



## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín  
District Manager

February 18, 2020

Hon. Bill Perkins  
New York City Council  
163 West 125th Street, Room 729  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Councilman Perkins:

Community Board 11 supports the co-naming of the southeast corner of East 129<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue in honor of Ann Petry.

Ann Petry was a ground-breaking African-American novelist, journalist, and biographer whose works offer a unique perspective on black life in mid-century America. Her first novel, *The Street* (1946), was written in her East Harlem apartment at 2 East 129<sup>th</sup> Street and became an un-precedented best-seller. The novel was also critically acclaimed for its complex portrayal of a working-class black woman, Lutie Johnson, who dreams of escaping from the Harlem that oppresses her. This novel was the first novel by an African-American woman to sell over a million copies.

The enclosed street co-naming request includes a longer biography, letters of support, and a petition of support signed by over 250 community residents.

We request that you support and carry the "Ann Petry Place" street renaming through the New York City Council's street co-naming process. Please feel free to contact Carly Wine, Assistant District Manager, at 212-831-8929 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama  
Chair  
Community Board 11

Enclosures (6)

cc: Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)  
Jose Altamirano, Community Board 11(via email)  
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11 (via email)  
Shawn Hill, Harlem Neighborhood Block Association (via email)