



IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated July 2, 2015, from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the Stonewall Inn, 51-53 Christopher Street (Block 610, Lot 1) by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on June 23, 2015 (Designation List No.483/LP-2574), Borough of Manhattan, Community District 2.

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of any designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whether of a historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements, and any plans for the development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

On June 23, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated Stonewall Inn, at 51-53 Christopher Street (Block 610, Lot 1), as a city landmark. The landmark designation consists of the two buildings at 51-53 Christopher Street, located on the northeast corner of Christopher Street and 7th Avenue South in Greenwich Village, Manhattan Community District 2.

The Stonewall Inn is well known as the starting point of the Stonewall Rebellion, and is one of the most important sites associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) history in New York City and the nation. In the late 1960s, few establishments welcomed gays and lesbians and repressive laws made it impossible for a gay bar to obtain a liquor license. At about 1:20 a.m. on June 28, 1969, when the Stonewall Inn was raided as part of a police crackdown on gay clubs, the reaction of the bar's customers was anything but typical. Instead of hurrying off, they remained waiting in front of the club where they were joined by friends and passersbys who were mostly members the LGBT community. As the crowd grew, its members became increasingly angry at the rough treatment some persons were receiving and resentful of the unfairness of the situation. Participants began chanting "gay pride" and "gay power" and throwing pennies and other objects. The police were forced to retreat into the bar, which became the focus of attack. Eventually they were rescued, but for more than two hours, the crowd fought back while anti-riot police tried to clear the streets. The protests and confrontations continued for the next few days until almost midnight Wednesday July 2, 1969, with the Stonewall often at the center of events.

The Stonewall uprising was the catalyst for a new more radical phase in the LGBT Liberation Movement. Within a few months, in direct response to Stonewall, several activist organizations were formed in New York City, including the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance, Radicalesbians, and the Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries. Soon new organizations were being established across the U.S. and throughout the world to promote LGBT civil rights.

On June 28, 1970, the first anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion was commemorated as Christopher Street Liberation Day; the main event was a march from Greenwich Village to Central Park. That day, Pride marches were also held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago in commemoration of Stonewall. Those celebrations have since grown into the internationally-celebrated LGBT Pride Month, with events held annually throughout the world.

The two buildings that comprised the Stonewall Inn were originally built in the 1840s as stables, and in 1930 were merged at the first story and given a unified façade. Their combined ground floor commercial space originally housed a bakery; in 1934 it was taken over by the Stonewall Inn Restaurant, and reopened in 1967 as a gay club retaining the name Stonewall Inn. Nos 51 and 53 Christopher Street are within the Greenwich Village Historic District, which was designated on April 29, 1969 – just months before the Stonewall uprising. From the time of the Stonewall Rebellion, the buildings still retain their brick cladding, arched entrances, small storefront windows, associated with LGBT bars of the 1960, and stuccoed upper stories.

The landmark site is located on a C4-5/R6 split zoning lot. With an allowable floor area ratio (FAR) of 3.44, the 9,565 square foot lot could be developed with approximately 32,904 square feet of floor area. Existing buildings on the lot contain 21,092 square feet, resulting in 11,812 square feet of unused development rights available for transfer under the existing zoning.

Pursuant to Section 74-79 of the Zoning Resolution, a landmark building may transfer its unused development rights to a lot contiguous to the zoning lot occupied by the landmark building or one which is across the street and opposite to the zoning lot occupied by the landmark building, or in the case of a corner lot, one which fronts on the same street intersection as the lot occupied by the

landmark. There are three potential receiving sites available for the transfer of the landmark's unused floor area.

Pursuant to Section 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution, landmark buildings or buildings within Historic Districts are eligible to apply for use and bulk waivers upon application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The subject landmark does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution. In addition, the Commission is not aware of any conflicts between the subject landmark designation and projected public improvements on any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark building.

CARL WEISBROD, Chairman

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