



New York City Council Land Use Committee
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings, and Disposition
250 Broadway, 14th floor
New York, NY 10007

*Testimony in Support of the Designation of the
Julius' Bar Building, 159 West 10th Street, Manhattan,
as a New York City Landmark*

Thursday, February 23, 2023

My name is Amanda Davis, and I am the project manager of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, an award-winning and nationally recognized cultural heritage initiative founded by historic preservationists in 2015 to document historic places connected to the LGBTQ community in the city's five boroughs.

The Project strongly supports the designation of the Julius' Bar Building as a New York City Landmark. In 1994, when LGBTQ representation as a whole was virtually invisible in mainstream society, our three project founders helped create what we believe is the first map in the country to document LGBTQ historic places, and the building that houses Julius' was included. The NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project was founded as a continuation of this early 1990s effort, and landmarking the Julius' Bar Building was one of our first priorities. We researched and wrote the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Julius', which was approved in April 2016, one day before the 50th anniversary of the so-called "Sip In."

Julius' is located just a few minutes' walk from the more famous Stonewall Inn, but its place in LGBTQ history is just as significant. The events at Stonewall in June 1969 did not exist in a vacuum. In the decades leading up to that uprising, bars were one of the few places that LGBTQ people could gather openly. Yet, at the same time, there were always inherent risks since the mere presence of a homosexual in a bar was considered to be disorderly: frequent police raids and other forms of entrapment could lead to arrest, loss of employment, and physical and mental abuse, among other threats. With photographers in tow, the game-changing public action by the Mattachine Society on April 21, 1966, which culminated at Julius', was the earliest planned effort to capture LGBTQ discrimination in real time.

When we give walking tours in the area, we typically end at Julius', and young people, in particular, are often surprised to learn that at one time, even in New York City, even in Greenwich Village, LGBTQ people faced these hardships in bars, of all places. Julius' is therefore not only a great place to hang out, but also a valuable teaching tool.

The NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project asks that the City Council's Subcommittee on Landmarks approve this landmark designation.

Thank you.