



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor—New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Valerie M. Orridge Street Co-Naming Resolution

Resolution: To support the co-naming of the northeast corner of 139th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard to Valerie M. Orridge, Rn Way.

WHEREAS, Valerie Marie Orridge was born in Harlem Hospital in 1932 and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant. She attended New York City primary and secondary schools. Upon graduation from Franklin K. Lane High School, she entered the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing. Two years after completing this program she was accepted into Columbia University's Teachers College where she earned a B.S. Degree in Nursing Education. As Administrative Teacher in Charge, she taught many courses in the nursing curricula at the Manpower Development Training Program under the aegis of the New York City Board of Education,

Subsequent to this experience, Ms. Orridge was admitted into New York University where she earned a Master's Degree in Human Sexuality and Family Life. In addition to performing as a registered professional nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital, Ms. Orridge taught Sex Education to the special needs' clients at Harlem Hospital Department of Psychiatry affiliated facilities, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge was a resident of Harlem for all of her adult life, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge graduated from Harlem Hospital School of Nursing and was a registered nurse for over 50 years, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge was a resident of Delano Village/Savoy Park for 50 years, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge was a tenant organizer and the President of the Delano Village/Savoy Park Tenant Association for over 35 years until her death on September 13th, 2017, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge's extraordinary community organizational skills, advocacy, sense of pride and great love for her Harlem Community was unprecedented, unwavering and unparalleled. She taught generations of Harlem community residents to fight for their rights; that the power of one voice and a collective community can move mountains that change comes when people unite to support and lift up their communities and most importantly, the grace and selflessness of giving back to your community. Ms Orridge taught a generation of seriously and persistently mentally ill adults that dignity, courage and the right to live and experience all that life has to offer belongs to everyone, and;

WHEREAS, having Mrs. Orridge's name visible to everyone would give inspiration to younger generations to also know their tenant rights, and to fight for them.

WHEREAS, a street co-naming forum was held by the Transportation, Historic Preservation and Landmarks Committee on April 25th, 2017, and;

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017, a quorum of the Transportation, Historic Preservation and Landmarks Committee voted unanimously (six yes and zero no) in favor of the proposed street co-naming, and;

WHEREAS, one thousand and four signatures were submitted along with numerous letters of Support from neighbors, community-based organizations and elected officials, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge sat on the Board of Directors of the School Committee at the Cathedral School of Saint John The Divine, a position appointed by Bishop James Moore, head of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and was the Chair of the Minority Interest Committee of the school which addressed the needs of the minority students from 1976-1980, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge received a Master's Degree in Human Sexuality from New York University, and was a Certified Sex Educator receiving her certification from AASECT (American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists). Ms. Orridge taught human sexuality to the mentally challenged at Harlem House which is a part of Harlem Hospital and which solely addresses mental health issues, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge voluntarily provided sexuality education to the members/ patients of Harlem Clubhouse for more than ten years; an outpatient, psychiatric rehabilitation program based on the Fountain House model here at NYC Health and Hospitals: Harlem. She recognized the need for this very specialized and important modality early on and developed innovative interventions designed to educate, inform and guide patients/ members at Harlem Hospital Residency Training and Education Program, where she taught the importance of recognizing human sexuality among the seriously and persistently mentally ill and embracing strategies for addressing their needs, and;

WHEREAS, Valerie M. Orridge was the Registered Nurse for the A. Philip Randolph Senior Citizen Center until her death, and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manhattan Community Board 10 acknowledges Ms. Orridge's extraordinary contributions and dedication to the Harlem community and recommends that the northeast corner of 139th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard be co-named to Valerie M. Orridge, Rn Way.

The Historic Preservation and Transportation Committee voted on this item May 9th 2017 with a vote of 6 in favor 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.