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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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June 23, 2017

Luis Sanchez
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water St. 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Sanchez:

At its Full Board meeting June 22nd, 2017, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of co-naming the northeast corner of 8th Street and Lafayette Street "Joseph Papp Way."

Whereas neighbors, staff and Board members of the Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street, propose a "Joseph Papp Way" sign beneath the Lafayette Street sign on the NE corner of 8th Street and Lafayette Street to honor the legacy of community member Joseph Papp; and

Whereas over 350 signatures and testimonials were gathered in support from neighbors, theater members, community organizations and local businesses, including 170 signatures from residents, in Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2). These supporters attested to Papp's contribution to the neighborhood, long standing local residency, successful restoration of a landmarked building, and his legacy of bringing new play-wrights, actors, and theater producers to The Public Theater which has become a mecca for young talent and which seeded the revival of the neighborhood; and

Whereas

- Joseph Papp was a resident of 40 East 9th Street from 1973 until his death in 1991.
- Papp founded the New York Shakespeare Festival which has presented free Shakespeare in Central Park for more than seven decades.
- Through Papp's conviction that culture belongs to everyone, he founded The Public Theater, which has produced 900 new plays and musicals and today serves more than 300,000 New Yorkers annually.
- In 1966, Papp acquired and revitalized as the Public Theater, the former severely deteriorated Astor Library on Lafayette Street. This became the first building to be saved from real estate demolition under New York City's new Landmark Preservation Law and one of the first successful models of "adaptive reuse" as an approach to saving historic landmark buildings. New York Times critic Ada Louise Huxtable called it the "first major preservation success under the landmarks law" and "the miracle on Lafayette Street" referencing the last-minute rescue of the building from the wrecker's ball and from construction of a high-rise apartment house ("A Landmark is Saved," NYT, Jan. 6, 1966).

- The impact of Papp's leadership on the neighborhood, specifically the stretch of Lafayette Street between Astor Place and East 4th Street and the surrounding community, led to the transformation of a rundown, neglected area to a newly revived and vital one with diverse cultural, commercial, residential and retail uses, and to recognition of the area's historic landmark heritage, leading to the designation of the NoHo Historic District; and

Whereas the proposal for co-naming the northeast corner of 8th Street and Lafayette Street "Joseph Papp Way" meets the requirements of Manhattan CB2's *Street Co-Naming Guidelines*;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that CB2 supports remembering Joseph Papp by co-naming the northeast corner of 8th Street and Lafayette Street "Joseph Papp Way."

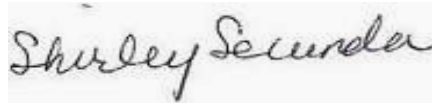
Vote: Unanimously, with 37 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/EM

c:

Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member