



February 6, 2017

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

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

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

NY State Representative Diana Richardson  
330 Empire Boulevard, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11225

NY State Senator, Jesse Hamilton  
1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd 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 1,300 LGBT+ clients who live in Brooklyn. Approximately. 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,

Kelsey Louie, MSW, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer  
GMHC