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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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July 27, 2015

Elizabeth A. Bowler
Northeast Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association
120 Park Ave., 14 Floor
New York, NY 10017

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5 Floor
New York, NY 10017

Oliver Spellman
Northeast Senior Project Manager
National Parks Conservation Association
120 Park Ave., 14 Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Borough Commissioner Castro, Elizabeth Bowler and Oliver Spellman:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on July 23, 2015, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Regarding the proposal to create a Stonewall National Monument as world's first national park site designed to interpret, protect, and preserve the history and culture of LGBT people

Whereas,

1. the series of events between June 28 and July 3, 1969, collectively known as Stonewall, occurred at the Stonewall Inn and in and around Christopher Park, located in Community Board #2;
2. these events signified the “emblematic event” in modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) history and have come to symbolize the birthplace of the modern gay rights movement;
3. President Obama talked about Stonewall in his second inaugural address, citing it as a definitive moments in U.S. civil rights history;
4. in June 1999 the area around the Stonewall Inn was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the area was designated a National Landmark in February 2000; however, there are

- no units of the National Park System that preserve, protect, and interpret the history and culture of LGBT Americans;
5. the National Park Service is charged with preserving and interpreting American history for future generations;
 6. supporters of an idea to create a protected national park unit called the Stonewall National Monument have asked Community Board #2 to support this goal;
 7. some federal property ownership is required in order to create a National Monument, and would require the transfer of Christopher Park from New York City to the National Park Service;
 8. Christopher Park is a neighborhood park providing a rare and essential place of respite in a dense and vibrant area in the Greenwich Village Historic District;
 9. neighborhood groups currently provide volunteer support and care for the park;
 10. the National Park Service undertakes an extensive public engagement process before deciding to recommend designation of a new National Monument and any transfer of land would necessitate a full community review of plans through the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) including full plan details for design, programming, operations, and security all of which would be developed during an open community engagement process culminating in recommendations from Community Board 2 Manhattan and the Manhattan Borough President and action considered by the New York City Planning Commission and City Council.

Therefore it is resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan,

1. Supports the goal of creating a National Monument at Christopher Park and the surrounding area to provide permanent recognition of the importance to our nation's history of the Stonewall Uprising and the LGBT Movement it sparked.
2. Invites all stakeholders to begin the process of moving towards this goal while protecting and preserving the treasured uses and character of this neighborhood park and would endeavour to create and facilitate a Working Group to this end.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 38 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

- c:
- Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
 - Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
 - Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Speaker
 - Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
 - Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member