



GRIOT Circle is an advocacy and service organization committed to the dignity, well-being, and quality of life of LGBTQ people of color as we age.

October 3rd, 2016

U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke
222 Lenox Road
Brooklyn, NY 11226

NYC Council Member Laurie Cumbo
1 Hanson Place, Suite 201
Brooklyn, NY 11243

NY State Representative Walter Mosley
55 Hanson Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217

NY State Representative Diana Richardson
330 Empire Boulevard, 1st Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11225

RE: A Permanent Home for the Brooklyn Community Pride Center in the Bedford Union Armory

Dear U.S. Representative Clarke, NYC Council Member Cumbo, NY State Senator, Hamilton, NY State Representative Mosley; and NY State Representative Richardson:

I am a supporter of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center and would like to express my excitement and enthusiastic support for their new permanent home at the Bedford Union Armory.

Our organization serves over 400 LGBTQ seniors, 60 % of which are Brooklynites. GRIOT Circle has created a strong partnership with The Brooklyn Community Pride Center. This partnership has allowed us to expand our cultural and educational programming our members and to the downtown Brooklyn community at large. In addition, in the past GRIOT sided with BCPC in addressing social justice issues which affect the LGBTQ community at-large. We believe that the Brooklyn Center will add significant value to the community.

The Brooklyn Center provides support and services that have long been missing from our borough in general and from Crown Heights / Bedford Stuyvesant in particular:

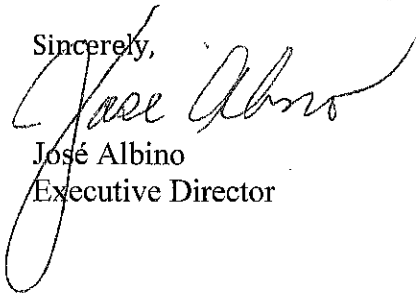
- Youth, age 12-24, benefit from a supportive, safe space where they can be themselves and talk about the experiences and issues shaping their lives.
- Elders, age 50+, helped lay the foundation of the LGBT+ community and indeed this City. They freely discuss how the unique issues of aging and being queer converge to impact them.
- Transgender and Gender Nonconforming folks: continue to be the victims of violent crimes and find a safe, community haven at the Center along with essential mental health services.

In addition, the Center offers arts and culture programming and is a hub for Brooklynites to gather in solidarity and support.

There is so much left to do to educate others and spread message of compassion and inclusiveness. The Armory will be an important part of Crown Heights and I believe the LGBT+ community of Brooklyn will only make it stronger by representing the diversity, dynamism, and vibrancy of the community.

Please show your support of our community by championing the Brooklyn Pride Center's move to the Bedford Union Armory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose Albino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

José Albino
Executive Director