



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

JULIE MENIN
SPEAKER

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Jessica Bowron
Acting Director
National Parks Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Director Bowron,

On behalf of the New York City Council, we are writing to express our extreme concern with the removal of the Pride flag from the Stonewall National Monument, the birthplace of the modern LGBTQIA+ movement.

Stonewall is a sacred ground in the history of civil rights in our country. The events that took place there catalyzed a global movement for dignity, equality, and freedom — guiding principles upon which our nation was founded. The Pride flag has long flown as a symbol of that struggle and of the resilience of a community that continues to fight for its basic rights.

In the year of the United States of America's 250th anniversary, American monuments like Stonewall matter more than ever. This is a moment to honor, celebrate, and uplift American culture and history. This decision sends a deeply troubling message, one that shows the world that we are willing to sanitize and erase our history and the very values that make America great.

This event follows an alarming trend of the erasure of LGBTQIA+ history, including the decision to rename the USNS Harvey Milk and the removal of key facts from the Stonewall National Monument website.

As Speaker of the City Council and as Co-Chairs of the Council's LGBTQIA+ Caucus, we urge the National Parks Service to immediately return the Pride flag to the Stonewall National Monument where it belongs. We also request a prompt response outlining the rationale behind this decision and the steps your agency will take to ensure that the Stonewall National Monument continues to reflect the truth of its history and the community it represents.

Sincerely,

Julie Menin
Speaker

Chi Ossé
Council Member, Co-Chair of
the LGBTQIA+ Caucus

Justin Sanchez
Council Member, Co-Chair of
the LGBTQIA+ Caucus