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CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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April 6, 2022

Mr. Grant Harper Reid
2333 Fifth Avenue, Apartment 5C
New York, NY 10037

Dear Mr. Reid,

Manhattan Community Board 10 is proud to provide this letter of support for your efforts to replace the bench marker dedicated in 2000 at the Dorrance Brooks Square for Ms. Ella Baker, known as the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement.” On Thursday, March 8th, 2022 at its monthly meeting, the Transportation / Landmarks Committee members present unanimously voted to approve your request for a letter of support. Community Board 10 is proud of Dr. Mamie Clark and Ms. Ella Baker’s efforts to improve the Central Harlem community through their organization, “We Care” which operated out of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church and assisted youth with obtaining employment, providing job training, health care, and legal assistance. Her biography is shared here:

Ella Josephine Baker (December 13, 1903 – December 13, 1986) was an African-American civil rights and human rights activist. She was a largely behind-the-scenes organizer whose career spanned more than five decades. In New York City and the South, she worked alongside some of the most noted civil rights leaders of the 20th century, including W. E. B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall, A. Philip Randolph, and Martin Luther King Jr. She also mentored many emerging activists, such as Stokely Carmichael, and leaders in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Baker was "one of the most important American leaders of the twentieth century and perhaps the most influential woman in the civil rights movement." She was known for her critiques of both racism in American culture and sexism in the civil rights movement.

As the wooden slats on the benches dedicated to Dr. Clark and Ms. Baker are in a deplorable, worn condition, this letter of support specifically asks that both those benches be renovated with new wooden slats and that the NYC Parks Department continue with the replacement of all of the worn benches in Dorrance Brooks Square with new wooden slats.

On April 6 2022 the Manhattan Community Board 10’s General Board voted to approve this letter by a count of 31 YES , 0 NO 0 ABSTAIN, 0 RECUSAL

Sincerely,

Cicely Harris
Chairwoman
Manhattan Community Board 10