



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

1664 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10035

TEL: 212-831-8929

FAX: 212-369-3571

www.cb11m.org

Nilsa Orama

Chair

Angel D. Mescaín

District Manager

April 16, 2019

Hon. Diana Ayala
New York City Council
105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029

Dear Councilmember Ayala:

Community Board 11 supports the co-naming of the southwest corner of East 115th Street and Pleasant Avenue as "East Harlem Giglio Society Way".

The Giglio Society of East Harlem dates back to 1908 when Italian immigrants continued their tradition from their hometown of Brusciano in Italy. *Giglio* is a 75-85 foot tall wooden structure adorned with patron saints and colorful flowers. They are built in honor of an Italian town's patron saint. The structure is carried on the shoulders of approximately 120 men in a ritual that dates back to 409 AD in the town of Nola, Italy. These annual feasts take place in August throughout Italy and here in the United States. The name *giglio* means lily, which is the most principal flower used on the structures.

This ongoing tradition has been celebrated for over a century throughout the city, particularly East Harlem. This is a tradition that adds value to the cultural fabric of East Harlem, as well as Italian-American history in our country. The proposed street co-naming includes a petition of support signed by community residents and letters of support from local community organizations and business owners. We have enclosed copies of the petitions, letters of support and biography for your consideration.

We request that you support and carry the "East Harlem Giglio Society Way" street co-naming through the New York City Council's street co-naming process.

Please feel free to contact Thomas Herrera, Assistant District Manager, at 212-831-8929 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama

Chair
Community Board 11

Enclosures (3)

cc: Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Jose Altamirano, Community Board 11(via email)
Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11 (via email)



Giglio Society of East Harlem
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church
PO Box 1025, Throgs Neck Station
Bronx, NY 10465



Around the turn of the 1900's, Italian immigrants left Italy in search of a better life for their families. During this time, Southern Italy was a very desperate place holding little to no promise of a bright future for the many starving and hungry families. Many had no other choice but to pack up their belonging and take a chance on moving to the promise of the 'New World' – America!

Many families from the town of Brusciiano, Italy migrated to East Harlem, NY to start new with other families and friends that came before them. Although these immigrants brought little with them on their 30-day long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in the tight confines of the boat. What they did carry with them where their beloved traditions. For the people of Brusciiano, this included their yearly Dance of the Giglio festival in honor of Sant' Antonio.

It was around this time that the Italian immigrants of East 106th Street in East Harlem, decided to initiate their beloved tradition by building a Giglio and dancing it in the 'New World'. The first Giglio Feast on 106th street in East Harlem started approximately 1908. Gioacchino Vivolo is credited for being the first Capo Paranza on 106th Street. He along with his brother Rocco Vivolo were members of the Brusciianese Society and were influential in bringing this tradition to East Harlem from Brusciiano, Italy. The Festival on 106th Street grew for many years becoming one of the largest street fairs in America and remained that way until 1955. Then in 1957, the festival moved a few blocks uptown to 108th Street where the Dance of the Giglio continued until 1971.

After a 29 year hiatus, the Dance of the Giglio returned to East Harlem in 2000 as a Cooperative Feast with the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mt Carmel that resides on 115th Street between 1st Avenue and Pleasant Avenue. The Festival enjoyed several great years dancing the Giglio during the Annual Feast of the Our Lady of Mt Carmel festival that takes place each year on July 16th, the feast date of the Madonna.

For the 2006 feast, it was decided to hold the Dance of the Giglio Festival separate from the Annual Our Lady of Mt Carmel feast. The Giglio is now danced in East Harlem on the second Sunday in August.

The Giglio Society of East Harlem is a devoted group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to honor Sant' Antonio. Their love and devotion is on display each year during the Annual Italian Festival held in East Harlem, New York. They honor their Patron saint in very much the same fashion as their ancestry did and still do annually today in Brusciiano by building a Giglio and dancing it in the streets of Manhattan, N.Y.

For those unfamiliar with the Giglio (pronounced JEEL-YO) – it is a 75 to 85 foot tall wooden structure with a papier-mâché face adorned with beloved saints and colorful flowers. Most prominent of the flowers is the Lily, which is called a Gigli in Italian – hence the name of the

Giglio Society of East Harlem

Giglio Facts

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Giglio's are built in honor of a town's patron saint and carried on the shoulders of approximately 120 men in a ritual that dates back to 409AD in the town of Nola Italy. Today, Giglio feasts are found throughout a number of towns in the surrounding area of Naples Italy. Each town varies the tradition to meet the town's tradition. In Brusciiano, six Giglio's are built in honor of Sant' Antonio and danced during the August time frame each year.

On the platform just above the base of the Giglio sits a multi-piece band along with several singers. The music is an integral part of the dancing of the Giglio as it inspires the lifters (also known as the 'Paranza' in Italian) to take on the burdening weight of the Giglio and band and dance it in harmony to the music being played.

The face of the Giglio is one of the crucial components of each Giglio, each made from scratch each year to the specification of the Maestro di Festa (or Master of Ceremonies) in Italy. Although the face changes yearly, one consistent fact remains and that it the town's patron saint can be found some where on the face and most likely at the very top.



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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church
PO Box 1025, Throgs Neck Station
Bronx, NY 10465



Fierce Sea Duff

As a local business in the community of East Harlem, New York, I/We have no objection to the Addition of the name GIGLIO WAY to the 115th street and Pleasant Avenue.

The East Harlem Giglio Society has been prominent members of our neighborhood for over 20 years, working diligently in supporting and maintaining the integrity and history of East Harlem, New York.

We gladly support the dedication of a street renaming in honor of the East Harlem Giglio Society in our community.



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Samuel Costa

*Post Store 356 East
11685 sq
212
860-
2543*

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AS AZ12
7734 AVE



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F. CO. A. SUAREZ
401 E. 115 Street
[Signature]

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Lisa Brown Harlem Against Rent



Manhattan Community Board 11
 Street Renaming - Petition for Support
 Nilsa Orama, Chair - Angel D. Mescain, District Manager
 Phone: (212) 831-8929 - Fax: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11.nyc.gov

This petition should be signed primarily by residents living within a two-block radius of the premises.

We, the undersigned, hereby support the renaming of Corner of East 115 Street (exact location for name change i.e., southeast corner of East 115th Street and Madison Avenue OR East 112th Street between 1st and 3rd Avenues) as Ciglio Way (proposed name change i.e., Joe Smith Way, Mary Jones Place, etc.).

	NAME	ADDRESS (Include Apartment #)	TELEPHONE #
1	Fred Gomez	422 E. 116 St. #3 NYC	917-245-1810
2	Orlando	412 east 114 St #8 NYC	646-322-0931
3	Michael Pirizky	462 East 115th St NY 10029	917 608 3709
4	Jennifer Marino	402 East 115 St NY 10029	Polina
5	JENNIFER MARINO	402 EAST 115 ST NY 10029	917-513-3343
6	Elizabeth Reyes	460 E 115 St. 10029	646 509 6865
7	Aziz	434 E 115 St NYC	646 479 3670
8	Marisa Nogue	423 E 115 St C	347-245-9017
9	Mevahad Ahmed	402 E 115	917 226 0911
10	Betay Harala	411 E 114 St apt 2 10029	347-444-4237
11	JANET SINICOLA	427 East 114 St #3A 10029	917 861-9334
12	SULYIA SINICOLA	429 East 114 St #2E 10029	
13	C Perez	421 E 114 St #2C	NIP
14	Rosa Perez	2234 1st Ave NYC 10029	NIP
15	Thomas Fungson	2234 1st Ave NYC 10029	NIP



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	NAME	ADDRESS (Include Apartment #)	TELEPHONE #
1	Mechelle Chahelle	419 E 114th St 4E NY NY 10029	347-219-6758
2	Roseanna Abronzo	419 E 114th St 4E NY NY 10029	718-908-8889
3	Mugno Sachis	435 E. 114th St NYC 10029	646-480-4913
4	Rutha Pacheco	435 E. 114th St NYC 10029	646-480-4913
5	Margie Manna	433 E 114th St NYC 10029	212-860-7121
6	[Signature]	433 E 114th St	N/A
7	Ryszta Danowscy	427 E 114th St NYC 10029	917-600-4110
8	[Signature]	444 E. 115th St NYC 10029	N/A
9	Rosce Danowscy	433 E 114th St NYC 10029	No phone
10	Arthur Kapetanski	433 E 114th St NYC 10029	718-442-0538
11	Katrina Bontis	433 E. 114th St. NYC. 10029	(336) 297-3689
12	Michael Cayzaf	279 Pearson Ave	
13	Wendy Reyes	426 E 115th St NY 10029	
14	Chen Lias	426 E. 115th St #426 NY 10029	646-637-5813
15	Crystal Civil	426 E. 115th St NY 10029	N/A