February 18, 2020

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

Dear Councilwoman Ayala:

Community Board 11 supports the co-naming of the southwest corner of East 119th Street and First Avenue in honor of Giuseppina ‘Josie’ Santo.

Giuseppina ‘Josie’ Santo immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1930. She moved directly to East Harlem and lived there for the remainder of her life until, in 1984, her building was deliberately set on fire. For more than 100 years, the distinguished identity of East Harlem has been the experience of the immigrant. Josie was unique to her specific time period, but also shares in what they all have in common: their hopes, dreams, struggles, heartbreaks and victories; the task of doing menial work for long hours with hopes of a better future for their children, assimilation without discrimination, all trying to hold onto their old cultural traditions in a new world.

The enclosed street co-naming request includes a longer biography, letters of support, and a petition of support signed by 86 community residents.

We request that you support and carry the “Giuseppina ‘Josie’ Santo Way” 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 (5)

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)
    Joseph Angielczyk, Applicant (via email)