



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

June 29, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), the coalition of the nation's 40 leading Latino advocacy organizations, we write to thank you for designating the Stonewall National Monument as the newest addition to the National Park System. As we urged you to do in our June 1, 2016 letter regarding the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service, this designation is an important step toward ensuring that the diverse stories and contributions of *all* Americans are preserved.

The Stonewall National Monument will be an enduring reminder of a key moment in the struggle toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people in America.

We are particularly proud of the leading role that Latino/as and other LGBTQ people of color played in the 1969 rebellion at Stonewall Inn, such as transgender activists Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, among many others. It is our fervent hope that the contributions and leadership of LGBTQ people of color will be not become marginalized in the historical commemoration of this seminal event. The early narrative surrounding the tragic Pulse nightclub in Orlando shows how easily people of color can be marginalized and even rendered invisible in the telling of LGBTQ history – even in one so recent.

As NHLA recommends in our 2016 Hispanic Public Policy Agenda, more national monuments are needed to tell the history of Latino/as in America. By designating the Stonewall Inn as a National Monument, you are not only acknowledging the rich history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement, but you are paying tribute to the persons of color who were integral to this activism. Too often, the LGBTQ community is thought of as distinct from other communities, leaving the stories, struggles, and sacrifices of LGBTQ people of color untold and marginalized.

We appreciate that the video announcing this designation included voices of LGBTQ people of color and encourage your Administration to continue to accurately and intentionally tell the story of our great nation in a fully inclusive

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Cuban American National Council
Farmworker Justice
Association of
Universities
Federation
National Bar
Association
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Latino Justice PLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Council of La Raza
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispana Leadership Institute
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Puerto Rican Coalition
SER Jobs for Progress – National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

manner that acknowledges everyone's contributions and that embraces our overlapping identities.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement



Jose Calderon
Co-Chair, NHLA's Energy and Environment Committee
President, Hispanic Federation



Virginia Ruiz
Co-Chair, NHLA's Energy and Environment Committee
Director of Occupational and Environmental Health, Farmworker Justice

cc: Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Nicole Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Interior
Mauren Foster, Chief of Staff, National Parks Service
Alexa Viets, Chief, National Park Service Centennial
Steven Avila, Advisor, Strategic Partnerships and Diverse Engagement,
Department of the Interior