

April 2, 2018

Honorable Corey Johnson
Speaker
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Funding Outer Borough LGBT Services Consortium

Dear Speaker Johnson;

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to express my strong support for the LGBT Network's Speaker Initiative funding request for \$2,000,000 from the FY2019 budget, in order to establish and coordinate an Outer Borough LGBT Services Consortium (LGBT Consortium).

I believe this funding will be invaluable in efforts to increase and coordinate delivery of health and human services for LGBT individuals and families in the outer boroughs - areas where LGBT resources are scarce and geographically difficult to access.

In Manhattan, LGBT services are well-funded, heavily concentrated and easily accessible, but in the four outer boroughs the LGBT community has difficulty accessing services that help keep individuals and their families healthy and safe. The Manhattan Center on 13th Street is difficult for my constituents to utilize; they report that it is often overbooked, cost prohibitive, and not easily accessible by Staten Island's notoriously poor public transportation system.

Having a local center is especially important for LGBT youth and seniors who are often in most need of local community support structures, but find themselves with limited access. Local, neighborhood-based centers can perform outreach and hold events where outer-borough LGBT New Yorkers live, through easy and local access to community centers, schools, places of worship and businesses within their own community. Ensuring well-funded local centers will increase access to needed services and strengthen the LGBT Community across New York City.

The LGBT community in my borough deserves the same support and services that Manhattan centers provide, and I believe it is vital that they should be able to do so in their home borough.

Therefore, I ask you to join me in supporting the LGBT Network's funding request for the Outer Borough LGBT Services Consortium. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

P.S. This is my first official letter to you since becoming Speaker. Wishing you well. You're off to a GREAT start!

