RESOLUTION

Date: October 15, 2019
Committee: Economic Development & Culture
Board Vote: 24 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining
RE: The Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument to be located on the Mall in Central Park

WHEREAS, Monumental Women’s Statue Fund (The Statue Fund) is commissioning and endowing a monument in Central Park honoring Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, pioneers in the battle for Women’s Suffrage and the movement for women’s rights; and

WHEREAS, the creation of this monument representing real women will mark the first time in the 164-year history of Central Park that women’s contributions to this city, state and nation will be commemorated; and

WHEREAS, CB11 acknowledges the fundamental role of monuments as an educative function used to reflect an accurate depiction of the past; and

WHEREAS, the NYC Parks Department and the Central Park Conservancy have approved the monument site on the Mall of Central Park; and

WHEREAS, the location will ensure that visitors to the site will have the opportunity to become more aware of the history that fully and fairly includes the important roles women have played; and

WHEREAS the site of the statue of the Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument is located on the northwest corner of Literary Walk, which forms the southern end of the Mall; and

WHEREAS the site has been selected in accordance with the dictates of the original designers, who identified two locations where commemorative sculptures will be sited in the park; entrances along the perimeter and the Mall; and

WHEREAS the monument will reflect the scale, footprint, and siting of the existing statues along the Mall; and

WHEREAS the proposed sculpture shall have no impact on the adjacent elm trees and shall not change the adjacent fence, paths, site furnishings or vegetation; and
WHEREAS public gatherings may be accommodated on the adjoin paths to the east and, as is consistent with access to other monuments along the Mall, access to the lawn in which the monument is sited will not be permitted; and

WHEREAS the Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument was proposed by and is commissioned and endowed by the Monumental Women’s Statue Fund. The Statue Fund is supported by a $500,000 New York Life Insurance Company Challenge Grant, $100,000 from Borough President Gale A. Brewer, and $35,000 from Council Member Helen Rosenthal; and

WHEREAS the monument is slated for a 2020 unveiling on the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment Women’s Equality Day August 26th, 2020; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 11 supports the installation of this monument.

Nilsa Orama
Chair

cc:  Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
     Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
     Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)
     Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)
     Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)
     Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly
     Hon, Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly
     Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate
     Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate
     Judith Febbraro, Manhattan Community Board 11 (via email)
     Melanee Farrah, Manhattan Community Board 11 (via email)