

Brad Hoylman, Chair
Bo Riccobono, First Vice Chair
Alison Greenberg, Second Vice Chair
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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

November 18, 2011

U. S. Senator Charles E. Schumer
757 Third Avenue
Suite 17-02
New York, NY 10017

U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
780 Third Avenue
Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand:

At its Full Board meeting November 17, 2011, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

CB2 Social Services Committee RESOLUTION on Amending the Civil Rights Act

Whereas Testimony was recently presented at a public hearing of Community Board 2 Manhattan, by the group Connecting Rainbows, which is a Civil Rights Organization working to secure rights for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community,

And Whereas this testimony indicated that there is a growing social movement working toward the enactment of Federal Legislation to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,

And Whereas The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution states that, “ No State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”,

And Whereas Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Americans are not treated equally as other Americans, based on their sexual orientation and gender identity,

And Whereas some experiences of inequality take the form of *de facto* discrimination, such as occurs when some groups decline the provision of accommodations, facilities, goods or services to LGBT Americans,

And Whereas other experiences of inequality take the form of *de jure* discrimination, such as occurs when Municipalities or States enact laws that allow discrimination against LGBT Americans in: the unequal application of Marriage Licenses, and Workplace Protections, among other instances,

And Whereas The Federal Government has previously enacted laws, such as The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which together with its amendments, outlaws major forms of discrimination based on categories such as Race and Sex,

And Whereas amending The Civil Rights Act, to include sexual orientation and gender identity, is a logical and effective legislative remedy for the enactment of laws that will serve to end those practices that lead to the unequal application of the law toward LGBT Americans,

And Whereas CB2 Manhattan, the home of Greenwich Village, has enjoyed an international reputation as a welcoming place for LGBT people, for more than a century,

And Whereas CB2 Manhattan includes the site of the Stonewall Rebellion, which was the birthplace of the Gay Liberation Movement

And Whereas CB2 Manhattan takes special pride in becoming an early supporter of this movement, which is on the correct side of history, and which will certainly meet eventual success,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan urges each of our U.S. elected officials, including: U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to undertake steps to introduce and support an amendment to The Civil Rights Act that would extend its protections to include the categories of sexual orientation and gender identity,

And Therefore Be It Further Resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan also calls upon our local elected officials to add their voices in the support of this Federal Legislation.

Vote: Unanimous, with 40 Board members in favor

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Lois Rakoff, Chair
Social Services and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

BH/gh

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Sandy Myers, CB2 liaison, Man. Borough President's office
Pauline Yu, CAU

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November 18, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott,
Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

At its Full Board meeting November 17, 2011, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

CB2 Social Services Committee Resolution calling upon the DOE to add LGBT History & Individuals to NYC Curriculum Supporting Councilmember Dromm's Resolution 758

Whereas California Governor Jerry Brown recently signed into law SB 48, which requires the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender historical figures in the history and social studies curricula taught in public schools,

And Whereas New York City Councilmember Daniel Dromm has recently introduced Resolution 758 into the City Council, which would call upon the New York City Department of Education to implement a curriculum that accurately portrays the contributions of LGBT individuals to our country, and to acquire textbooks and trade books that include key moments in LGBT history,

And Whereas Resolution 758 is already co-sponsored by several other Councilmembers, including: Brewer, Dickens, James, Koppell, Koslowitz, Lander, Mendez, Palma, Van Bramer, Williams, Mark-Viverito, and Chin,

And Whereas according to the 2009 National School Climate Survey, conducted by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 84.6% of students were verbally harassed at school, last year, because of their sexual orientation, while 40.1% of students experienced physical harassment (pushing, shoving) because of their sexual orientation, and 27.2% because of their gender expression,

And Whereas 52.9% of LGBT students reported being cyber-bullied, harassed or threatened by their peers via electronic mediums such as text-messaging, emails, instant messaging, or postings on internet sites,

And Whereas, of the respondents to the survey who were harassed or assaulted, 62.4% did not report the incident to school staff, because they believed that no action would be taken or that it would be made worse,

And Whereas 33.8% of students who did report an incident claimed that the staff did nothing in response,

And Whereas Studies have shown that teaching LGBT history in the classroom leads to fewer instances of harassment at school and can lead to a greater feeling of safety among all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression,

And Whereas Public Schools have a responsibility to enlighten students about the important contributions made to our country and our culture by members of all minority groups, including LGBT Americans,

And Whereas major current events that appear in the headlines, such as: Don't Ask Don't Tell, Gay Marriage, the HIV/AIDS crisis, and Gay Liberation require that LGBT history and issues be discussed in the classroom in order to be understood,

And Whereas the development of age appropriate curriculum guidelines is an essential tool to assist teachers in how to talk about LGBT issues, history and people with their students,

And Whereas CB2 Manhattan has always been a neighborhood that has prided itself on its diversity and has thus served as a positive model of how the benefits of openness and inclusiveness can lead to a more vibrant community which can nurture more creative, progressive and socially well-adjusted children,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan supports City Council Resolution 758, and urges our elected officials to support it and to pass it into law,

And Therefore Be It Further Resolved that CB2 Manhattan calls upon the Department of Education and those members who will be responsible for developing this curriculum to pay special attention to the importance of keeping the curriculum age appropriate for each of the grades served.

Vote: Unanimous, with 40 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Lois Rakoff, Chair
Social Services and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

BH/gh

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