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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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

June 19th, 2020

Dear Community Board 2 Community:

We are deeply saddened by what has transpired over the past few weeks in our nation. Manhattan Community Board 2 stands with our community to demand meaningful change in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Eric Garner, Amadou Diallo, Sandra Bland, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and too many others to name. Our history of racial inequity and brutality towards Black Americans has reached a tipping point and can no longer be tolerated. The time is now for us to come together to right this wrong. We must commit our collective efforts to fostering diverse and inclusive neighborhoods by proactively implementing anti-racist policy that is informed and supported by the lived experiences of our community members.

In Community Board 2, our neighborhoods are defined by a history of political activism, unique architectural landscapes, an active creative community and the cultural mosaic of its inhabitants. Shamefully, it is equally defined by the erasure of the Lenape who are the indigenous people of this land, as well as the Black communities, like Little Africa, that once thrived within our boundaries. This buried, forgotten and ignored history has played an important role in shaping the neighborhood that we know today.

Our job and commitment as your local representatives and community members ourselves, is to support and uplift all members of our Greenwich Village, Little Italy, SoHo, NoHo, Hudson Square, West Village, Chinatown, and Gansevoort Market family. Now, is the time to align our actions with our intentions.

Today, we acknowledge the generational and institutional racism that our Black and brown brothers, sisters and non-binary community members have suffered on our streets, in our schools and in our workplaces for far too long. For this reason we have formed the CB2 Equity Working Group to engage in dialogue and examine what we can do better. The goal is to empower and celebrate the contributions of our traditionally marginalized, underrepresented and under-resourced community members whom we hold to be integral to our healthy growth and community strength.

We invite you to join us in this dialogue. We will maintain an open forum to hear the concerns of the public and work with our institutions, city agencies, elected officials and other policy makers to identify and enact the strongest possible solutions for social justice in CB2.

Please feel free to share your thoughts with us at info@cb2manhattan.org

In Solidarity,



Mar Fitzgerald, Co-Chair
Equity Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Co-Chair
Equity Working Group
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Daniel Miller, Member
First Vice Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Susan Kent
Second Vice Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Antony Wong
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Valerie De La Rosa
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Amy Brenna
Assistant Secretary
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Susanna Aaron
Chair, Social Services Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Anita Brandt
Co-Chair, Land Use Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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Chair, Parks and Waterfront Committee
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Robert Ely
Co-Chair, SLA Licensing Committee
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Joseph Gallagher
Chair, Quality of Life Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Jeannine Kiely
Chair, Schools & Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Janet Liff
Chair, Economic Development & Small
Business Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Donna Raftery
Co-Chair, SLA Licensing Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Robin Rothstein
Chair, Arts & Institutions Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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

Chenault Spence
Chair, Landmarks Committee
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Community Board #2, Manhattan

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Community Board #2, Manhattan

Tom Connor, Member
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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