monument recognizing the significance of the Stonewall Rebellion to our nation's history. Such a monument would help alter the national discourse on LGBT rights by enshrining the movement's birthplace as a protected site of American progress.

The Stonewall Inn in New York's West Village served as the location of the 1969 rebellion that signified a major turning point in LGBT history. A diverse group of brave individuals stood up and demanded an end to police harassment, arrests and raids on LGBT establishments. Their actions raised awareness of the unequal treatment of the LGBT community; just as importantly, those six days galvanized LGBT people around the world to stand up for themselves and insist on dignity and equality. The rebellion has come to symbolize the start of the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

America's national parks teach us about some of the most important stories from our shared culture and history. These special places provide the opportunity to celebrate and learn about our shared past, preserve our historic spaces, and bring renewed commitment to the communities that helped to shape our country. We applaud and thank the National Park Service (NPS) for undertaking the LGBT Heritage Initiative, an important review of ways to incorporate LGBT stories into the narratives presented by the agency. A Stonewall National Monument would be the first unit in the National Parks system dedicated to this community.

Manhattan Community Board 2, which represents the most local form of government for the area, has expressed its unanimous support for partnering with the NPS to recognize these significant events. We request that you designate a Stonewall National Monument to celebrate, preserve and protect this important history.

Respectfully,



Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District



Neil D. Breslin
44th Senate District



Michael Gianaris
12th Senate District



Liz Kreuger
28th Senate District



Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District



Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District



José M. Serrano
29th Senate District



Adriano Espaillat
31st Senate District



Timothy M. Kennedy
63rd Senate District



George Latimer
37th Senate District



Bill Perkins
30th Senate District



Diane J. Savino
23rd Senate District



Daniel L. Squadron
26th Senate District



September 18, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As elected officials who represent constituents throughout New York State, we urge you to designate a new national monument recognizing the significance of the Stonewall Rebellion to our nation's history. The creation of a National Monument in New York City would significantly advance the goals of including the stories of LGBT Americans and honoring their struggle for equal rights.

The Stonewall Inn and Christopher Park in New York City's West Village served as the site of the 1969 rebellion that signified a major turning point in LGBT history. At the time, a few brave individuals stood up and demanded an end to police harassment, arrests, and raids targeted at known LGBT establishments. These actions, often referred to as "the Stonewall Riots," raised awareness of the unequal treatment of the LGBT community, and have come to symbolize the start of the modern LGBT civil rights movement worldwide.

The system of National Parks in the United States tells the story of some of the most iconic aspects of our culture and history. Our National Parks provide the opportunity to celebrate and learn about our Country's past, preserve our historic spaces, and bring a spirit of pride to the communities that helped shape this great Nation. A Stonewall National Monument would be the first unit in the National Parks system dedicated to the LGBT community. We applaud the National Park Service (NPS) for undertaking the LGBT Heritage Initiative, which is an important review of ways to incorporate places and events associated with the story of LGBTQ Americans into the narratives presented through our National Parks.

After public hearings and discourse, Manhattan Community Board 2, which represents the local area, has expressed unanimous support for partnering with the NPS to recognize the significant events through the creation of a National Monument. We request that you designate a Stonewall National Monument to preserve and protect this important history.

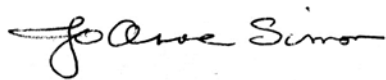
Sincerely,



Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick



Assemblymember John T. McDonald



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



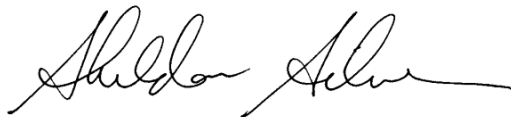
Assemblymember Felix Ortiz



Assemblymember Michaëlle C. Solages



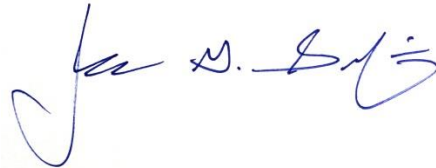
Assemblymember Peter Abbate



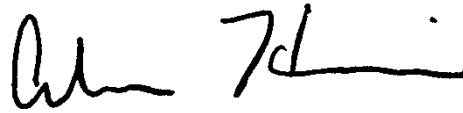
Assemblymember Sheldon Silver



Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright



Assemblymember James Skoufis



Assemblymember Andrew Hevisi



Assemblymember Michael Benedetto



Assemblymember David Buchwald



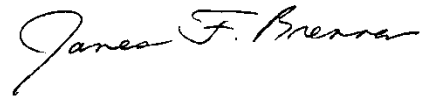
Assemblymember Fred Thiele, Jr.



Assemblymember Patricia Fahy



Assemblymember Michelle Schimel



Assemblymember James F. Brennan



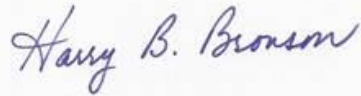
Assemblymember Phil Steck



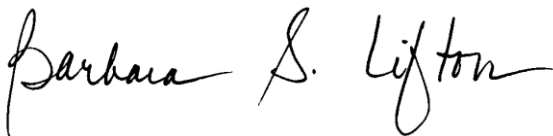
Assemblymember Michael G. DenDekker



Assemblymember Mike Miller



Assemblymember Harry Bronson



Assemblymember Barbara Lifton



Assemblymember Nily Rozic



Assemblymember William Magee



Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell



Assemblymember Matthew Titone



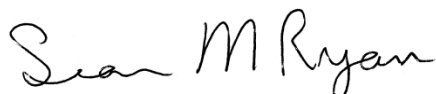
Assemblymember Robert Rodriguez



Assemblymember Carmen Arroyo



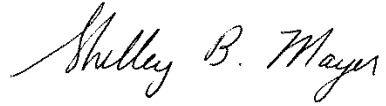
Assemblymember Walter T. Mosley



Assemblymember Sean Ryan



Assemblymember Richard Gottfried



Assemblymember Shelley B. Mayer



Assemblymember Margaret Markey



Assemblymember Aravella Simotas



Assemblymember Albert A. Stirpe, Jr.



Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte

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

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As openly LGBT members of the New York City Council, we urge you to designate a new national monument in recognition of the Stonewall Rebellion and its significance to our nation's history. The National Park Service does not yet have a monument to honor the civil rights struggles of LGBT Americans, and this would be the ideal location to create the first of its kind.

The 1969 rebellion at the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding areas of Christopher Park and Christopher Street was a seminal moment in American civil rights history. It marked a turning point, after which LGBT Americans would no longer tolerate government imposition on their personal lives, and no longer abide harassment, unconstitutional arrests, and surprise police raids.

The creation of a national park would ensure that this legacy of defiance and justice lives on in future generations. A monument there will allow future generations of Americans to learn about the obstacles that honest and decent Americans had to overcome because of an unjust system. The geographic landscape of New York City, like so many other parts of our nation, is constantly changing, and without a national parks designation, it is possible that the physical features of this historic place may be lost to time. That is why it is so important that we create this national monument, and ensure that Christopher Park can be visited by those who wish to feel a deep connection to the important events that occurred there decades ago.

We applaud the National Park Service (NPS) for undertaking the LGBTQ Heritage Initiative, an important review of ways to incorporate LGBT stories into the narratives presented by the agency. A Stonewall National Monument would be an excellent choice for the first monument in the National Parks system dedicated to this community.

The movement for this designation has garnered significant local support. Manhattan Community Board 2, which represents the local area, has expressed its unanimous support for partnering with the NPS to recognize these significant events. This letter demonstrates the resolve of the New York City Council's LGBT Caucus to similarly support the national recognition of this historic site by the National Parks Service. We hereby request that you designate a Stonewall National Monument to preserve and protect this important history.

Sincerely,



Daniel Dromm
District 25



Corey Johnson
District 3



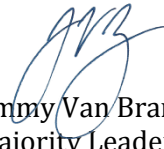
Carlos Menchaca
District 38



Rosie Mendez
District 2



Ritchie Torres
District 15



Jimmy Van Bramer
Majority Leader, District 26