



May 5, 2022

Dr. Jonathan Cervas
 Special Master
 Postdoctoral Fellow
 Institute for Politics and Strategy
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Posner Hall 386
 5000 Forbes Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Cervas:

As individuals representing LGBTQ New Yorkers on the West Side of Manhattan, we are writing in support of lines for NYS Senate District 30 that maintain the integrity of the historic LGBTQ population along the West Side of Manhattan, comprised of the Greenwich Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods, running from approximately from Houston Street to the south, 59th Street to the north, Broadway to the east, and the West Side highway to the west.

The proposed lines unite a number of important LGBTQ communities along the West Side of Manhattan. These are neighborhoods are considered to be New York's and the nation's most prominent "gay neighborhood," and are widely recognized as a geographical area with generally recognized boundaries that are frequented by the LGBTQ population.

New York has the most populous LGBTQ community in the nation. According to the Williams Institute, an estimated 706,000 adults live in the New York metropolitan area, accounting for 4.5% of the total population, and most of them are concentrated in the neighborhoods of Greenwich Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen.

In addition, these neighborhoods are historic LGBTQ communities. The first public demonstrations for gay rights in the United States began at Cooper Union, 30 Cooper Square, on December 2, 1964. Some of the most important LGBTQ bars have been in this area, including Club 82 at East 4th Street, the Black Rabbit at 183 Bleecker Street, Julius' Bar at 159 W. 10th Street.

The most notable LGBTQ historic site is the Stonewall Inn at 51-53 Christopher Street, the first such site listed on the National Register for Historic Places and named a U.S. National Monument for LGBTQ civil rights. The piers along the Hudson River Park were the historic gathering place for LGBTQ people over the last several decades.

In Greenwich Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen there are dozens of LGBTQ restaurants and bars reflecting the population in the area. These include Henrietta Hudson at 483 Hudson Street, the Cubbyhole at 281 West 12th Street, the Eagle at 554 W. 28th Street, Industry at 355 West 52nd Street, Flaming Saddles San on 793 9th Avenue, Boxers at 37 West 20th Street, and Barracuda at 275 West 22nd Street.

In addition, in proposed Senate District 30 there are a number of important cultural and service organizations dedicated to the LGBTQ community. Harvey Milk High School, founded as the first public high school for LGBTQ students, is at 2 Astor Place. The Gay Activist Alliance Firehouse, formerly home of the one of the most influential LGBTQ groups of the post-Stonewall era, is at 99 Wooster Street. The LGBT Community Center, the home and resource hub for the LGBTQ community since its founding in 1983, is located at 208 West 13th Street. The NYC AIDS Memorial, stands at the corner of 11th Street and Greenwich Avenue, across the street from the original St. Vincent's Hospital at 153 W. 11th Street, one of the first institutions to respond to and treat HIV/AIDS.

Other important LGBTQ human services organizations in the proposed district include: Gay Men's Health Crisis, located at 307 West 38th Street; Callen-Lorde community health center at 356 West 18th Street; the Ryan-Chelsea Community Health and Medical Center, a federally-qualified health center with a focus on LGBTQ people and HIV/AIDS outreach, located in Hell's Kitchen at 645 Tenth Avenue at 46th Street; the Apicha LGBTQ community health care center at 400 Broadway; the Edie Windsor SAGE Center for LGBTQ seniors at 305 7th Avenue; and the Ali Forney Center for homeless LGBTQ youth at 224 West 57th Street; and the Ali Forney Center for homeless LGBTQ youth at 224 W 35th Street.

We hope you will recognize the integrity of these neighborhoods in Greenwich Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen as an LGBTQ-friendly oasis that reflect the cultural values and serve the special needs of LGBTQ people in relation to our society at large.

Sincerely yours,

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (The Center)
SAGE
Covenant House
The Ali Forney Center
GMHC