



**Testimony of Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick, Congressman Jerrold Nadler,
and State Senator Brad Hoylman
Before the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding the individual landmark designation of the Stonewall Inn, located at 51-53 Christopher Street, Manhattan. It is quite fortuitous that during June, which is national LGBT Pride Month, we have an opportunity to recognize a historic building that was the epicenter of the modern gay rights movement in the United States.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission has a great opportunity to recognize sites that are significant to the LGBT struggle for equality, and begin to acknowledge the dynamic history of gay rights in New York City. While there are many important sites for the gay rights movement throughout this City, Greenwich Village, and particularly the Stonewall Inn, stand out in the American mind as a place in which gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans fought back against discrimination and persecution. Regardless of where in this country a gay person is born, their modern understanding of LGBT rights and New York City almost always includes references to the Stonewall Inn and even Christopher Street. People travel from all over the world to see the building in an effort to feel connected to the struggle, and progress.

This building is greatly significant to Greenwich Village, and designating the Stonewall Inn as an individual New York City landmark will ensure that the struggle and progress made for LGBT rights will be forever remembered. We have already lost many culturally significant buildings due to their lack of designation and the pressures of development. It is imperative in light of the many changes to zoning and development in New York City, that we formally designate historic sites now otherwise we risk losing them forever. Stonewall Inn is not the only building of significance that warrants a public hearing for individual landmark designation. We hope you also consider a review and hearing on other buildings which played critical roles in the LGBT rights movement, such as: Julius' Bar and the Wooster Street Firehouse.

We urge you to grant individual landmark status to the Stonewall Inn and solidify the LGBT rights movement as part of our history here in New York and Greenwich Village. We thank you for your consideration in hearing the proposal regarding the Stonewall Inn and hope that the Landmarks Preservation Commission will vote expeditiously to preserve modern historic LGBT sites.