



COMMUNITY OFFICE  
37-32 75TH STREET, 1ST FLOOR  
JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372  
TEL: (718) 803-6373  
FAX: (718) 803-9832

CITY HALL OFFICE  
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1821  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
TEL: (212) 788-7066  
EMAIL: dromm@council.nyc.gov

THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**DANIEL DROMM**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, QUEENS

CHAIR  
IMMIGRATION  
COMMITTEES  
EDUCATION  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & LIBRARIES  
VETERANS  
JUVENILE JUSTICE

July 25, 2012

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

I strongly support the designation of the proposed South Village Historic District and the protection of 186 Spring Street as a way to preserve the history of New York City's instrumental role in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights movement.

Jim Owles, one of the movement's early heroes, resided at 186 Spring Street. In addition to all of his other accomplishments, Mr. Owles helped found the Gay Activists Alliance, which played a pivotal role after the Stonewall Uprising of 1969. Mr. Owles's story is especially inspiring to me since he became in 1973 the first openly gay candidate for the City Council.

Other early gay liberation figures also resided at 186 Spring Street, including activist and writer Arnie Kantrowitz and Dr. Bruce Voeller, who was at the forefront of the fight against AIDS. Dr. Voeller was also the co-founder and first director of the National Gay Task Force, which became the first and largest national political advocacy organization for gay men and lesbians.

The organizing that each of these individuals did out of 186 Spring Street set the path for the political and social progress we see today. They were not alone, though. The South Village was a key center for the development of artistic and intellectual ideas that profoundly influenced this country.

For these reasons, I urge you to protect this site and the entire area as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Dromm  
New York City Council Member, 25<sup>th</sup> District