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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

GVSHP HAILS HISTORIC CITY VOTE TO CONSIDER STONEWALL INN, BIRTHPLACE OF MODERN LGBT RIGHTS MOVEMENT, A NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK

***Advocates waged year and a half campaign;
Vote is first step in process;
City still noncommittal on three other LGBT history sites***

Manhattan – Capping a [year and half campaign](#) spearheaded by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP), today the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously to calendar, or formally consider for landmark designation, the Stonewall Inn at 51-53 Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. The public hearing on the landmarking proposal will be held on Tuesday, June 23rd. If designated, the Stonewall Inn would become the first “LGBT landmark” in New York City, or the first site landmarked solely for its connection to LGBT history. Today’s vote begins the formal process of considering the site for landmark designation, which still requires a public hearing and subsequent vote. GVSHP first proposed the Stonewall Inn and three other sites connected to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) history for landmark designation a year and a half ago, and along with elected officials, other preservation groups, and LGBT organizations, has been urging the Commission to take this step.

In response to today’s vote, GVSHP’s Executive Director, Andrew Berman, issued the following statement:

“Today’s vote is a welcome and long overdue step forward in recognizing and preserving a tremendously important piece of our history. Few sites more powerfully embody the struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, and for achieving a fairer and more just society, than the Stonewall Inn. The protests and resistance connected to the police raid here in June of 1969 transformed our city, nation, and world, and the reverberations they set off are still being felt today. Stonewall represents brave and trailblazing social change, and is just one of many examples of how the Village and other communities of Lower Manhattan helped re-write history and change the world for the better.”

“But more than mere symbolism, today’s vote is incredibly important for bringing us a step closer to securing NYC landmark status for the Stonewall Inn, which would help ensure that this building is never demolished or altered to erase that incredibly special history. Though New York State and the federal government recognized the tremendous significance of Stonewall in 1999 by listing it on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, only New York City landmark designation actually protects the building and ensures its preservation.

“But today’s vote is far from the end of this effort. The Commission must still hold a public hearing and vote on the proposed designation before landmarking can take effect. And the Commission has still not committed to consider the other three sites we have put forward as part of this campaign to also be considered for landmark designation – Julius’ Bar at 159 West 10th Street, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center at 208 West 13th Street, and the former Gay Activists Alliance Firehouse at 99 Wooster Street. These sites also speak to a long history of struggle for LGBT equality, and deserve recognition by the City of New York.”

GVSHIP first proposed landmark designation for the Stonewall Inn and three other sites connected to LGBT civil rights history in 2014, and has been pushing the Landmarks Preservation Commission to take up consideration of these sites (see [here](#) and [here](#)). GVSHIP has already gotten [Julius’ Bar determined eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places](#), but the City has not yet committed to consider this or any of the other sites for landmark designation. **Following today’s vote, GVSHIP’s campaign will switch gears to urge the Commission to vote in favor of landmark designation of Stonewall, and to consider the three outstanding sites for landmark designation as well.**

In 1999, GVSHIP co-nominated the Stonewall Inn and surrounding streets where the 1969 riots took place for [the State and National Registers of Historic Places](#), making it the first site ever recognized by State or Federal government for its role in relation to LGBT history.

While the Landmarks Preservation Commission has agreed to take this first step to landmark the Stonewall Inn, in recent years the Commission has often been [unwilling to consider](#) sites of great significance to LGBT history for landmark designation, and allowed them to be demolished. These include an 1820 rowhouse at [186 Spring Street](#) and the [Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments](#) at 133-139 MacDougal Street. GVSHIP fought to save each in 2012 and 2008 respectively, and called upon the Landmarks Preservation Commission to protect them. Both buildings were [determined eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places](#), but in both cases the Landmarks Preservation refused to landmark them. 186 Spring Street was then [demolished](#), and the Provincetown Playhouse and Apartments were [largely demolished by NYU](#) to make way for law school offices.

Several elected officials, historic preservation organizations, and LGBT groups have been part of the campaign to seek landmark protections for Stonewall and for other New York City LGBT history sites, and thousands of individuals have written to the City in support of GVSHIP proposal for landmark designation – see letters [here](#) and [here](#).

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