

NY City Mayor-Elect **Bill de Blasio**



The Governors Island Tolerance Park's value lies in its common theme of Tolerance as the foundational principle for American liberty. As symbolized by an island in New York Harbor, the message of Tolerance fosters civic cohesion and unity through broad awareness and conscious vigilance. The precept of Tolerance is wider than its original juridical form of solely Religious Tolerance (Toleration as the basis for religious and ethnic diversity) that originated first in the Western Hemisphere on Governors Island in 1624.



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL * — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
 Tolerance Monument THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
 139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
 NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
 (212) 737-3216 T

December 16, 2013

The Hon. Bill de Blasio
 Mayor-Elect
 New Yorkers for de Blasio
 32 Court Street, Suite 902
 Brooklyn, NY 11201

MLK/Mandela, America/South Africa, segregation/apartheid and understanding liberty

Dear Mayor-Elect de Blasio,

Will you in 2014 decide upon embracing liberty's founding principle of tolerance as part of a National Heritage Triangle of primary American values in NY Harbor?

You have the sole power to make that decision through the city agency Trust for Governors Island. But would, perhaps, a White House endorsement for New York's birthright and America's ultimate virtue still be helpful or necessary in making your decision? **May I have your response about this, please?**

Last week, the world's leaders came together in South Africa to honor and praise Mandela's commitment to the moral necessities of tolerance and conciliation as fundamental to equality, justice, liberty, democracy and peace.

These primary necessities are to be featured in and on an enduring symbol in NY Harbor with a Tolerance Monument as centerpiece of a proposed Tolerance Park. However, political interest and support is a prerequisite in getting this **enduring** homage to America's founding principle of tolerance and ethos accomplished.

Can you agree that Mandela's funeral proved that political leaders are willing to pay, at least, **momentary** tribute to the moral ethic of tolerance as precondition to liberty?

The Tolerance Park is not an identity project but is about highlighting a primary American principle and universal value as permanent sentry of America's liberty landscape thus helping to secure the nation's future unity.

Are you willing to take the first step and make America's moral ethic **eternally** visible?



National Heritage Triangle

cc: U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden Jr., Secretary of State John Kerry, Presidential Counsel Kathryn Ruemmler, Presidential Counselor Peter Rouse, Presidential Assistant & Sr. Advisor for Strategy and Communications Daniel F. Clavin, National Security Adviser Susan Rice, Presidential Assistant & Deputy National Security Advisor Anthony Blinken, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes, Press Secretary Jay Carney, Presidential Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett, Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors, Deputy Chief of Staff Alyssa Mastromonaco, U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power; cc: Presidential Senior Adviser John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, Presidential Assistant & Director of Communications Jennifer Palmieri, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell; cc: The Schmidt Family Foundation

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

<https://www.facebook.com/GovernorsIslandTolerancePark>
<http://www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org>
www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com
www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com

* THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC, THEMATIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: **THE LIFE BLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.**

WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM



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 139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
 NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
 (212) 737-3216 T

WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

Ms. Elizabeth Rapuano
 Chief of Staff
 Trust for Governors Island
 10 South Street
 New York, NY 10004

August 7, 2013

Re: **Naming a section of Governors Island**

Dear Ms. Rapuano,

GSA Regional Administrator Denise Pease kindly recommended that I inform you of our wish to have a section of NY State's birthplace named "Tolerance Park." Ms. Pease wrote that the Trust for Governors Island is the appropriate entity to do so.

Previously, we had assumed that naming a portion of the Island for its momentous legacy would be a legislative matter as can be seen from the attached correspondence we had last year with the office of City Council member Margaret Chin in whose district the Island is situated.

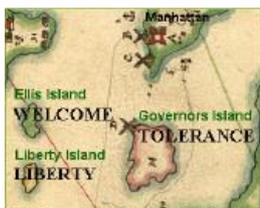
Last month, a private donor was "captivated" by the city's "audacious vision" of "The Hills On Governors Island Project" with "the culmination of this vision" of four hills being an 80 feet high "Outlook Hill" as "an unforgettable experience" for "New Yorkers and visitors from around the world." We agree that this vision offers an "astonishing view of the Statue of Liberty, the sea and the sky, bridges and boats, the Manhattan skyline...and offers the experience of an unforgettable sunset."

However, this vision's focus is on the Island's surroundings rather than on the Island's own, intrinsic, unique facet of history, its historical legacy of national thematic substance and its historic symbolism reflective of the foundational principle for liberty.

For that reason we had hoped that legislators would expressly acknowledge Governors Island as the place of origination in the New World of the juridical principles of Freedom of Conscience and Religious Tolerance in the year 1624. Naming a park section thus would help convey NY State's birthright of Tolerance—since 1948 a universal value—as vital to American Liberty and, through broad awareness, help make humanity understand that the fraternal twins Tolerance and Liberty lie jointly at the conception of American Freedom.

Your planned park named as "Tolerance Park" would radiate that this Tolerance principle is indispensable in the appreciation of America's ethos—that the momentous message of Tolerance is America's core virtue and central to the conception of American Freedom.

Please let me know the next step toward naming your park "Tolerance Park."



National Heritage Triangle

cc: GSA Regional Administrator Denise Pease; Associate GSA Administrator Lisa Austin; Public Advocate Bill de Blasio; Borough Manhattan President Scott Stringer; 1st District Council Member Margaret Chin; NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn; NYS Senator Daniel Squadron; Congressman Jerrold Nadler; U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; NYS Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos; NYS Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; NYS Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb; JCOPE Chair Daniel Horwitz; CIPC Co-Chairs Kathleen Rice, William Fitzpatrick, Milton Williams, Jr.; NYS Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy; NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. Preet Bharara; U.S. Attorney E.D.N.Y. Loretta Lynch; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. Richard Hartunian; NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.; Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes; Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares; NY State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott; U.S. President Barack Obama, U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden Jr., U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.;

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

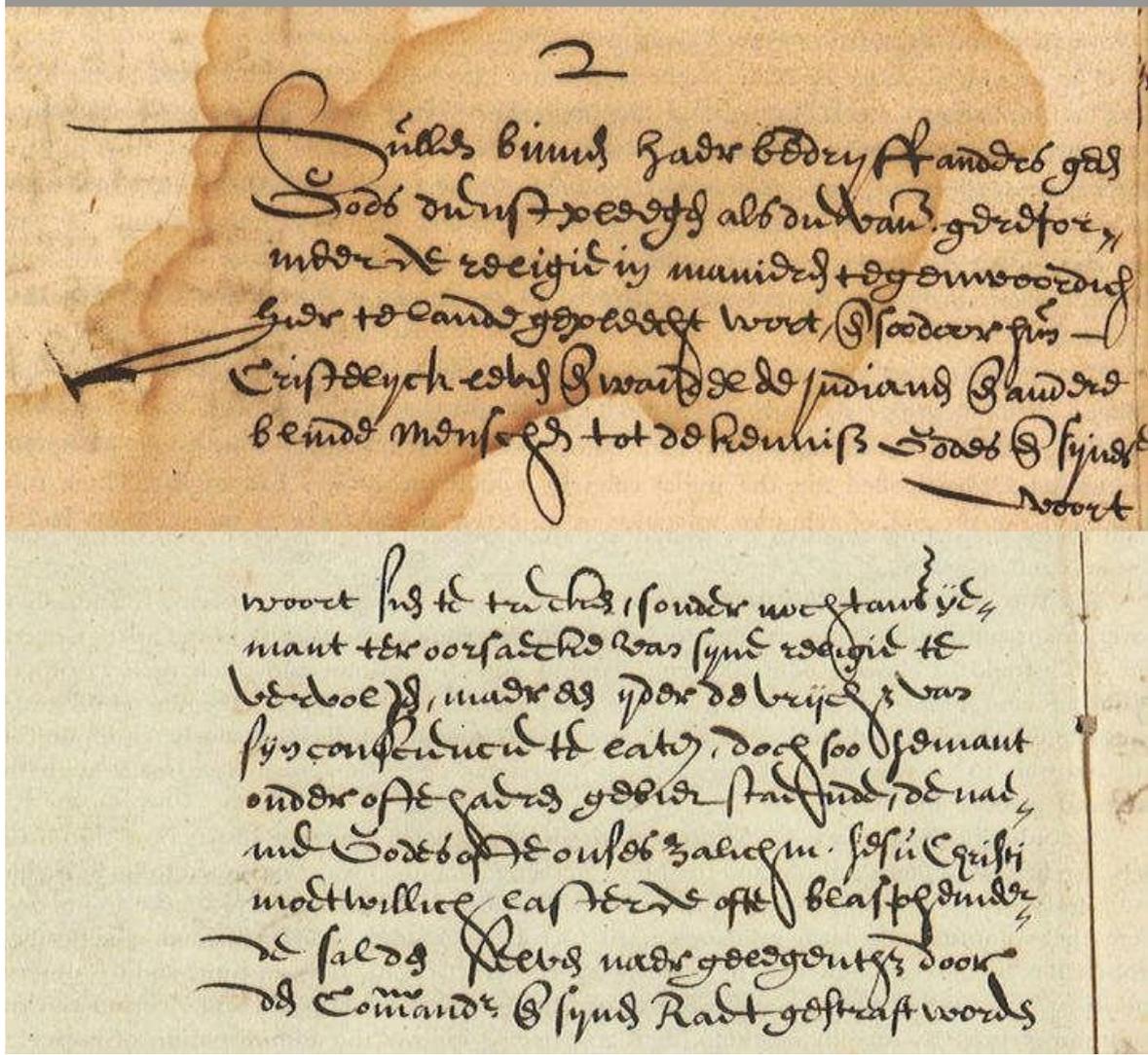
(212) 737-3216

www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org
www.facebook.com/GovernorsIslandTolerancePark
www.ToleranceMonument.org
www.ToleranceWalk.com

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell; NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis; Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach, NY Harbor Commissioner Joshua Laird; Acting GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini; National Security Advisor Susan Rice, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes; Secretary of State John Kerry, State Dept. Spokesperson Jennifer Psaki, Ambassador-at-Large Suzan Johnson Cook, Special Envoy Ira Forman; U.N. Ambassador nominee Samantha Power; ACHP Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson; ACHP Executive Director John Fowler; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, NTHP President and CEO Stephanie Meeks; Interior Department Inspector General Mary Kendall; GSA Inspector General Brian D. Miller; NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli

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The instructions of March 30, 1624 to the Governors Island settlers specified that they had to attract the natives and non-believers to God's word through "attitude and by example without however to persecute someone for reason of his religion and to leave everyone the freedom of his conscience."



From the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. HM 548

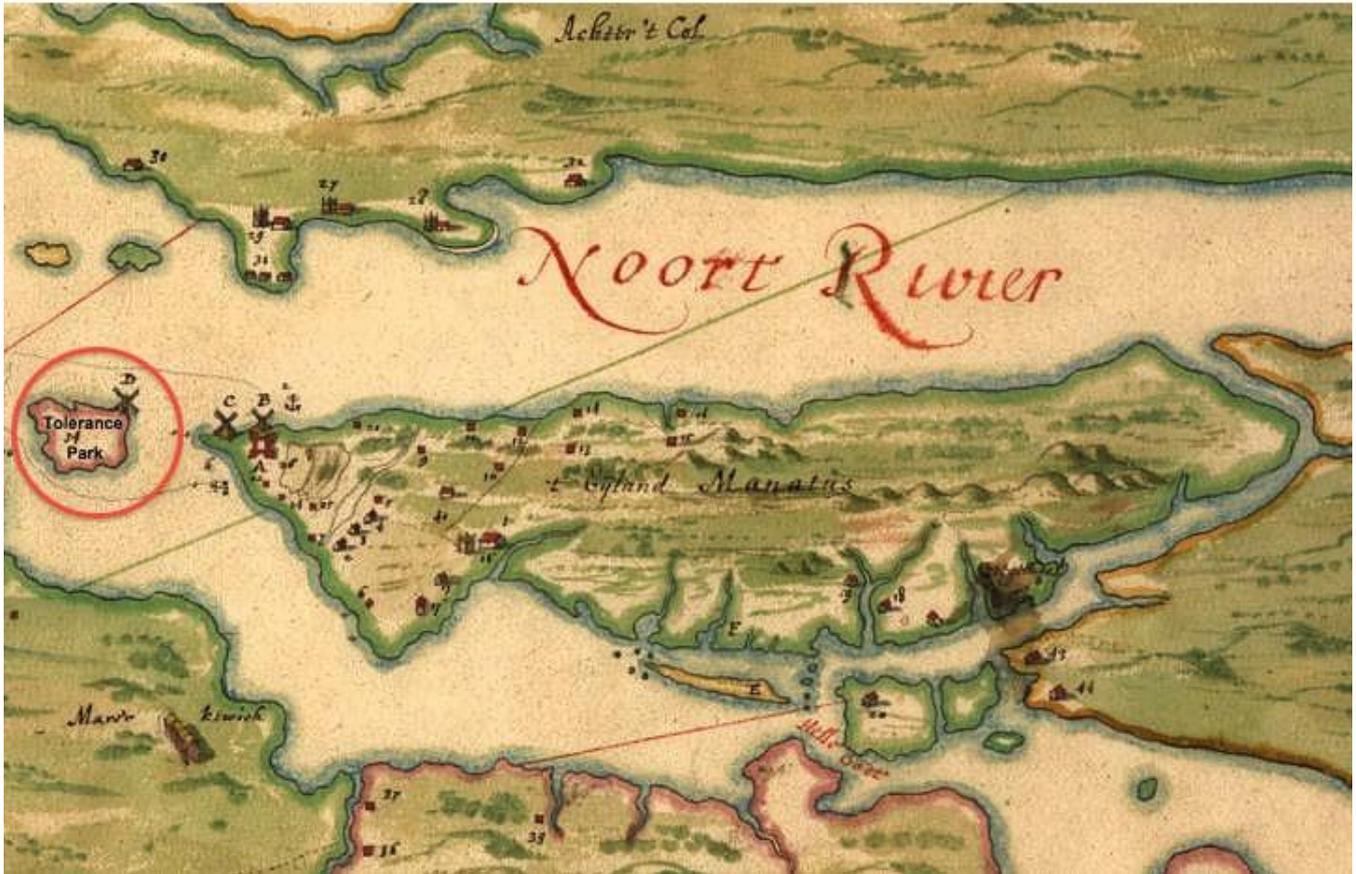
An original, historic, quintessential New York liberty is the principle of freedom of conscience and religious tolerance, uniquely delivered first to the New World in 1624 and vital to religious diversity — the basis for New York's polyglot culture ever since.

This precept was based on the Dutch Republic's basic law of 1579, which had decreed that "everyone shall remain free in religion and no one may be persecuted or investigated because of religion."

The above is the original text of the specific instruction of religious tolerance to New York's first colonists. It was read to them upon their departure from the Dutch Republic with the ship New Netherland to a fort on Governors Island on March 30, 1624. Hard copies of Holland's laws and ordinances of the year 1587 to which the settlers had to adhere accompanied them.

NY State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Farm # 22 on this 1639 map of Manhattan belonged to Antoni du Turck - a Muslim from Fez, Morocco. The juridical right to freedom of conscience and religious tolerance originated on the island at the left (Governors Island) in 1624 – a first in the New World.



What is Tolerance?

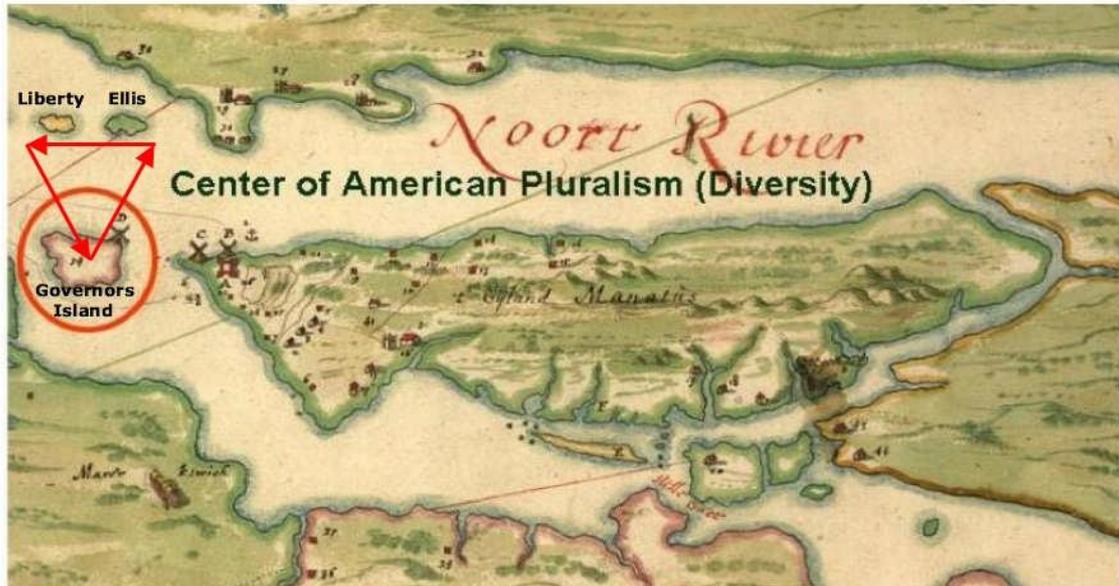
An easy way to understand the precept of Tolerance as the foundational principle for liberty-for-all is to know that it is the opposite of intolerance. In an intolerant society liberty can't flourish or even exist. Intolerance is the enemy of democracy and freedom.

Because Tolerance is a reciprocal dynamic it demands respect, stimulates equality, fosters peace and engenders harmony in difference. In other words, the principle of Tolerance is the friend of democracy and the common theme for civic cohesion or unity.

As per constitutional promise of 1791, the U.S. government could "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." It pledged that citizens could have freedom of religion but also be free from religion because Congress could not impose a state (i.e., federally mandated), privileged or preferred religion on U.S. citizens.

The conception of American freedom, therefore, means that civil secular law takes precedence over religious jurisprudence, traditions and behavior – that religion answers to the secular state. All religions and races however became only "equal and free" effectively through the Bill of Rights Amendments of 1868 and 1865 respectively.

Where intolerance grows, Tolerance fades. Respond to intolerance (e.g., racial supremacy or religious coercion/compulsion) with silence and liberty-for-all will wither.



1613 Crossroad of Three Cultures
1624 Birthplace of New York State
Origin of American Toleration
Source of American Pluralism
Lifeblood of American Liberty
Governors Island's Legacy
NEW YORK'S IDENTITY
Island at the Center of the New World

www.TolerancePark.org
The Tolerance Park Foundation

The symbolic worth of this island triad is greater than the sum of its parts. Each islet exemplifies its own unique facet of history but together they define the juridical and cultural construct to which American freedom refers.

Consequently, this pictogram composes America's fundamental conceptions — Tolerance, Liberty and Welcome — in a National Heritage Triangle of primary symbols as portrayed by Governors Island, Liberty Island and Ellis Island.

As the nation's elemental ideals, they constitute collectively the notion of American freedom.

August 2013 cc: Trust for Governors Island Chief of Staff **Elizabeth Rapuano**; GSA Regional Administrator **Denise Pease**; Associate GSA Administrator **Lisa Austin**; Public Advocate **Bill de Blasio**; Borough Manhattan President **Scott Stringer**; 1st District Council Member **Margaret Chin**; New York City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn**; NY State Senator **Daniel Squadron**; Congressman **Jerrold Nadler**; U.S. Senator **Charles Schumer**; U.S. Senator **Kirsten Gillibrand**; NYS Senate Majority Leader **Dean Skelos**; NYS Senator Minority Leader **Andrea Stewart-Cousins**; NYS Assembly Speaker **Sheldon Silver**; NYS Assembly Minority Leader **Brian Kolb**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**; CIPC Co-Chairs **Kathleen Rice**, **William Fitzpatrick**, **Milton Williams, Jr.**; NYS Lieutenant Governor **Robert Duffy**; NYS Governor **Andrew Cuomo**; **hcc:** U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; U.S. Attorney E.D.N.Y. **Loretta Lynch**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; NYS Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**, Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus Vance, Jr.**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Albany County District Attorney **P. David Soares**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**

Subject: Naming a general park just Tolerance Park specifically
Date: 6/19/2012 12:52:26 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: TolerancePark@aol.com
To: YKitasei@council.nyc.gov
CC: KMagee@council.nyc.gov, mvigigiano@council.nyc.gov, POlan@council.nyc.gov
BCC: drevna@council.nyc.gov.

"In a message dated 6/18/2012 4:13:41 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Tolerance Park writes:

We are asking for a City Council Resolution which only supports the naming by the State Legislature of the lower 50 acres of the 172-acre Governors Island to "Tolerance Park."

Dear Ms. Kitasei,

It should be absolutely clear that we are only asking Ms. Chin's support for a City Council Resolution which will request the State Legislature to officially name the 50 acres already set aside as a general "park" through public promulgations to "Tolerance Park" specifically.

The naming of the park on 30% of New York State's birthplace - Governors Island - to Tolerance Park will have no impact whatsoever on what that park will look like in the end - whether a place to fly kites, jump rope, sleep in hammocks, roller skate, ride bicycles, listen and dance to music, grow vegetables, stare at the Statue of Liberty or whatever.

The park's naming to just "Tolerance Park" is based on historical context (see attached "*New York, Beacon of Tolerance.*") As a place for general activities the Tolerance Park will have no specific design functions or further meaning - it is just a name.

I hope to discuss this with you further in July.

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
www.TolerancePark.org

Subject: The Past and Trust for Governors Island
Date: 6/18/2012 6:07:25 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: TolerancePark@aol.com
To: YKitasei@council.nyc.gov
CC: KMagee@council.nyc.gov, mvigigiano@council.nyc.gov, POlan@council.nyc.gov, drevna@council.nyc.gov

"In a message dated 6/18/2012 4:13:41 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, YKitasei@council.nyc.gov writes: your first step should be to discuss this idea with the Trust for Governors Island, which is responsible for planning and redevelopment of the island"

Dear Ms. Kitasei,

It seems from the above that you may not be fully familiar with the past (see attached.)

Frankly, there is no reason to belabor this past any longer as we are talking now about the future and focusing on the Island's meaning to future generations of Americans.

However, for your information, there is also a brief description of the past process toward the re-utilization of the Island on www.ToleranceWalk.com.

You may conclude that to move this process forward it would take **a combination of independence, courage and integrity** as well as political skill.

We hope that these are the traits Ms. Chin will bring to bear in order to make progress toward the portrayal of the Island's inherent symbolism and the emanation of its message as a beacon to humanity.

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

Subject: Re: Support for State Legislative naming of 50 acres to Tolerance Park
Date: 6/18/2012 4:44:52 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: TolerancePark@aol.com
To: YKitasei@council.nyc.gov
BCC: drevna@council.nyc.gov

"In a message dated 6/18/2012 4:13:41 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, YKitasei@council.nyc.gov writes:

I still believe that your first step should be to discuss this idea with the Trust for Governors Island, which is responsible for planning and redevelopment of the island, and with those elected officials that sit in ex officio on the Board of the Trust

including the Mayor, Assembly Speaker Silver, Senator Squadron, and Manhattan Borough President. Have you already done so? I do not believe a City Council Resolution is the usual way to initiate a proposal such as this."

Thank you Ms. Kitasei,

Indeed you are right that these politicians and officials are quite familiar with this issue. You are also right that a City Council Resolution is not the first step or the usual way.

It is however the last step and an unusual opportunity for the City Council to show its independence and its embrace of an important principle that lies at the root of the conception of American freedom.

Naturally, if Ms. Chin answers to other powers and is therefore not inclined to lead in the acceptance of the national symbolism of the three islands jointly in her district (also in the district of Assembly Speaker Silver, State Senator Squadron and Congressman Nadler) then her only option is to be part of a discussion with these other three political leaders in the hope of arriving at a consensus regarding the naming of the 50 acres to Tolerance Park.

Would she be willing to get involved in such a four-way collaborative discussion as just an active participant and passionate supporter of the tolerance message?

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
www.ToleranceWalk.com

Subject: Support for State Legislative naming of 50 acres to Tolerance Park
Date: 6/18/2012 3:49:15 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: TolerancePark@aol.com
To: YKitasei@citycouncil.nyc.gov
CC: KMagee@citycouncil.nyc.gov, mvigigiano@citycouncil.nyc.gov, POlan@citycouncil.nyc.gov, dreyne@citycouncil.nyc.gov

"In a message dated 6/18/2012 1:11:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, YKitasei@citycouncil.nyc.gov writes: I don't think that the City Council is generally the first step in the process to get public artwork in-stalled, particularly if you are trying to get artwork installed on Governors Island. Governors Island is currently managed by the Trust for the City of New York; Council Member Chin does not sit on their board though there are elected officials at the state and city level who do. I would recommend that your first step would be to reach out to them first to see what their public art installation process is."

Dear Ms. Kitasei,

Allow me to elaborate on our request to Councilmember Chin.

We are asking for a City Council Resolution which only supports the naming by the State Legislature of the lower 50 acres of the 172-acre Governors Island to "Tolerance Park."

The Island is owned solely by the State of New York, i.e., not jointly by the State and the City. Therefore, the official naming of these 50 acres belongs properly to the State Legislature irrespective of who has momentary control over the Island.

We are not asking for Councilmember Chin's support for the installation of a public artwork or, for that matter, the content or programming of a single square yard of the 50 acres dedicated merely as "Tolerance Park" by the State Legislature thus.

Doubtless, Ms. Chin knows that, by doing away with the political concepts of a superior race, preferred ethnicity or privileged religion, the U.S. Constitution made all religions, ethnicities and races "equal and free" – their rights and liberties in the nascent secular republic solely dependent on civil policy and civil laws.

Ms. Chin, likely, also knows that the **jurisprudence of Religious Freedom** (introduced in the sovereignty of the United States 14 years after its approval in New York State's first Constitution in 1777) derives from the **jurisprudence of Religious Tolerance** (i.e., "Toleration," introduced in the sovereignty of New York State on Governors Island in 1624.)

For that reason, we believe that Ms. Chin, who represents the Governors, Liberty and Ellis Islands, should be able and willing to support and uphold Governors Island's unique facet of history. Her support for the naming of 50 acres would thus acknowledge the Island's symbolism of contemporary meaning and 21st-century relevance.

Furthermore, by showing her interest in the **State Legislative naming** of just 30% of the Island through a City Council Resolution she would make it known that she, on behalf of the City Council, agrees with America's primary values of Tolerance, Liberty and Welcome which would explicitly compose the powerful, iconic National Heritage Triangle in New York Harbor upon political acceptance.

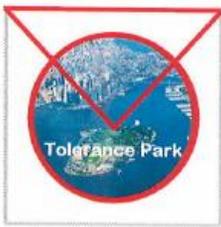
Ms. Chin's support for simply State Legislative naming of 50 acres does not compete with and has no relevance to whatever the City's Trust for Governors Island has proposed or is pursuing now or in the future.

Would Ms. Chin be interested in drafting a resolution to accomplish the above?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
www.TolerancePark.org



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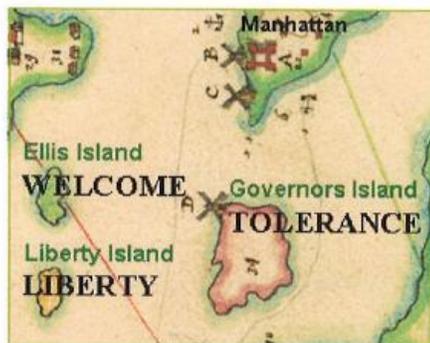
May 2, 2013

Dear Mr. Governor,

The enclosed suggests that changing public entities doesn't make any difference with regard to restoring the public trust vis-à-vis the re-utilization and redevelopment of the State's birthplace based on considerations of public integrity and ethical political behavior.

If you have any questions or comments on the matter please let me know.

Sincerely,
Joep de Koning



National Heritage Triangle

www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org
www.ToleranceMonument.org
www.ToleranceWalk.com

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WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

Via USPS: Vanity Fair Magazine Editor-in-Chief **Edward Graydon Carter**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; bcc: U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; NYS Attorney General **Eric Schneider-man**; Manhattan District Attorney, **Cyrus Vance, Jr.**; Albany County District Attorney, **P. David Soares**

Subject: Shedding some light on GovIsland and the real players
Date: 4/22/2013 10:41:03 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: Batavier1@aol.com
To: whubbard@cdcmgmt.com
BCC:

Hello Bill,

From the attached you may note that there are quite some players (federal, state and city) with respect to a Governors Island development (see e.g., cc's on 2000 letter to Giovannini.)

Already in 1998 the City/State's RFP's induced e.g., Tivoli Gardens and Disney to make serious in-depth proposals. The local political game was however to solicit outside interests which then could be rejected/killed in favor of local interests thus benefiting those who had control/power over Governors Island as a trading asset. The result has been that no longer a neutral outside player can be found or is willing to come forward and deal with the Island's manipulative political handlers.

I am not so sure that Kent Barwick is a key inside player in this chain of political events. Why he recruited you to make a 100-page proposal for another March 14, 2013 RFP deadline is a mystery to me. One more straw man? It has been more than ten years ago that I had the honor of visiting his chief of staff to deliver a presentation and asking Kent (then president of the Municipal Arts Society) for only his endorsement for the National Heritage Triangle of America's fundamental values in NY Harbor. The answer was silence.

Since 1998, the several politicians of all three governments have been repeatedly requested to endorse the foundational principle of tolerance as vital to American liberty. Only a very few have been willing to do so as you may see on www.ToleranceMonument.org.

In light of what I observe to be some powerful special interest and commercial players standing by to pounce (with covert political support), I have asked the pertinent politicians of the three governments to consider only naming a section of the publicly promulgated 87 acre park of recycled materials (see Ouroussoff letter) to just Tolerance Park. It wouldn't cost them a cent to do so and would, perhaps, leave their pre-selected friendly constituents in place if the official "open green space" press releases are sincere.

I have my doubts about the latter as it makes no sense to discard fabulously designed professional proposals that attracts tourists and revenues in favor of shipping some local people to the Island to spend time on flying a kite, jumping rope, eating a sandwich or riding a wooden bicycle over a concrete 2.2 mile-long barrier path at taxpayer expense. And what about 15 years of political silence for a profoundly important vision of historic substance and contemporary relevance to future generations of Americans? It can't be all bureaucratic or political incompetence!

NY State and NY City's earliest history, the island's legacy and its momentous message of national import clearly play no role in any political decision about the reutilization of the Island. This can be seen from what happened with the purported 2009 quadricentennial celebrations (see Fratianni letter and Legacy of Consequence.)

If anything, their miniscule ripples may perhaps create some awareness some day which, given the right wind, may blow into a full scale lake as yet.

Hopefully, all this is not too confusing. But since the media only supports official PR releases and hence the status quo there is no way any citizen/outsider can figure out what has been happening behind the scenes.

Now you know what this has been all about, so far.

I am curious how your proposal is going to be treated by the Trust for Governors Island, Leslie Koch and the press. Can't wait.

Best.

Joep
www.ToleranceWalk.com
www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL — **Tolerance Monument**

* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
(212) 737-3216 T

March 23, 2013

The Hon. Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

SPECIAL REQUEST

Specific designation of Governors Island National Monument

Dear Mr. President,

Will you consider designating the 22-acre large Governors Island National Monument to America's most fundamental principle of Tolerance? This precept lies at the foundation of liberty-for-all and is vital in understanding the concept of American freedom.

Ten years ago these 22 acres had been set aside as National Monument for mostly political purposes by using the unauthentic, disingenuous twentieth-century recreation of Fort Jay and the ruin of Castle Williams as justification. However, the Island's historical, archeological and momentous symbolic value to **ALL** Americans was then not taken into account (see enclosed letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo.)

The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows you to consider and grant this request because of the Island's natural historic place in American history and culture.

Without your dedication to the preservation of that virtue through broad awareness, this primary American symbol will be consumed by local special/real estate interests and its message lost forever to future generations of Americans.

Naturally, designating the National Monument as TOLERANCE PARK would accomplish the objective.

I look forward to hearing from you whether you will consider this request.



National Heritage Triangle

cc: Interior Secretary **Sally Jewell**; NPS Director **Jonathan Jarvis**; ACHP Chairman **Millford Wayne Donaldson**; bcc: Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan**, ACHP Executive Director **John Fowler**; NTHP President and CEO **Stephanie Meeks**; Secretary of State **John F. Kerry**, Spokesperson **Jennifer Psaki**, Ambassador-at-Large **Susan Johnson Cook**, Special Envoy **Ira N. Forman**; National Security Adviser nominee **Susan Rice**; Deputy National Security adviser **Ben Rhodes**; U.N. Ambassador nominee **Samantha Power**; NY State Governor **Andrew M. Cuomo**; First Lady and Honorary Chair PRESERVE AMERICA **Michelle Obama**

Sincerely,


Joep de Koning

www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com

* THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC, THEMATIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: **THE LIFE BLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.**



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* – WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
 THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
 139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
 NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
 (212) 737-3216 T

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor, New York State
 State Capitol
 Albany, N.Y. 12224

March 21, 2013

**Key VISION and MISSION statement for NY State's birthplace
 Your support for NY State's birthright please**

Dear Mr. Governor,

You know that the meaning of the name **CENTRAL** Park lies in that it is situated in the **CENTER** of Manhattan.

The meaning of naming **TOLERANCE** Park would lie in that it is situated on NY State's birthplace where the judicial principle of religious **TOLERANCE** was first placed into the New World in 1624. (You may also find that this proposed name has more substance than "Hammock Grove" or "Picnic Point" as the current sections are named inside the 87-acre park plans of the Trust for Governors Island.)

To make this naming happen in the public interest, for future generations of New Yorkers and for the common good, it is imperative that you support New York State's birthright of Tolerance – a historic New York State message unique to the entire Western Hemisphere upon its introduction in 1624 on Governors Island. Whatever will happen to the State's birthplace is of no further concern to the Foundation.

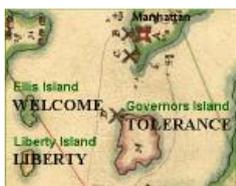
Perhaps you and the legislative leaders could benefit from having a clear **vision** and **mission** statement of the Tolerance Park Foundation:

*"The Tolerance Park Foundation's **key VISION** is to establish a National Heritage Triangle of America's primary values as unique island symbols in New York Harbor: Tolerance, Liberty and Welcome. This pictogram embraces America's elemental ideals as composed by Governors Island, Liberty Island and Ellis Island.*

*The Tolerance Park Foundation's **key MISSION** is to preserve Governors Island as the nation's oldest natural symbol – NY State's birthplace and the place on which the juridical principles of Freedom of Conscience and Religious Tolerance were placed first in the New World in 1624. Political recognition of this historic 1624 event would help illustrate the universal value of Tolerance as vital to American Liberty – that the fraternal twins Tolerance and Liberty lie jointly at the conception of American Freedom. Academic and political acknowledgment of the Island's historical significance and historic symbolism would thus reveal the momentous message of Tolerance as a core virtue and central to the conception of American Freedom – that the precept of Tolerance is indispensable in the appreciation of America's ethos.*

The Tolerance Park Foundation seeks to accomplish this vision and mission through a Tolerance Park whose value lies in its theme as reflective of the wider principle of Tolerance as Common Theme of Social Cohesion rather than its narrower form of solely Religious Tolerance (Toleration) as planted first on Governors Island in 1624."

If you don't agree with this vision and mission statement I would be honored to having your critique, questions or comments. Naturally, if you do agree I would be grateful having your acknowledgement.



National Heritage Triangle

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo's Counsel, **Mylan Denerstein**; Governor Andrew Cuomo's Chief of Staff **Josh Vlasto**; Governor Andrew Cuomo's Secretary **Larry Schwartz**; bcc: Senate Majority Leader **Dean Skelos**, Assembly Speaker **Sheldon Silver**; U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; NYS Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**, Manhattan District Attorney, **Cyrus Vance, Jr.**; Albany County District Attorney, **P. David Soares**; NPS Director **Jonathan Jarvis**, NPS Public Affairs Chief **Jeffrey Olsch**; U.S. President **Barack Obama**; Interior Secretary **Sally Jewell**; ACHP Chairman **Milford Wayne Donaldson**; Secretary of State **John F. Kerry**, Spokesperson **Jennifer Psaki**, Ambassador-at-Large **Suzan Johnson Cook**, Special Envoy **Ira N. Forman**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
 (212) 737-3216

www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org

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bcc: U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; U.S. Attorney E.D.N.Y. **Loretta Lynch**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; NYS Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**, Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus Vance, Jr.**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Albany County District Attorney **P. David Soares**; NPS Director **Jonathan Jarvis**, NPS Public Affairs Chief **Jeffrey Olson**; Regional Director **Dennis Reidenbach**, NPs of NY Harbor Commissioner **Joshua Laird**; U.S. President **Barack Obama**, Vice President **Joseph Biden Jr.**; Interior Secretary **Sally Jewell**, Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; ACHP Chairman **Milford Wayne Donaldson**, Executive Director **John Fowler**; NTHP President and CEO **Stephanie Meeks**; Secretary of State **John Kerry**, Spokesperson **Jennifer Psaki**, Ambassador-at-Large **Suzan Johnson Cook**, Special Envoy **Ira Forman**; Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**, Interior Department Inspector **General Mary Kendall**; GSA Inspector General **Brian D. Miller**; NYS Governor **Andrew Cuomo**, Lieutenant Governor **Robert Duffy**; Commission to Investigate Public Corruption Co-Chairs **Kathleen Rice**, **William J. Fitzpatrick**, **Milton L. Williams, Jr.**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

That ultimately a meaningless local real estate development on Governors Island was apt to happen I already prophesied over 13 years ago.

All these trusts, institutions, agencies, etc., whether national or regional, purporting to protect, preserve, uphold, defend, enhance and promote virtuous subject matters of education, history, parks, community, environment, etc. have been mute all along and through their silence condone what they all knew in the beginning was to happen in the end!

From: Batavier1@aol.com

To: Jon_jarvis@nps.gov, Jeffrey_Olson@nps.gov, Dennis_Reidenbach@nps.gov, maria_burks@nps.gov, Claire_Rozdilski@nps.gov, gois_information@nps.gov, janice_brooks@nps.gov, patti_reilly@nps.gov, Ed_Lorenzini@nps.gov, Mike_Shaver@nps.gov, Dena_Saslaw@nps.gov, achp@achp.gov, jfowler@achp.gov, pknoll@achp.gov, bmilhans@achp.gov, sshrieves@achp.gov, sglimcher@achp.gov,

Sent: 2/27/2013 7:58:07 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

Subj: **Denial of history, ignorance and the foundational principle for liberty-for-all**

Dear officials,

To understand primary U.S. history as originated on Governors Island in 1624 you may want to know that on February 25, we wrote a letter to Mayor Bloomberg which started as follows:

"Dear Mr. Mayor,

On January 28, 2013, the Trust for Governors Island issued a "Request for Expressions of Interest" to develop 33 acres on the Island's lower half. This indicates continued political indifference toward the 1624 delivery of the jurisprudence of freedom of conscience and religious tolerance into the New World. Yet, Governors Island is the Western Hemisphere's original source of these principles.

*By only **naming a section** of the Island after these profoundly important values — i.e., "Tolerance Park" — you and the governor could leave your **joint legacy on behalf of the people of the city, the state and the nation.** This has eternal meaning because the 14th amendment of the Bill of Rights in 1868 transformed a constitutional promise finally into a right. This is summarized in the second last paragraph of the enclosed article: "Governors Island and the Origins of Religious Tolerance", published by the Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York:*

'It had taken therefore 244 years after the judicial introduction, without discrimination albeit with preference, into the New World of the first principles on religious freedom — on Governors Island, New York State's birthplace — that all the people of the United States could enjoy the same benefit of freedom of conscience and toleration that had applied to the people of the New York region as of 1624'.....

For those of you who are interested in knowing and understanding this history, please read the attached article which will be published by the State University of New York Press under the auspices of the Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York in June of 2013.

As you know, there is no national, state or city agency web site that has shown any interest or inclination in telling the historical facts pertaining to Governors Island's momentous symbolism and its inherent message - the common theme of tolerance - that lies at the success of America's future as a unified culture and social cohesion. Even after 15 years these web sites are reflective of ignorance, misinformation and disinformation in spite of persistent vigilance (see e.g., attached letter to Warrie Price.)

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
(212) 737 3216

www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com
www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
Tolerance Monument THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
(212) 737-3216 T

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, New York State
State Capitol
Albany, N.Y. 12224

February 21, 2013

RE: Legislation to be introduced by you, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, to name a section of NY State's birthplace: Governors Island. This naming is in recognition of the first-time-delivery of the jurisprudence of Freedom of Conscience and Religious Tolerance – NY State's birthright – into the New World on Governors Island in 1624.

Dear Mr. Governor,

How New York State's oldest laws were laid as underpinning of the State's culture of pluralism and liberty in 1624 is explained in the enclosed article (see second last paragraph of article.)

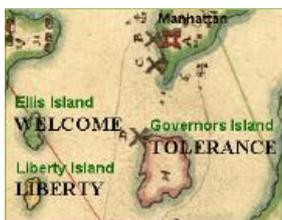
Doubtless, you understand the importance of America's fundamental values as symbolized by three historic island symbols in NY Harbor — the National Heritage Triangle.

Tolerance is the foundational principle for liberty-for-all and a universal value. You may therefore appreciate that the inseparable fraternal twins — Tolerance and Liberty — are innate to the conception of American Freedom.

Broad acceptance of the reciprocal dynamic of Tolerance lying at the forefront of Liberty requires your recognizing the worth of that NY Harbor triad of island symbols.

By naming a section of the 87-acre park planned on the State's birthplace after the State's birthright of Tolerance you would underwrite, at zero cost to New York State, the iconic value of an island triad in NY Harbor and the message of Tolerance as symbolized by Governors Island.

Please let me know what I can do to help you with the naming of a 50-acre-plus piece of NY State's most important landmark.



National Heritage Triangle

bcc: The Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Counsel, Mylan L. Denerstein; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Chief of Staff Josh Vlasto; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Secretary Larry S. Schwartz; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, ACHP Executive Director John Fowler; NTHP President and CEO Stephanie Meeks; Secretary of State John F. Kerry, Spokesperson Jennifer Psaki, Ambassador-at-Large Suzan Johnson Cook, Special Envoy Ira N. Forman

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

(212) 737-3216

www.TolerancePark.org

www.ToleranceMonument.org

www.ToleranceWalk.com

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January 24, 2013 – Via USPS: U.S. President **Barack Obama**, Chief of Staff **Denis McDonough**; National Park Service director **Jonathan Jarvis**; NY State Governor **Andrew Cuomo**, Secretary to Governor Andrew Cuomo **Lawrence Schwartz**, NYS Senate Majority Leader **Dean Skelos**, Senate Minority Leader **Andrea Stewart-Cousins**; Speaker NY State Assembly **Sheldon Silver**, Assembly Minority Leader **Brian Kolb**; NY State Senator, 25th Senate District **Daniel Squadron**; NY 8th Congressional District Congressman **Jerrold Nadler**; Mayor of the City of NY **Michael Bloomberg**, Council Member, 1st Council District **Margaret Chin**; Interior Secretary **Ken Salazar**, NPS Chief of Public Affairs **David Barna**, NPS Regional Director **Dennis Reidenbach**, Natl. Parks of NY Harbor Commissioner **Maria Burks**, Governors Island National Monument Superintendent **Patti Reilly**

Subject: MLK day and NY State's birthright require more than fleeting interest

Date: 1/21/2013 11:29:42 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

From: NatlHrtgTriangle@aol.com

To: speaker@assembly.state.ny.us, Kolbb@assembly.state.ny.us, skelos@nysenate.gov, scousins@nysenate.gov, squadron@nysenate.gov, mbloomberg@cityhall.nyc.gov, Chin@council.nyc.gov.

RE: MLK day and NY State's birthright require more than fleeting interest

Dear Speaker Silver,

You are honoring today the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a federal holiday - January 21, 2013.

We have asked for more than a decade that the State legislators honor NY State's birthright on the State's birthplace by endorsing a fundamental American message or by helping to **support our plan for an implicit MLK monument which serves as tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.** (i.e., racial tolerance see www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com.)

Five years ago we were quite expansive in replying to the statement of Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco that "*Assembly Republicans are committed to preserving and treasuring our national and state heritage*" (see attached.) Yet, no further comments about New York's founding principle of liberty or the proposed national project have been received from the Legislature since then. What could be the reason for that?

Inequality of race, ethnicity and religion is not something that only existed before the Constitution. In spite of Constitutional protection, the culture of bigotry (i.e., intolerance) is alive and well. It is only through broad awareness and conscious vigilance that citizens may live up to that Constitutional right of equality of race and religion – that's what freedom is all about. That's why **the common theme for social cohesion – Tolerance, a reciprocal dynamic – is such a powerful message.**

By now, you must know that the jurisprudence of Tolerance is the underpinning of American liberty and was placed first into the New World in 1624 on New York State's birthplace in the form of religious tolerance. From there, it became the nation's unique cultural construct of diversity and pluralism. This principle – declared a universal value by the United Nations under its Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 under Article 26-2: "Education...shall promote...tolerance...among all nations, racial or religious groups" – is indispensable in the understanding of American freedom.

Could you please let me know why an endorsement for that message cannot be generated from the full legislature or why **the legislature's naming of a planned park** on the State's birthplace to just "Tolerance Park" cannot be considered? **The latter legislative action wouldn't cost the State or City one cent.**

I would be extremely grateful receiving a reply from you about the legislature's inability to act.

Knowing why would be a great relief.

Sincerely,


Joep de Koning
(212) 737 3216

President@TolerancePark.org

www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org

Subject: Jan Rodrigues and political folly
Date: 10/16/2012 8:11:26 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: TolerancePark@aol.com
To: cgehring@mail.nysed.gov, dwv1@nyu.edu, mbergerher@aol.com, willem.frijhoff@gmail.com, jvenema@mail.nysed.gov, wklooster@clarku.edu, dmaika@optimum.net, fhfabend@verizon.net, patbon@aol.com, boroughhistorian@manhattanbp.org, lmirrer@nyhistory.org, sjones@mcny.org, eburrows@optonline.net, gotham@gc.cuny.edu, swasserman@gc.cuny.edu, kathleen.hulser@gmail.com, ktjl@columbia.edu, jkd@furthermore.org, basker@gilderlehrman.org, herrmann@gilderlehrman.org, pchrist1@nycap.rr.com, mmm@kasm.us
CC: mbloomberg@cityhall.nyc.gov, pharris@cityhall.nyc.gov, Governor.Cuomo@nygovoffice.gov, rsteel@cityhall.nyc.gov, croman@cityhall.nyc.gov, hwolfson@cityhall.nyc.gov, sfink@cityhall.nyc.gov, mlavorgna@cityhall.nyc.gov, holloway@cityhall.nyc.gov, HMihaltzes@cityhall.nyc.gov, mbest1@cityhall.nyc.gov, mebest@cityhall.nyc.gov, jFeinblatt@cityhall.nyc.gov, dmwalcott@schools.nyc.gov, aburden@planning.nyc.gov, abanks@cityhall.nyc.gov, mcardozo@law.nyc.gov, ssherrill@cityhall.nyc.gov, mmugnos@cityhall.nyc.gov, speakerquinn@council.nyc.gov, nbaez@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, pcosta@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, sfiguereo@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, afink@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, wgardiner@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, clevin@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, jmerritt@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, snewmark@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, wnorvell@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, uramirez@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, esharp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, bvais@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, wdeblasio@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, ewolfe@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, bp@manhattanbp.org, Chin@Council.nyc.gov

I couldn't resist pointing out to the majority leaders of the State Legislature the folly of naming three miles of Manhattan's Broadway after an individual of no consequence - the factor Jan Rodrigues - an employee of the explorer Adriaen Block in 1613 (see attached.)

Comparing the triviality of this pointless, self-serving political deed to the 15 year long code of silence we received with regard to an event of historic New World substance on Governors Island in 1624 should help make politicians realize that naming some unformulated piece of real estate doesn't break the State's or the City's budget or their banks (if that were the [unlikely] cause of their silence.)

It is hard to imagine why politicians continue refusing to accept the historical, juridical right to Toleration and Freedom of Conscience - the birthright of the sovereignty of New York State in 1624 - as the principles that lie at the foundation of American liberty and were unique in the founding of the State on Governors Island.

Joep de Koning
www.TolerancePark.org



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 THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
 139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
 NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
 (212) 737-3216 T

Tolerance Monument

October 15, 2012

Representative Sheldon Silver
 Assembly Speaker
 LOB 932
 Albany, NY 12248

Senator Dean G. Skelos
 Senate Majority Leader
 LOB 909
 Albany, NY 12247

Re: **Sponsoring legislation to name a section of "Open Green Space"**

Dear Assembly Speaker Silver and Senate Majority Leader Skelos,

You have the power to have the State Assembly and Senate introduce legislation that will **name at least a 50-acre section of a planned 87-acre park on Governors Island** after NY State's birthright of Tolerance – i.e., Tolerance Park.

This appellation for the park's section would acknowledge through broad awareness that the jurisprudence of Religious Tolerance (Toleration) has been, is, and will forever be of vital importance to the success of pluralism in NY City, NY State and across the land.

Doubtless, you know that NY State's oldest laws and ordinances originated on Governors Island in 1624 – the year in which the juridical principles of Toleration and Freedom of Conscience were first introduced into the New World. The Island's historic, thematic legacy – fundamental to American liberty – is today accepted as the *"foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world"* under Article 26-2 of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948: *"Education...shall promote...tolerance...among all nations, racial or religious groups."*

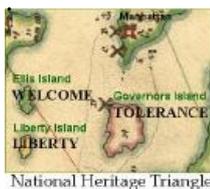
Similarly, earlier this month, the NY City Council introduced legislation sponsored by Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez to **name** a three mile section of Broadway in upper Manhattan after the factor Jan Rodrigues. **It was signed into law by Mayor Michael Bloomberg** (see NY Times article of October 3, 2012 on the reverse.) Our response to that legislation is enclosed. Then, our question to you is: **How important or crucial has Adriaen Block's employee been in 1613 to America, NY State or NY City to deserve having three miles of Broadway named after him?**

Rodrigues, a Dominican from European and African descent, had been employed by explorer-trader Adriaen Block who had hired him in 1613 for a seven months stay on Governors Island to trade with the down river natives (see enclosed history.)

Furthermore, Legislative Resolutions No.5476 and No. 2708 of May 2002 recognized *"the official place and date of birth of the State of New York as being Governors Island in the year 1624."* In addition, because NY State is the Island's sole owner it is up to the State Legislature with Governor Cuomo's signature, rather than the NY City Council and Mayor Bloomberg, to **name** a section of the Island's planned park to Tolerance Park – irrespective of current NY City control.

Will you sponsor the required legislation that will **name** no less than 30% of the 172-acre Governors Island after its historic message which lies at the foundation of American liberty?

We look forward to hearing from you.



cc: NY State Governor **Andrew Cuomo**; Lieutenant Governor **Robert Duffy**; Oct. 22, 2012 bcc: Secretary to the Governor **Larry Schwartz**; Executive Deputy Secretary **Joseph Percoco**; Counsel to the Governor **Mylan Czerstein**; Counselor to the Governor, **Andrew Zambelli**; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, **Jeremy Creelan**; Special Policy Adviser, **Adam Cohen**; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs **James...**; Director of State Operations, **Howard Glaser**; Appointments Secretary, **Leslie Leach, Esq.**; Chief Diversity Officer, **Yrithya Dinzey-Flores**; Communications Director **Rich Bamberger**; Deputy Communications Director **Josh Vlasto**; Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**; NYS Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**; Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**; First Deputy Mayor **Patricia Harris**; JCOPE chair **Janet DiFiore**; U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; Manhattan District Attorney, **Cyrus Vance, Jr.**; Albany County District Attorney, **P. David Soares**; Secretary of State **John F. Kerry**; Spokesperson **Jennifer Psaki**; Ambassador-at-Large **Suzan Johnson Cook**; Special Envoy **Ira N. Forman**; Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Interior Department Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; GSA Inspector General **Brian Miller**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

www.TolerancePark.org
www.ToleranceMonument.org
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com

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WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

October 15, 2012 – NY State Joint Commission on Public Ethics: Hon. **Janet DiFiore**, Ms. **Ellen N. Biben**, Mr. **Patrick J. Bulgaro**, Hon. **Joseph Covello**, Hon. **Vincent DeIorio**, Ms. **Mitra Hormozi**, Mr. **Daniel J. Horwitz**, Mr. **Marvin E. Jacob**, Mr. **Seymour Knox, IV**, Mr. **Gary J. Lavine**, Hon. **Mary Lou Rath**, Mr. **David A. Renzi**, Mr. **George H. Weissman**, Ms. **Ellen Yaroshesky**; NYS Governor **Andrew M. Cuomo**, Lieutenant Governor **Robert J. Duffy**, Secretary **Larry S. Schwartz**; Assembly Speaker **Sheldon Silver**, Assembly Minority Leader **Brian Kolb**, Senate Majority Leader **Dean Skelos**, Senate Minority Leader **John Sampson**; Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**; NYS Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**; NYC Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**, First Deputy Mayor **Patricia Harris**; bcc: Executive Deputy Secretary **Joseph Percoco**; Counsel to the Governor **Mylan Denerstein**; Counselor to the Governor, **Andrew Zambelli**; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, **Jeremy Creelan**; Special Policy Adviser, **Adam Cohen**; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs **James Malatras**; Director of State Operations, **Howard Glaser**; Appointments Secretary, **Leslie Leach, Esq.**; Chief Diversity Officer, **Yrthya Dinzey-Flores**; Communications Director **Rich Bamberger**; Deputy Communications Director **Josh Vlasto**;

Subject: Broadway Honor for Dominican Jan Rodrigues

Date: 10/4/2012 12:32:41 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

From: TolerancePark@aol.com

To: samrob@nytimes.com

CC: mbloomberg@cityhall.nyc.gov, pharris@cityhall.nyc.gov, yrodriguez@council.nyc.gov, rhernandez@ccny.cuny.edu, Governor.Cuomo@nygovoffice.gov, speaker@assembly.state.ny.us, skelos@senate.state.ny.us, KolbB@assembly.state.ny.us, sampson@senate.state.ny.us, squadron@senate.state.ny.us, rsteel@cityhall.nyc.gov, croman@cityhall.nyc.gov, hwoffson@cityhall.nyc.gov, sfink@cityhall.nyc.gov, mlavorgna@cityhall.nyc.gov, cholloway@cityhall.nyc.gov, HMihaltzes@cityhall.nyc.gov, mbest1@cityhall.nyc.gov, mebest@cityhall.nyc.gov, jFeinblatt@cityhall.nyc.gov, dmwalcott@schools.nyc.gov, aburden@planning.nyc.gov, abanks@cityhall.nyc.gov, mcardozo@law.nyc.gov, ssherrill@cityhall.nyc.gov, mmugnos@cityhall.nyc.gov, speakerquinn@council.nyc.gov, nbaez@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, pcosta@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, sfiguereo@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, afink@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, wgardiner@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, clevin@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, jmeritt@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, snewmark@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, wnorvell@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, uramirez@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, esharp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, bvais@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, ewolfe@pubadvocate.nyc.gov, bp@manhattanbp.org, Chin@Council.nyc.gov,

Re: Your Oct. 3 article about **Broadway Honor for Very Early New Yorker Lost in History**

Dear Mr. Roberts,

The recent honor bestowed on Jan Rodrigues by Mayor Bloomberg and City Councilmember Rodriguez by **naming three miles of Broadway after him** requires some explanatory comments. That this naming seems rather disingenuous to me (and perhaps to you too) is supported by the facts. An explanation is in order:

More than 13 years ago before this year's "*report by the Dominican Studies Institute at City College of the City University of New York*" **I had placed Jan Rodrigues on Governors Island as the place on which he became a seven months long resident in 1613.**

This I had done already in the late 1990's and early years of the new millennium. My research had taken me to various libraries for archival research including the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam and the National Archives in The Hague. Jan Rodrigues was thus indeed the "first historically recorded individual of non-Native American ancestry" to reside in the New York Tri-State region (see attached.) **His summering on Governors Island in 1613 can unfortunately not possibly be considered the event in support of your wish that "the city's 400th birthday candle will be lighted in 2013."** For that, you need to know New York City's only birth certificate (see attached.)

Since 1999, I have delivered this historical event REPEATEDLY to ALL politicians in the NY City Council and the State Senate and Assembly including the members of the mayor's and governor's executive offices. Never did I ever receive just one reply, civil or uncivil, in support of the historical Jan Rodrigues story as presented to the politicians.

In the year 2000 I also asked **NYS Senator David Paterson** continually for a meeting to discuss this history – to no avail however. It was only through Dr. Chris Moore, a director of the Schomburg Institute for Black Studies and a commissioner of the NYC Preservation Commission, that I came to understand that **the senator was well acquainted with my requests after all. Based on the information I had supplied, the senator had been investigating the possible erection of a Jan Rodrigues statue in Harlem!** Earlier, I had asked for Dr. Moore's support with respect to the significance of Rodrigues's Governors Island history which we had discussed at a restaurant in Harlem (1999.)

After four years of daily struggle involving unbelievable political obstructions, I managed to get two Legislative Resolutions approved in May 2002. **These Resolutions determined once and for all that Governors Island was the official birthplace of the sovereignty of New York State in 1624 – it was the start of the juridical entity of New Netherland as New York was known before the name change.**

The activist group Governors Island Alliance – an extension of the Hudson River Park people/politicians – had organized a flotilla gathering in June 2002 in support of its motto; “Governors Island for the People.” The Alliance was going to plant a flag emblazoned with that text on Governors Island. As the May 2002 state legislative decision of pinpointing the state’s birthplace was a historic event, I asked if I could plant a flag celebrating this historical recognition alongside the Alliance’s flag.

When the Alliance agreed, I had a large flag made up with language pertaining to the birthplace of New York State. To get to the Island during the flotilla I had been working with Michael Davis, the founder of “Floating the Apple.” Michael was a socially passionate person interested in helping underprivileged kids from the Bronx by making them build Whitehall gigs by hand in donated space on West 43rd street. He ran a Whitehall gigs boathouse for them, all made by his students. His students were mostly Dominicans.

One of the newly constructed boats we named “Jan Rodrigues” and I was rowed by eight Dominican Republic rowers from the Bronx toward Governors Island in June 2002. It was then, that a strong current between the tip of Manhattan and Governors Island swept us straight to Brooklyn where we landed without having placed the flag onto Governors Island. My intervention by taking over the oars didn’t help. Later, we were towed back by a police boat to Manhattan.

This story tells you that **namining a three mile section of Broadway after Jan Rodrigues, a place where he has never been, is as weird as trying to place a statue of him in Harlem.**

Knowing that for 13 years **I have sought political recognition for the place on which Jan Rodrigues traded with the natives during the summer of 1613,** you must agree that your story is proof of standard political spin involving petty identity politics. It has nothing to do with history or the meaning of Rodrigues’s trading adventure within the broader context of New York history.

I certainly would have hoped that Mayor Bloomberg would have been able to rise above such travesty.

Sincerely,



Joep de Koning
(212) 737 3216

www.ToleranceMonument.org

www.TolerancePark.org

www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com

Tolerance and Liberty[©]

as **Equal Partners** of

American Freedom



Barnett Newman's
monumental architectural sculpture

Broken Obelisk

dedicated to Martin Luther King after his
assassination

Projected Height: 151 feet or 46 meters

Jan Rodrigues from Santo Domingo, a Latin-American of African ancestry and a free man, was the first person to summer on Governors Island in 1613.

Employed as interpreter in trade negotiations with the Hudson River Indians by the private Amsterdam fur trader and explorer Adriaen Block, Rodrigues was left behind on the Island in May that year to serve as on-the-spot factor to trade with the natives. They rendezvoused again in December 1613.

Governors Island is therefore the crossroad of three cultures. It carries a meaning of historic as well as cultural importance to the descendants of three continents; Europeans, Africans and American Indians.

The Island being the region's historical crossroad of three cultures and the original center for European trade with the Hudson Valley natives since 1610, a museum of human servitude focusing on the Atlantic arena of the period prior to the 18th-century and its modern equivalent (contemporary civil liberties) will be a vital component of the 50-acre living museum park-to-tolerance.

Namely, in a historical context, liberty for the African-American population has been mostly an undefined, abstract concept until 1964—specifically, in an intolerant society, the fixed notion of simple or static freedom is of little consequence.

The Tolerance Park with the Tolerance Monument as centerpiece will demonstrate thus that tolerance is an active attitude prompted by recognizing the fundamental freedom of others. It is harmony in difference—an indispensable realization in a pluralistic society.



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* – WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
Tolerance Monument THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
(212) 737-3216 T

September 11, 2012

The Hon. Janet DiFiore
Chair, JCOPE
NY State Joint Commission on Public Ethics
540 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Re: **“Trust comes through knowledge and transparency”**

Dear Ms. DiFiore,

As it is your highest priority to promote transparency in public service, will you and your JCOPE colleagues be able and willing to analyze or investigate the following matter?

It must be of JCOPE’s interest to know that for about 15 years we have conveyed the core message of the state’s birthplace to every politician – full-time.

This educational process was undertaken in order to seek their public acknowledgment of the state’s place of birth – Governors Island – as a national symbol because it carries a judicial message of historic substance that lies at the foundation of American liberty. Their hoped-for interest was to restore and reveal a fundamental American value critical to social cohesion of America’s future generations (see on reverse and 1/23/11 to Governor Cuomo.)

Yet, as of 1998, the NY State Legislature and Executive Branch – even after the state received sole jurisdiction over the Island on February 1, 2003 – have remained mute about our copious requests for dialogue pertaining to the re-utilization of the Island on which the state’s earliest laws were planted in 1624 (see e.g., 12/9/11 to Governor Cuomo.)

Why precisely politicians have repudiated New York’s birthright or felt compelled to steadfastly ignore any knowledge in the matter is inexplicable. Their implicit rejection through silent voices is a profound mystery to us.

What could possibly be the seminal reason for their code of silence and individual conduct (see e.g., 3/28/2000 to NY Magazine and 4/12/10 to Speaker Silver)?

Could you tell us **why** exactly our efforts have not been deserving of dialogue or even one single substantive response (see The Past, 1995- 2005), **why** political recognition of the Island’s national legacy may not be considered in the nation’s public interest or for the common good (see 9/9/12 and 8/24/12 letters to minority leaders Sampson and Kolb)?

To restore public trust in government, can you help clear 15 years of political opaqueness?



cc: JCOPE Executive Vice President **Ellen N. Biben**; Sincerely,

Committee Members: Mr. **Ravi Batra**, Mr. **Patrick J. Bulgaro**, Hon. **Joseph Covello**, Hon. **Vincent DeLorino**, Ms. **Mitra Hormozi**, Mr. **Daniel J. Horwitz**, Mr. **Marvin E. Jacob**, Mr. **Seymour Knox, IV**, Mr. **Gary J. Lavine**, Hon. **Mary Lou Rath**, Mr. **David A. Renzi**, Mr. **George H. Weissman**, Ms. **Ellen Yaroshefsky**; NY State Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**; NY State Attorney General **Eric T. Schneiderman**

Joep de Koning
www.TolerancePark.org
www.ToleranceMonument.org

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September 11, 2012

Senator John L. Sampson
 Senate Minority Leader
 LOB 907
 Albany, NY 12247

Representative Brian M. Kolb
 Assembly Minority Leader
 LOB 933
 Albany, NY 12248

Re: **Naming of a section of “open green space” on NY State’s birthplace**

Dear Senator Sampson and Representative Kolb,

I am referring to my August 24 letter to you in which I asked whether you would be willing to sponsor legislation which honors the central tenet of New York State’s earliest laws — now inseparable from and inexorably tied to the conception of American freedom — by **having the legislature name the planned park on Governors Island “Tolerance Park.”**

You may agree that there are only two roads that lead to the enduring preservation of American liberty as we know it:

- (1) Actively upholding and protecting the individual liberties which the American Constitution afford us through conscious vigilance and broad awareness of liberty’s fundamental principle of Tolerance — a reciprocal dynamic; or
- (2) denying the individual liberties of those we don’t like or who appear different through stigmatization or stereotyping, and instilling fear and hatred in order to exude dominance by promoting division, exclusion, discrimination, social immobility and violence (i.e., marginalization, dehumanization or elimination through Intolerance.)

The latter will create social disorder and a permanent, angry underclass whereas the **common theme of Tolerance** would, through “broad awareness and conscious vigilance,” uphold our Constitutional liberties along America’s ethos of equality and liberty-for-all.

Doubtless, you understand that **in America – a secular, democratic republic – civil policy and civil law supersede religious policy and religious law.** Religion is thus subordinate to the state. This fixed relationship can’t be reversed in the name of freedom of religion as the secular state cannot be held hostage by religion, religious traditions, conduct or compulsion.

It is this Tolerance message which is the foundation of American Liberty and which lies behind this request to have the state name the planned “open green space” on Governors Island — New York State’s birthplace in 1624 — “Tolerance Park.”

Will you be willing to act to make this happen or can help make this happen?



National Heritage Triangle

bcc: NY State Governor **Andrew M. Cuomo**, Lieutenant Governor **Robert J. Duffy**; NY State **Joint Commission on Public Ethics**: Hon. Janet DiFiore, Mr. Ravi Batra, Mr. Patrick J. Bulgarelli, Hon. Joseph Covello, Hon. Vincent DeLorio, Mr. Mitra Hormozi, Mr. Daniel J. Horwitz, Mr. Martin E. Jacob, Mr. Seymour Knox, IV, Mr. Gary J. Lavine, Hon. Mary Lou Rath, Mr. David A. Renzi, Mr. George H. Weissman, Ms. Ellen Yaroshefsky, Ms. Ellen N. Biben; NY State Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**; NY State Attorney General **Eric T. Schneiderman**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
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www.ToleranceWalk.com

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September 11, 2012

Senator Dean G. Skelos
Senate Majority Leader
LOB 909
Albany, NY 12247

Representative Sheldon Silver
Assembly Speaker
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Re: **Naming of a section of "open green space" on New York State's birthplace**

Dear Majority Leader Skelos and Speaker Silver,

In 2002 the legislature identified and accepted Governors Island as New York State's birthplace with its embedded message of [religious] tolerance (NY State Resolution No. 2708 and NY Assembly Resolution No. 5476.)

In support of that jurisprudential contribution of toleration – first introduced in the New World on Governors Island in 1624 – would you be interested in leading the legislature and have it only assign the appellation "Tolerance Park" to 50-plus acres out of 87 acres of "open green space" as currently planned for the State's birthplace?*

A draft resolution for that purpose is enclosed.

For the legislature to name a section of "open green space" on the State's birthplace would be to recognize New York's birthright as the nation's primary value and America's ultimate virtue.

Would you be willing to sponsor legislation which honors thus the central tenet of New York State's earliest laws – now inseparable from and inexorably tied to the conception of American freedom – by naming the planned park "Tolerance Park"?

I look forward to hearing from you.



National Heritage Triangle

bcc: NY State Governor **Andrew M. Cuomo**; U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; NYS Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**, Manhattan District Attorney, **Cyrus Vance, Jr.**; Albany County District Attorney, **P. David Soares**; Secretary of State **John F. Kerry**, Spokesperson **Jennifer Psaki**, Ambassador-at-Large **Suzan Johnson Cook**, Special Envoy **Ira N. Forman**; Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Interior Department Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; GSA Inspector General **Brian Miller**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

President@TolerancePark.org
(212) 737-3216
www.TolerancePark.org
www.ToleranceMonument.org
www.ToleranceWalk.com

**PS; It should be emphasized that the Tolerance Park Foundation has no longer any interest in influencing or helping to influence any aspect of the Island's re-utilization or its content. It would be satisfied with just the legislative naming of 50-plus contiguous acres of whatever park with the appellation "Tolerance Park" in acknowledgment of the Island's inheritance, the meaning of its intrinsic message in the conception of American freedom and the significance of its national symbolism.

* THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC, THEMATIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: **THE LIFE BLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.**

Draft (September 11, 2012)
State of New York
Legislative Resolution

Senate No.

Assembly No.

BY:

BY:

WHEREAS, The jurisprudence of religious tolerance (“Toleration”) was first introduced into the New World on Governors Island in May of the year 1624. It applied to the region on America’s East coast between 38 and 42 degrees latitude; and

WHEREAS, That juridical principle of Toleration derived from the laws and ordinances of the Dutch Republic whose 1579 founding document stated “*that everyone shall remain free in religion and that no one may be persecuted or investigated because of religion;*” and

WHEREAS, New York’s earliest laws were delivered with the official Instructions to the first settlers who disembarked on Governors Island in 1624 now situated in the sovereignty of New York State (formerly the juridical entity of New Netherland.) These pioneers had to attract natives and non-believers to God’s word “*through attitude and by example...without, on the other hand, to persecute someone by reason of his religion and to leave everyone the freedom of his conscience.*” Furthermore, these civil regulations were expressly incorporated by reference in the Instructions to the settlers and were accompanied by hard copies of common law as codified in 1587. These events imbued Governors Island with symbolic significance forever; and

WHEREAS, That jurisprudence was the basis for religious, ethnic and national diversity in what is now the New York Tri-State region. It produced Manhattan’s first Muslim [Moroccan] farmer in the 1630’s whereas 18 languages were already spoken in 1643; and

WHEREAS, In 1791, the Bill of Rights prohibited the U.S. Congress of making any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. In 1868, upon subordinating state rights in the matter, that promise was rendered effective for all religious devotees in the United States by eradicating the concepts of state, privileged or preferred religions thus. It made all religions “equal and free” under the U.S. Constitution. By similarly extrapolating that notion to ethnicity and race, the U.S. Constitution guarantees all religious, ethnic and racial groups and their adherents/members to be equal and free as per Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, As part of the “*foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,*” the just precept of tolerance was adapted by the United Nations under its Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 under Article 26-2: “*Education...shall promote...tolerance...among all nations, racial or religious groups;*” and

WHEREAS, New York State Assembly and Senate Resolutions No. 2708 and 5476 recognized “*the official place and year-of-birth of the State of New York as being Governors Island in the year 1624*” whereas New York State’s birthright of the “*legal-political guaranty of tolerance*” was accepted as “*having had a profound and enduring impact on New York’s unique cultural heritage;*” and

WHEREAS, The State of New York received sole authority over Governors Island for one dollar from the federal government on January 31, 2003. The NY State agency GIPEC, a subsidiary of the State’s Empire State Development Corporation, became the Island’s new owner. Jurisdictional transfer was contingent upon 60 acres being set aside for park land; and

WHEREAS, New York State transferred control over Governors Island to New York City in the name of preserving "*open and recreational space*" in April 2010. In July 2010, the New York City agency Trust for Governors Island became entrusted with the Island's development plans for 150 acres including a "*Park and Public Space Master Plan for 87 acres of open green space;*" and

WHEREAS, NY City Mayor Michael Bloomberg declared in July 2010 that "*Governors Island can become one of the world's greatest public places, and we're committed to making it happen.*" In August 2010 he delivered a speech from Governors Island and said: "*We've come here to Governors Island where the seeds of religious tolerance were first planted;*" and

WHEREAS, NY City Mayor Michael Bloomberg proclaimed in May 2012 that "*Governors Island is the centerpiece of our efforts to revitalize New York City's waterfront*" and announced the start of the first phase of the Island's development: "*30 acres of new formal gardens, lawns and play areas, including a hammock grove and two ball fields;*" and

WHEREAS, Governors Island imparts the momentous message of Toleration and carries therefore a legacy of national substance – the nation's earliest juridical precepts of freedom of conscience and religious tolerance. At the foundation of the notion of American freedom –comprising religious, ethnic and racial liberty – lies the universal value and contemporary principle of tolerance. In its purest form, the reciprocal dynamic of tolerance is inclusive and doesn't know a privileged religion, preferred ethnicity or superior race; and

WHEREAS, The sovereignty of the State of New York remains the ultimate owner of Governors Island and as landlord of its declared birthplace – doubtless its most historic landmark – wields influential power over the Island. The lawful authority to name or rename the Island or any of its sections is for that reason vested in the State Legislature; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body is interested in preserving the eminence of Governors Island's historic message of tolerance as being of both historical, contemporary and prospective significance to humanity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body likes to safeguard Governors Island's embedded thematic and cultural relevance to future generations of New Yorkers irrespective of whatever developments are contemplated or will be executed by New York City or New York State, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to recognize Governors Island's natural national symbolism by naming 50-plus contiguous acres of the currently planned 87 acres of open and green space to "Tolerance Park" as the permanent illustration of the Island's inimitable inheritance to New Yorkers specifically and in honor of the Island's acknowledged ethos to all the nation's citizens generally.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON

By order of the Senate,

xx, 2012

By: Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos

ADOPTED IN ASSEMBLY ON

By order of the Assembly,

Xxx, 2012

By: Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
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The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, New York State
State Capitol
Albany, N.Y. 12224

December 9, 2011

New York State's Oldest Laws and New York State's Birthplace

Dear Mr. Governor,

Within the context of the 1624 birth on Governors Island of what is now the sovereignty of New York State, the Island carries a judicial message of historic substance and 21st-century pertinence.

As a man of the law, you may appreciate that **New York State's oldest laws** were delivered with the first settlers to Governors Island in 1624 and 1625. They were instructed to use the laws and ordinances of the States of Holland and Zeeland which applied to the entire NY Tri-State territory between 38 and 42 degrees latitude thus. These instructions transformed that region into the juridical entity of New Netherland in 1624 (now the sovereignty of New York State) from previously a place for private trade where just the law of the ship applied to private traders only.

Those injunctions were the colonists' sole legal guidance until October 13, 1629, and contained specifically a prohibition "*to pass any new laws or ordinances or to sanction any new custom*" and to "*observe and obey*"... "*the ordinances and customs of [the provinces of] Holland and Zeeland and the common written law qualifying them.*" Settlers were to follow "*the administration of justice, in matters concerning marriages, the settlement of estates and contracts*" and "*intestate estates, the placard issue by their great Mightinesses the States of Holland in the year 1587.*"

In addition to these explicitly stated regulations, **all such laws and ordinances had been incorporated by reference in the Instructions which were accompanied by some hard copies as noted in the statement that "some copies of which are sent to him herewith."**

I hope you will understand that New York State's oldest laws and ordinances included the jurisprudence of religious tolerance which affected New York's culture uniquely.

May the year 2012 be the year in which you will recognize New York State's birthplace in the year 1624 as the North-American source of the universal value of [religious] tolerance. Governors Island is imbued therefore with tremendous symbolic meaning to humanity. **Only you can help break thirteen years of legislative silence.**



National Heritage Triangle

cc: NYS Senate Majority Leader **Dean G. Skelos**; NYS Assembly Speaker **Sheldon Silver**; Lieut. Governor **Robert Duffy**; U.S. President **Barack Obama**; U.S. Vice President **Joseph Biden Jr.**; Interior Dept. Secretary **Ken Salazar**; NPS Director **Jonathan Jarvis**; NPS NE Director **Dennis Reidenbach**; NPS NYC Superintendent **Patti Kelly**; Education Secretary **Arne Duncan**; Commerce Secretary **Gary Locke**; Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**; Hon. Chair, Preserve America, First Lady **Michelle Obama**; ACHP Chairman **Millford Wayne Donaldson**; ACHP Executive Director **John Fowler**; NTPP President **Stephanie Meeks**; 12 members **NYS Executive Office**; NYS Attorney General **Eric Schneiderman**; State Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**; U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.**; Albany County District Attorney, **P. David Soares**, Oct. 2012; NY State **Joint Commission on Public Ethics**; Its 14 members, 2013; Secretary of State **John F. Kerry**, Spokesperson **Jennifer Psaki**, Ambassador-at-Large **Suzan Johnson Cook**, Special Envoy **Ira N. Forman**

Best wishes,

Joep de Koning

www.ToleranceMonument.org

www.TolerancePark.org

www.ToleranceWalk.com

www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com

www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org

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August 18, 2011

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, New York State
State Capitol
Albany, N.Y. 12224

**Your deliberation with regard to legislation
unveiling NY State's birthright.**

Dear Mr. Governor,

We would be most interested in knowing whether you would contemplate introducing the required legislation that would set aside 50 acres (30%) of **NY State's birthplace** in order to expose **NY State's birthright** as of **NY State's year of birth in 1624**.

We have asked Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke to support such legislative action in the national interest through *Preserve America*. His assist in the recognition of NY State's most significant feature of its birthplace could result in a best possible contribution to the State's and City's economies while benefiting the development of diverse NY State and NY City heritage tourism programs (see our letter on the reverse.)

We have similarly requested all 32 members of the State Legislative Committees on Tourism and Parks to support such legislation.

We look forward to hearing from you.



National Heritage Triangle

cc: Lieutenant Governor **Robert Duffy**; Secretary to the Governor **Larry Schwartz**; Executive Deputy Secretary **Joseph Percoco**; Counsel to the Governor **Myron Denerstein**; Counselor to the Governor, **Andrew Zambelli**; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, **Jerem Creelan**; Special Policy Adviser, **Adam Cohen**; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs **James Malatras**; ccc: NYS Legislature's **31 members of the Tourism and Parks Committees**; Secretary of Commerce **Gary Locke**; Founder, Preserve America and U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**; Honorary Chair, Preserve America, First Lady **Michelle Obama**; U.S. President **Barack Obama**. Bcc July 2013: Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Interior Department Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; GSA Inspector General **Brian Miller**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

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The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor, New York State
 State Capitol
 Albany, N.Y. 12224

March 8, 2011

Yoke of Oxen named Tolerance and Liberty pulling Freedom Cart to Eternal Unity

Dear Mr. Governor,

Since 1998 we have sought the Governor's understanding of the historic significance of New York State's birthplace and birth year — Governors Island, 1624.

The dearth of responses may suggest your aversion to restoring and preserving the Island's national symbolism through the visualization of its innate message which is vital in the definition and defense of American Freedom.

During these years we've solicited interest by focusing on (i) educating three key jurisdictions — Washington, DC; Albany, NY; and New York City — and (ii) seeking POLITICAL

- (1) recognition of Governors Island as the New World's location on which the jurisprudence of toleration (religious tolerance) as an individual liberty was placed first in the year 1624;
- (2) acknowledgment that, with respect to religion, ethnicity and race, the reciprocal dynamic of Tolerance is the antecedent of Liberty-for-all — that therefore the precepts Tolerance and Liberty are conjoined in the conception of American Freedom;
- (3) acceptance of Governors Island's historic message which, when politically exposed, would confirm that Tolerance is the Lifeblood-of-American-Liberty;
- (4) appreciation of the Island's **unique** place in American history as the best planned landing — out of three principal seventeenth-century European landings on North America's East Coast — that brought an enduring message of jurisprudential and cultural substance to North America and which is of profound 21st-century relevance and meaning;
- (5) endorsement of the Island's national symbolism in order to compose a triad of iconic island symbols in New York Harbor portraying Welcome (i.e., Ellis Island — American Immigration Museum) as the thematic result of Liberty (i.e., Liberty Island — Statue of Liberty) and Liberty as the thematic product of Tolerance (i.e., Governors Island — with Barnett Newman's 150 feet high iconic image as centerpiece of the Tolerance Park;) and
- (6) support for instilling confidence in the dependable and binding power of Tolerance as indispensable in the concept of American Freedom by visually revealing the Island's innate theme of national import and symbolic worth to humanity thus composing a harbor tableau of primary iconic values: The National Heritage Triangle (www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com.)

We hope that the above synopsis of the rationale for the reutilization of the State's birthplace as a destination-for-all-Americans may help you collaborate and cooperate keenly across jurisdictions in order to determine the efficacy of the envisaged National Heritage Triangle tableau.



cc: President **Barack Obama**; Preserve America Honorary Chair and First Lady **Michelle Obama**; Chief of Staff **William Daley**; Vice President **Joseph Biden Jr.**, National Security Advisor **Thomas Donilon**; Deputy National Security Advisor **Denis McDonough**; Senior Adviser **David Plouffe**; Senior Adviser **Vernie E. Smith**; Domestic Policy Council Director **Melody Barnes**; Communications Director **Daniel Pfeiffer**; Press Secretary **Jay Carney**; Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**; Chief of Staff to Secretary of State **Cheryl Mills**; Interior Secretary **Ken Salazar**; NPS Director **Jonathan B. Jarvis**; NPS Regional Director **Dennis Reidenbach**; ACHP Chairman **Milford Wayne Donaldson**; ACHP Executive Director **John M. Fowler**; NTHP President **Stephan Meeks**; Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan**; Counsel to the President **Robert Bauer**, U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. **Preet Bharara**; NYS Senate Majority Leader **Dean Skelos**; NYS Assembly Speaker **Sheldon Silver**, NYC Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**, First Deputy Mayor **Patricia Harris**; Deputy Mayors **Robert K. Steel**, **Carol Robles-Roman**, **Howard Wolfson**, **Stephen Goldsmith**, **Dennis Walcott**; NY City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn**, All NY City Council members; Rubenstein Associates; President **Howard Rubenstein**; - August 2011, NY State Legislative Tourism Committee members: **Betty Little**,

Eric Adams, Greg Ball, John Bonacic, Thomas Duane, Patrick Gallivan, Joseph Griffo, Mark Grisanti, Timothy Kennedy, Jeffrey Klein, Carl Marcellino, Patty Ritchie, José Serrano, David Valesky, Margaret Markey, Ken Blankenbush, John Ceretto, Christopher Friend, Dennis Gabryszak, Aileen Gunther, Sean Hanna, Guillermo Linares, John McEneny, Steven McLaughlin, Dean Murray, Daniel O'Donnell, Bob Reilly, Naomi Rivera, Samuel Roberts, Linda Rosenthal, Teresa Sayward, Matthew Titone; Lieutenant Governor **Robert Duffy**; Secretary to the Governor **Larry Schwartz**; Executive Deputy Secretary **Joseph Perocco**; Counsel to the Governor **Mylan Denerstein**; Counselor to the Governor, **Andrew Zambelli**; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, **Jeremy Creelan**; Special Policy Adviser, **Adam Cohen**; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs **James Malatras**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com
www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org
www.TolerancePark.org
www.ToleranceMonument.org

WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM



The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, New York State
State Capitol
Albany, N.Y. 12224

January 24, 2011

“I work for the people of the State of New York. That’s where I work for. I work for the people. I don’t work for the special interests. I don’t work for the lobbyists. I work for the people.”

(NY State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, January 1, 2011)

Dear Mr. Governor,

As the birthplace of the sovereignty named New York State, control over Governors Island can be recaptured by **the State—the Island’s owner**—from the special interests and lobbyists who have repudiated its meaning to the citizens of the State and the nation.

It would require your leadership to take Governors Island's historic message and national symbolism back from the local special interests for the benefit of **all New York State citizens if not all Americans.**

On April 11, 2010, the Assembly renounced its responsibility to “*the people of the State of New York*” after having spent hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars on financially indefensible, futile plans devised and/or influenced by a small handful of local political powers and [community] activists and their friends.

The Assembly Speaker, in whose lower-Manhattan district the Island is situated since January 2003, surrendered State control over the Island to the City’s powers in the name of preserving “*open and recreational space.*” Rather than safeguarding the Island’s national thematic worth in the conception of American freedom and of historical and educational substance, he handed the State’s birthplace to the City on the basis that “*I and most of the lower Manhattan community had identified [it] of long as critical to the quality of life in our community.*” Never mind that for centuries his district’s constituents had no access to the Island and that with regard to the earlier development of **Roosevelt** Island there had been no Manhattan community which got to reserve it as “*critical to their quality of life*” on Manhattan.

The State Senate and the State’s Executive Branch went apparently along indifferently with the Speaker’s wish thus abdicating their responsibility to “*the people of the State of New York.*” Consequently, New York State appears to have nullified its interest in its most important historic landmark. You may conclude, like us, that the City is not the preferred place where the State's interest is served best or the State’s cultural heritage is assured to be upheld for the long term good of “*the people of the State of New York.*”

(Please, turn over)



WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

You know that the State received the Island for a nominal sum from the federal government on the basis of an "education dedication" by the White House on April 1, 2002. This would have allowed our Preservation and Education Project to go forward. Eight years later however, the Speaker's insistence on "open and recreational space" for his lower-Manhattan friends has disregarded this education dedication. He also ignored the exceptional tangible tourism value and the invaluable global branding opportunity that would accrue to the State (and City) from the proposed high-visibility Tolerance Park situated in a National Heritage Triangle of America's fundamental values in New York Harbor (see the enclosed letter to Senator DeFrancisco of May 2001.)

Only you, therefore, can provide the leadership required to help visualize the State's momentous message on the place of its birth on behalf of "the people of the State of New York." You would need to be willing however to recognize New York State's primary history of vital thematic and national importance and to utilize your "real power...to mobilize the people of the State of New York" (Inaugural Address of January 1, 2011.)

In your State of the State Address of January 5, 2011, you pledged to transform the State government into one "of performance, integrity and pride..." We agree that "The New York State Legislature is the best legislature historically in the nation, the most talented people, that's, that's who we are..." (see Addendum of Religious Freedom.) Like you, "We want a government that puts the people first and not the special interests first."

Please let us know if we can be of any further help in realizing this tribute to New York State's primary credo of Tolerance from which America's twin credo of Liberty germinated. Only then will the yoke of oxen (Tolerance and Liberty) pulling the cart of American Freedom to eternal unity become visible for the benefit of our grandchildren.



National Heritage Triangle

cc: Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy; Secretary to the Governor Steven Cohen; Chief of Staff of the Governor Benjamin Lawsky; Counsel to the Governor Mylan Denerstein; Counselor to the Governor, Andrew Zambelli; Senior Advisor to the Governor, Larry Schwartz; Director of State Operations, Howard Glaser; Appointments Secretary, Leslie Leach; Chief Diversity Officer, Yrthya Dinzey-Flores; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, Jeremy Creelan; Special Policy Adviser, Adam Cohen; Executive Deputy Secretary Joseph Percoco; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs James Malatras; Communications Director Rich Bamberger; Deputy Communications Director Joe Vlasto. bcc: Preserve America Honorary Chair and First Lady Michelle Obama; U.S. President Barack Obama; Vice President Joseph Biden Jr., Chief of Staff William Daley; Senior Adviser David Plouffe; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis; NPS Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach; ACHP Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson; ACHP Executive Director John M. Fowler; NTHP President Stephanie Meeks; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; Counsel to the President Robert Bauer, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. Preet Bharara, NYS Attorney General

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

President, The Tolerance Park Foundation
(212) 737-3216

President@TolerancePark.org
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com
www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org
www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com
www.ToleranceWalk.com
www.LifebloodofAmericanLiberty.com

Eric Schneiderman; NY State Parks Commissioner Rose H. Harvey; NY State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Chair Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, M.D.; ESDC President and CEO Kenneth Adams; State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; First Deputy Comptroller Pete Grannis; U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice; Manhattan District Attorney, Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.; Albany County District Attorney, P. David Soares, Esq.; August 2011 - NY State Legislative Tourism Committee members: Betty Little, Eric Adams, Greg Ball, John Bonacic, Thomas Duane, Patrick Gallivan, Joseph Griffo, Mark Grisanti, Timothy Kennedy, Jeffrey Klein, Carl Marcellino, Patty Ritchie, José Serrano, David Vatesky, Margaret Markey, Ken Blankenbush, John Ceretto, Christopher Friend, Dennis Gabryszak, Aileen Gunther, Sean Hanna, Guillermo Linares, John McEneny, Steven McLaughlin, Dean Murray, Daniel O'Donnell, Bob Reilly, Naomi Rivera, Samuel Roberts, Linda Rosenthal, Teresa Sayward, Matthew Titone

Encl. Addendum Religious Tolerance, New York State
May 4, 2001 letter to the Tourism Chair, Senator John A. DeFrancisco

* THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL, THEMATIC INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: THE LIFE BLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
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WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Esquire
 NYS Attorney General and Governor-elect
 State Capitol, 2nd Floor
 Albany, N.Y. 12224-0341

December 13, 2010

—Full Circle Prognosis of Local Activist Takeover of Governors Island—

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

In the year 2010, our prophesy of more than ten years ago was fulfilled (see the reverse.) Is there a chance that, as yet, you may be able and willing to unwind the local interests' seizure of this implicit national symbol in the year 2011?

Governors Island's owner—the State of New York—abdicated its responsibility for its most historic landmark with its unique message of momentous American and universal value—its birthplace—and surrendered the development of its iconic island to the control of New York City.

New York State's governor and legislature thus succumbed to local special, commercial and activist interests rather than upholding and defending the Island's national symbolism in the composition of American freedom where liberty-for-all (Liberty Island) is contingent on the precept of tolerance as a reciprocal dynamic (Tolerance Park/Governors Island.)

New York City is now calling the Island a "unique landmark" in its literature. Yet, the City is unable to explain why the Island is a landmark or why it is unique (i.e., how the Island differs from all-purpose islands like, e.g., Randalls, Roosevelt or Coney Islands.)**

The thematically unified visions of (a) *Creative Vision Statement of Masterpiece*; and (b) *Magnum Opus of the Tolerance Park* as described on www.tolerancepark.org/id2.html are thus circumvented. Accordingly, the Island has been deliberately stripped by NY State of its national historical significance and its undeniable status as earliest historic landmark.

We look forward to hearing from you how we can collaborate and cooperate with you in restoring and preserving the Island's historical integrity for the benefit of future generations of Americans and, more particularly, New York State's citizens.



cc: Counsel to the President Robert Bauer; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. Preet Bharara; NYS AG Counselor and Chief of Staff Steven Cohen; NY State Attorney General-elect Eric Schneiderman; NY State Inspector General Joseph Fish; Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.; Albany District Attorney P. David Soares; U.S. President Barack Obama; White House Chief of Staff Peter Rouse; U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden Jr.; Mr. Ronald Klain; U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Ms. Cheryl Mills; Director Domestic Policy Council Melody Barnes; Senior Adviser David Axelrod; Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett; Press Secretary Robert Gibbs; Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Stephanie Meeks; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: Milford Wayne Donaldson, Chairman and John Fowler, Executive Director; February, 2011. bcc: NYS Legislature's Tourism-Parks Committees: Senators Betty Little, Eric Adams, Greg Ball, Thomas K. Duane, Pat Gallivan, Joseph A. Griffo, Mark Grisanti, Timothy M. Kennedy, Liz Krueger, Thomas F. O'Mara, Carl L. Marcellino, Patty Ritchie, Toby Ann Stavisky, José M. Serrano; Representatives Steve Englebright, Jonathan Bing, Dennis Gabryszak, Aileen Gunther, Stephen Hawley, Sam Hoyt, Margaret Markey, John McEneny, Dean Murray, Daniel O'Donnell, Annie Rabbitt, Bob Reilly, Naomi Rivera, Linda Rosenthal, Teresa Sayward, Matthew Titone.

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

President, The Tolerance Park Foundation
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com
www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org
www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com
www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org
www.TolerancePark.org
www.ToleranceWalk.org

**FROM: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/panyc/form.shtml>: The Trust for Governors Island has allocated approximately \$30 million for the first phase of construction of new park and public spaces on Governors Island. The design by West 8, which includes brand new public spaces and restored historic landscapes, accentuates the special qualities of this unique place while transforming Governors Island into a destination and landmark...Public art will be essential to the visitor experience and the very character of the new park and public spaces...In conjunction with the Trust, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Percent for Art Program is seeking submissions by artists who wish to be considered for the commission of a permanent work of art within this first phase of park construction on Governors Island. The successful artist or artists must be experienced, professional and have the ability to work well with a team of City agencies. The selection of the winning artist(s) will be made according to the procedures of the Percent for Art program.

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September 2012 – NY State Joint Commission on Public Ethics: Hon. Janet DiFiore, Ms. Ellen N. Biben, Mr. Ravi Batra, Mr. Patrick J. Bulgaro, Hon. Joseph Covello, Hon. Vincent DeLorio, Ms. Mitra Hormozi, Mr. Daniel J. Horwitz, Mr. Marvin E. Jacob, Mr. Seymour Knox, IV, Mr. Gary J. Lavine, Hon. Mary Lou Rath, Mr. David A. Renzi, Mr. George H. Weissman, Ms. Ellen Yaroshefsky; NY State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; NY State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. December 13, 2010. [bce](#); NYS Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo; Counsel to the President Robert Bauer; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. Preet Bharara; NYS AG Counselor and Chief of Staff Steven Cohen; NY State Attorney General-elect Eric Schneiderman; NY State Inspector General Joseph Fisch; Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.; Albany District Attorney P. David Soares; U.S. President Barack Obama; White House Chief of Staff Peter Rouse; U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden Jr.; Mr. Ronald Klain; U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Ms. Cheryl Mills; Director Domestic Policy Council Melody Barnes; Senior Adviser David Axelrod; Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett, Press Secretary Robert Gibbs; Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Stephanie Meeks; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: Milford Wayne Donaldson, Chairman and John Fowler, Executive Director. February, 2011. [bce](#); NYS Legislature's Tourism-Parks Committees: Senators Betty Little, Eric Adams, Greg Ball, Thomas K. Duane, Pat Gallivan, Joseph A. Griffo, Mark Grisanti, Timothy M. Kennedy, Liz Krueger, Thomas F. O'Mara, Carl L. Marcellino, Patty Ritchie, Toby Ann Stavisky, José M. Serrano; Representatives Steve Englebright, Jonathan Bing, Dennis Gabryszak, Aileen Gunther, Stephen Hawley, Sam Hoyt, Margaret Markey, John McEneny, Dean Murray, Daniel O'Donnell, Annie Rabbitt, Bob Reilly, Naomi Rivera, Linda Rosenthal, Teresa Sayward, Matthew Titone. December 2010. [bce](#); U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. Preet Bharara; NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo; NYS AG Counselor and Chief of Staff Steven M. Cohen; NY State Attorney General-elect Eric T. Schneiderman; NY State Inspector General Joseph Fisch; Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.; Albany District Attorney P. David Soares; U.S. President Barack Obama; White House Chief of Staff Peter Rouse; U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden Jr.; U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis; National Trust for Historic Preservation: Stephanie Meeks; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: Milford Wayne Donaldson, Chairman and John Fowler, Executive Director. September 2010. [bce](#); Via postal Service: Counsel to the President Robert F. Bauer; Special Counsel to the President for Ethics Norman Eisen; Principal Deputy Counsel to the President Daniel Meltzer; Deputy Counsel to the President Mary DeRosa, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr., White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, Mr. Sean Sweeney, Mr. Jim Messina, Ms. Mona Sutphen, Ms. Alejandra Campoverdi, Director Domestic Policy Council Melody Barnes, Ms. Heather Higginbottom, Senior Adviser David Axelrod, Mr. Eric Lesser, Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett, Senior Adviser Peter Rouse, Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, Ms. Jen Psaki, Mr. F. Michael Kelleher, Communications Director Daniel Pfeiffer, Mr. Patrick Gaspard, Mr. Jonathan Favreau, Ms. Elizabeth Jarvis-Shean, Mr. Ronald A. Klain, Mr. Jay Carney, Mr. Herbie Ziskend, Ms. Cheryl Mills, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice. July 2013; Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz; NY State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. Richard Hartunian; Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes; Interior Department Inspector General Mary Kendall; Acting GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini; GSA Inspector General Brian Miller; Commission to Investigate Public Corruption Co-Chairs Kathleen Rice, William J. Fitzpatrick, Milton L. Williams, Jr.; JCOPE Chair Daniel Horwitz

Education and History Committee					
Dr. Charles T. Gehring Director, New Netherland Project, NYS Library Albany, New York	Dr. Oliver Rink, Author Chairman, History Dept. California State University Bakersfield, California	Dr. Patricia Bonomi Author, Chairman Emeritus, History Dept. New York University	Dr. Leo Hershkowitz Prof. History Dept. Queens College New York City	Dr. Firth Fabend Prize winning author Colonial Historian Upper Montclair, NJ	Dr. Joyce D. Goodfriend Author Prof. History Department University of Denver, CO

Mr. Joseph Giovannini
c/o New York Magazine
140 East 40th Street
New York, NY 10016

March 28, 2000

Re: Your article in New York Magazine of April 3, 2000

Dear Mr. Giovannini,

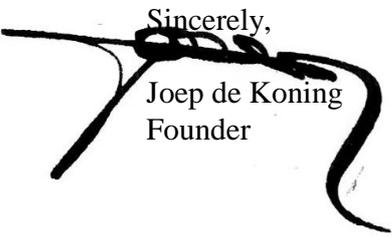
Your analysis of what's going on with Governors Island is right on. Indeed, the promulgated plans lack a big picture. The city's efforts in particular are undertaken to serve its local and private interests, to please its immediate special constituents and thus to obtain the island for one dollar from the federal government. In other words, its design for the island is no less than a meaningless, short-term, discombobulated give-away that is politically expedient and that has no message of national import.

For that reason, the city has been mute for two years about the enclosed presentation which is merely a sampling of the most relevant letters. Its lack of consideration or courtesy has been absolute. **The city doesn't want a plan for Governors Island that can resonate within a larger whole; i.e., it isn't interested in the big picture, as you so eloquently wrote, because its current design is thought up by people beholden to the city's public officials and power structure.** Bureaucrats are not traditionally thought of as people that have grand visions. Working with private people who have, is not their forte.

In this situation, ironically, **politicians who are meant to perform a public service are putting their private interests first in working with architects, consultants, contractors, builders and their immediate [local] constituents for private gain.** On the other hand, our private efforts have been primarily a *public service* at a private loss for the sake of making a contribution to the history of the city, the state and the nation and to present a message to the nation, if not the world, that is at least equal to the message of liberty. For these reasons alone, we haven't gotten a single beep out of the city since June 1998. Yet, to make it happen, we need the city's and the state's support.

If you believe that the enclosed presentation has some merit to be seriously considered based on the grandeur of its theme, its historical and educational significance, and the potential to create something that is as grandiose as the Statue of Liberty, we would greatly appreciate your support to help make it happen.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
Founder



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* – WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
 Tolerance Monument THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
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 (212) 737-3216 T

November 17, 2010

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Esquire The Hon. Eric T. Schneiderman, Esquire
 NY State Governor-elect NY State Attorney General-elect
 State Capitol, 2nd Floor 708 Legislative Office Building
 Albany, N.Y. 12224-0341 Albany, NY 12247

Your Interest in Political Transparency, the Public Good and the Common Interest

Dear Governor-elect Cuomo and Attorney General-elect Schneiderman,

(1) It is important for you to understand that Governors Island's national symbolic value lies in the historical fact that New York's first settlers had the lawful right to [religious] tolerance as an individual liberty as of 1624.

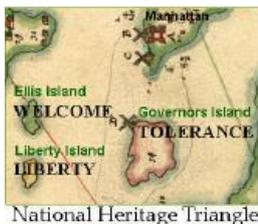
(2) It is important for you to know that the statement on the reverse – *Accomplishments, 1998-2005* – is substantiated by the enclosed correspondence with regard to: (a) the Island's dedication to education by the White House on April 1, 2002; (b) Governors Island being the State's birthplace and the origin of American tolerance in the year 1624 as promulgated by the NY State Legislature on May 30, 2002; (c) the federal reservation of 60-plus acres of land for a [tolerance] park; and (d) the transfer of federal ownership of the Island to NY State for \$1 on January 31, 2003.

The seventeenth-century right to toleration was the foundation of New York's religious and ethnic diversity. Constitutionally supported pluralism was unique in New York's formation and development when compared to its adjoining regions. It is part and parcel of New York State's cultural heritage and the City's identity. Thus did deep-rooted religious and ethnic plurality temper even the region's most intolerant periods.

We trust that, in the year 2011 as Governor and NY State Attorney General, you may take the long term interests of all NY State constituents at heart rather than the short term interests of district politics dedicated to gaining local votes. The latter has caused, thus far, the meaningless fragmentation of New York State's most important historical landmark and the nation's only natural symbol that has universal value.

Only your pro-active interest in the matter may transcend the political timidity which has been unable to counteract those forces that have refuted the weighty, neutral historical facts as stated in (1) and (2) above.

If you have any further questions or comments, please let us know.



bcc: President Barack Obama; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; Counsel to the President Robert F. Bauer; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.; U.S. Attorney S.D.N.Y. Preet Bharara; Counselor and Chief of Staff to the NYS Attorney General Steven Cohen; NY State Inspector General Joseph Fishel; Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.; Albany District Attorney P. David Soares; NYS Lieutenant Governor-elect Robert Duffy; bcc: January 2011 Legislature's Tourism-Parks Committee; Legislature's Tourism-Parks Committee; Senators Betty Little, Eric Adams, Greg Ball, Thomas K. Duane, Pat Gallivan, Joseph A. Grubbs, Mark Grisanti, Timothy M. Kennedy, Liz Krueger, Thomas F. O'Mara, Carl L. Marcellino, Patty Ritchie, David Ann Stavisky, José M. Serrano; Representatives Steve Englebright, Jonathan Bing, Dennis Gabryszak, Deen Gunther, Stephen Hawley, Sam Hoyt, Margaret Markey, John McEneny, Dean Murray, Daniel O'Donoghue, Annie Rabbitt, Bob Reilly, Naomi Rivera, Linda Rosenthal, Teresa Sayward, Matthew Titone. bcc: February 2011: Governor Andrew Cuomo; Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy; Secretary to the Governor Steven Cohen; Chief of Staff of the Governor Benjamin Lawsky; Counsel to the Governor Mylan Denerstein; Counselor to the Governor, Andrew Zambelli; Senior Advisor to the Governor Larry S. Schwartz; Director of State Operations, Howard Glaser; Appointments Secretary, Leslie Leach; Chief Diversity Officer, Yrthya Dimzey-Flores; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, Jeremy Creelan; Special Policy Adviser, Adam Cohen; Executive Deputy Secretary Joseph Perocco; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs James Malatras; Communications Director Rich Bamberger; Deputy Communications Director Josh Vlasto. bcc: December 2010: NYT: Managing Editors Jill Abramson and John Geddes, Deputy Managing Editor William Schmidt

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

President, The Tolerance Park Foundation
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com
www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org
www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com
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GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
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(212) 737-3216 T

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
New York State Attorney General
120 Broadway, 25th floor
New York, NY 10271-0332

September 29, 2010

Tolerance in Tomorrow

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

This is to ask you for a meeting on a date and place at your convenience to discuss an issue of national and New York State importance.

It pertains to the enclosed historical summary outlining the relative meaning to America of three historic landings on America's Atlantic coast. You may agree that those three footprints of the past were the foundations of the future albeit of differing importance to the Republic of the United States of America (see enclosed September 15, 2010, presentation.)

As prologue, we have enclosed some recent correspondence about what we believe is the most relevant footprint with regard to the nation's cultural history of diversity and pluralism.

Its ongoing success especially depends on conscious vigilance and broad awareness of the precept of "*tolerance as a reciprocal dynamic in the conception of American freedom.*" Its historical locus is Governors Island, New York, which intrinsically is the country's oldest, leading symbol in a triad of island symbols in New York Harbor.

This quintessential American virtue also composed the unique notion of Religious Freedom in a secular country (the United States of America) where all religions are equal and free as guaranteed by the Constitution. That this active and moral dynamic also serves an important strategic purpose we explained to President Obama on October 9, 2009, on the reverse.

I look forward to hearing from you and to having the opportunity of meeting you to discuss this further.



National Heritage Triangle

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

President, The Tolerance Park Foundation
President@TolerancePark.org
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www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org
www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com
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* THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: THE LIFE BLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.



GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
 THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION
 139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
 NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
 (212) 737-3216 T

The Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker, New York State Assembly
 The Hon. Pedro Espada Jr., Majority Leader, New York State Senate
 The Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City

April 12, 2010

RE: **New York City Takes Over NY State's Birthplace - Governors Island**
Tolerance in Tomorrow

Dear Speaker Silver, Senate Majority Leader Espada and Mayor Bloomberg,

Today, we read that New York State gave control over the future of Governors Island to New York City.

Doubtless, the immediate and physical impact of any future development is directly related to City interests. But indirectly, the Island's enduring intangible value will be priceless to the nation upon political recognition of its unique contribution to American freedom (see letter on the reverse to President **Barack Obama**.)

You are most probably aware that for the last twelve years we have dedicated ourselves to safeguarding and restoring the Island's national legacy as (a) the place on which the State's jurisprudence was placed first in 1624 and (b) as the place on which the New World's first lawful expression of religious tolerance as an individual right took place. The Island's historical importance lies thus in it being the original wellspring of New York's unique culture of religious and ethnic diversity for 386 years. The rationale for New York's cultural distinctiveness and its 21st-century relevance is summarized in the article previously sent to you.

You may recall that the original one-dollar transfer of jurisdiction over the Island was contingent upon joint State and City approval of a new use for the Island. You may therefore understand that we are a bit anxious about City control over the State's 1624 birthplace and its inheritance to the nation if not humanity (Senate Resolution No. 5476 and Assembly Resolution No. 2708.) On the other hand, City control could prove to be more effective in respecting the Island's historical substance and honoring its tangible and intangible worth vis-à-vis the meaning and understanding of American liberty: Diversity through tolerance has been the City's identity since its 1625 birth year.

Today's NY Times article quoted adviser Mitchell Moss as saying that **"There wasn't a constituency...in Albany" for the State's birthplace.** But is this true or even possible? If so, his statement is worrisome indeed. May we ask you therefore if any or all of the thirteen appointees of the new Governors Island Operating Entity are familiar with or may be supportive of the National Heritage Triangle of fundamental American values in New York Harbor?

We look forward to hearing from you.



cc: NY City First Deputy Mayor **Patricia E. Harris**; New York State Governor **David A. Paterson**; NYS Lieutenant Governor **Richard Ravitch**;
 bcc: President of the United States **Barack H. Obama**; Vice President of the United States **Joseph R. Biden Jr.**; White House Chief of Staff **Rahm Emanuel**; Senior Adviser to the President **David Axelrod**; Senior Adviser to the President **Valerie Jarrett**; White House Press Secretary **Robert Gibbs**; United States Secretary of State **Hillary R. Clinton**; US Attorney General **Eric H. Holder Jr.**; NYS Attorney General **Andrew M. Cuomo**; NYS Inspector General **Joseph Fisch**; Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.**; Albany County District Attorney **David Soares**; As e-mail attachment to ALL New York State Legislators; NY State Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

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National Heritage Triangle

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WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM



August 2010 Via Postal Service; Board of Directors of Trust for Governors Island; Ronay Menschel, Chair; Amanda Burden; Elizabeth Berger; Doug Blonsky; Mark Costello; Patti Harris; Jeffrey H. Lynford; Julie Menin; Seth Pinsky; David Saltzman; Dennis Walcott; Judy Rapfogel; Carl Weisbrod; February 2011, bcc: Governor Andrew Cuomo, Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy; Secretary to the Governor Steven Cohen; Chief of Staff of the Governor Benjamin Lawsky; Counsel to the Governor Mylan Denerstein; Counselor to the Governor, Andrew Zambelli; Senior Advisor to the Governor Larry S. Schwartz; Director of State Operations, Howard Glaser; Appointments Secretary, Leslie Leach; Chief Diversity Officer, Yrithya Dinzey-Flores; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, Jeremy Creelan; Special Policy Adviser, Adam Cohen; Executive Deputy Secretary Joseph Perocco; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs James Maltras; Communications Director Rich Bamberger; Deputy Communications Director Josh Vlasto; March 2011: House Homeland Security Committee members; November 2011: Assemblyman Christopher Friend

GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL * — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
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The Hon. Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

October 9, 2009

Tolerance in Tomorrow

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations on today's announcement that you have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. You deserve it as will be proven to mankind by the end of your presidency.

Doubtless, you will use this Prize to the greatest effect in the broad definition of world peace and in benefitting human freedom. The Prize will give you further credence and moral authority in your commitment to redefine America's relationship to the world.

In the past we have asked you for only **your endorsement of a universal value** which also happens to be a Constitutional right. Our goal is to have this civil and political ethic – tolerance – visualized on Governors Island in New York harbor because it is not only America's ultimate virtue and a central part of contemporary culture but also a legal-political imperative and critical to the success of America's, if not mankind's future. As part of the *"foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,"* the just precept of tolerance was adapted by the United Nations under its Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 under Article 26-2:

"Education...shall promote...tolerance...among all nations, racial or religious groups."

We are sure that you will concur with the notion that tolerance is an active and moral dynamic in American freedom and entails reciprocity and reciprocal respect. The twin credos of tolerance and liberty thus comprise the conception of American freedom.

We need **your endorsement of this ethical force** of tolerance which defines, sets limits and gives meaning to an otherwise undemanding "generic" or "static" liberty. Without your endorsement for the adhesive that dynamically shapes America's living mosaic, it would be hard to convince just three men at the state level to act in the interest of the national public and educational good.

Your receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize is fully compatible with your endorsement of this human ethic which would help foster a fraternity of nations while extolling America's vital role in advancing liberty in the world through the moral force of tolerance.

Will you give us your endorsement for this quintessentially American precept?



National Heritage Triangle

cc: The Hon. Rahm Emanuel, Ms. Mona Sutphen, Mr. Jim Messina, Mr. Sean Sweeney, Vice President Joseph Biden Jr., Mr. Ronald Klain, Mr. Jay Carney, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Ms. Cheryl Mills, Ms. Anne-Marie Slaughter, Ms. Lea Perez, Special Rep. Farah Pandith; Ms. Karen Chandler, Mr. Alec Ross, Mr. Jared Cohen; Mr. David Axelrod, Ms. Yvette Jarvis, Mr. Peter Rouse, Mr. Patrick Gaspard; Mr. Jonathan Favreau; Mr. Reggie Love, Ms. Katie Johnson, Ms. Lisa Brown; Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, Ms. Jen Psaki; Mr. David H. Pfiffer; Gregory Craig, Esq., Cassandra Butts, Esq., Mr. Phil Schirro, Mr. F. Michael Kelleher; Ms. Melody Barnes, Ms. Heather Higginbottom; Ms. Elizabeth Jarvis-Shean, Ms. Dana Singler, Mr. Corey Ealons, Mr. Luis Miranda; Special Envoy Rashad Hussain, Esq.; First Lady Michelle Obama; Susan Sher, Esq., Mr. David Medina, Ms. Melissa Winter, Ms. Jocelyn Frey, Mr. Lechtenberg, Ms. Camille Johnston, Ms. Katie McCormick Lelyveld, Ms. Dana Lewis, Senior Secretary Ken Salazar, Inspector General Earl Devaney; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr., Ms. Loretta King; NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; National Security Advisor James Jones; Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, Ms. Ellen Moran; General Services Administrator Paul Prouty, Mr. Barnaby Brasseux, Mr. Steve Ruggiero; bcc: American Ambassador Fay Hartog Levin; Dutch Council of State, Governing Dutch Party Leaders, Presidents Dutch Senate and House; Manhattan City Council Members Christine Quinn, Gale Brewer, Margaret Chin, Inez Dickens, Daniel Garodnick, Robert Jackson, Jessica Lappin, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Rosie Mendez, Ydanis Rodriguez; NYS Governor David Paterson; NYS Lieutenant Governor Richard Ravitch; Majority Leader NYS Senate Pedro Espada Jr.; NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; NYS Assemblyman Richard Brodsky; NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg; NYC First Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris; NYS Commission on Public Integrity members, Esq.; U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. R. Gillibrand; 28 Members of the New York State Congressional Delegation; January 2011: White House Chief of Staff William Daley, Senior Adviser David Plouffe; NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; NYS First Deputy Comptroller Pete Gramis

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
President, The Tolerance Park Foundation

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Since the credos of tolerance and liberty are conjoined partners in the conception of American freedom, we have sought the political reservation of 30% of New York State's birthplace — Governors Island — for a Tolerance Park. The Island is the jurisprudential origin of America's eternal value — religious tolerance — in the year 1624. Its cultural source is New York City — originally named New Amsterdam — which provided the foundation for ethnic diversity and pluralism thus. The 50 acres set aside for this envisaged Tolerance Park would serve as an artisan canvas featuring America's ultimate virtue through the creation of a masterpiece. At its center would be a 150 feet high Tolerance Monument exemplified by appropriating the image of Barnett Newman's sculpture *Broken Obelisk*. It had been dedicated to the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. after his assassination in 1968. This beacon will extend the boundaries of liberty for all mankind.

THE PAST, 1995-2005

- Only a definitive reutilization plan for Governors Island—mutually agreed upon by NY State and NY City **prior** to the Congressional deadline of October 1, 2001—was to avert the public auction of the island to the highest bidder by its owner, the federal government. Only prior to that legal deadline could the island be ceded to NY State/City for one dollar.
- As a consequence, on April 18, 2001, Mayor Giuliani, in a **joint** public presentation with Governor Pataki, stated definitively that “the city and state have an excellent plan for Governors Island”. That “excellent plan” was to accomplish jurisdictional transfer for \$1.
- Yet, no jurisdictional transfer happened by the legal deadline nor was there any sign that the legally required public auction was at hand. Then, on April 1, 2002, the Mayor and the Governor stated on television and in print that City University of New York (“CUNY”) facilities would be consolidated on the island as a CUNY Campus onto CUNY ISLAND.
- Finally, on January 31, 2003, NY State received jurisdiction over the island for \$1. Immediately thereafter in 2003, GIPEC issued Requests for Proposals (RFP’s) demanding large scale urban development expertise **prior** to making public appeals for “ideas” on radio, in print and at public meetings.
- In a July 2004 “public” meeting, no reference was made to the island’s momentous, historical function in the nation’s history or its thematic legacy to “American” freedom—this in spite of GIPEC’s awareness of the Legislative Resolutions and our seven year long explanatory, educational effort.
- Then, in March 2005, Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff pronounced: “We are calling out to the world for one-of-a-kind-ideas” while GIPEC hired a Chicago firm to “challenge individuals and organizations around the world for innovative ideas” through a Request for Expressions of Interest (“RFEI”).
- GIPEC’s March 2005 invitation to outsiders “to participate in bringing Governors Island to life” may presumably lead to an RFP. Yet, in Part II, “General Conditions, Terms, Limitations”, there is nothing that will give a respondent any comfort, confidence or assurance that one’s effort, time and money will be earnestly considered going forward. How can it?
- Namely, what is one to make of **neither a City nor State response to eight years of full-time work** spanning two continents and involving thousands of participants—a period wherein over 400,000 pages of letters and presentations have been distributed to the various political jurisdictions, agencies, their appointees and employees? A period wherein I personally have spent well over 25,000 hours of time in an effort to seek political dialogue, endorsements, sponsorship or just a simple earnest reply to our calls for substantive meetings?
- Yet, in spite of this perplexing past, this summary presentation from us constitutes our response to GIPEC’s March 2005 RFEI with the observation that **the RFEI has been specifically written for large scale, turnkey project developers**. It excludes the type of process necessary for a not-for-profit development similar to a Plimoth Plantation—, Jamestown Settlement—, or Colonial Williamsburg—type project.
- For eight years **we pursued a broad, consensus seeking process of inclusion and transparency to advance a vision that requires collaboration, cooperation and ethical choice**. Our one-of-a-kind-idea can’t succeed as long as (a) New York’s legacy is deliberately denied, (b) we can’t compete because of rules that favor others; and (c) we must play in a political process or structure which reveres exclusion and secrecy.

The New York Times

Arts

ARTS, BRIEFLY

Governors Island Invites Entertainment Proposals

By JACQUES STEINBERG; Compiled by JULIE BLOOM
Published: July 14, 2008

The Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation on Monday will invite proposals for an entertainment and dining operation and for art studios and exhibition space on the island, just off the tip of Manhattan. The entertainment and dining element is to be in a temporary structure like a large tent, the corporation said, in a parking lot near the Governors Island ferry landing. The performance space is expected to seat 500 to 800. The artists' studio and exhibition program will be placed in Building 110, an 1870 structure near the ferry landing. The program will not allow any residential use. The proposals would cover five years, starting in 2009, though renewals are possible. **Leslie Koch**, president of the corporation, said these submissions, called requests for proposals, reflect a focus on the arts, "the role the island can play in the culture of New York City."

The New York Times

New York and Region

City Seeks Proposals for Governors Island

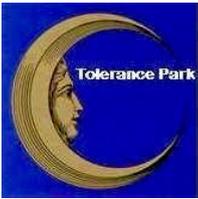
Published: July 29, 1998

Private companies were invited by the city yesterday to submit ideas for developing Governors Island as part of an effort to convince the Federal Government to sell the island for \$1, an offer President Clinton made two years ago.

The companies may submit commercial, educational, recreational or entertainment proposals for any or all of the 172-acre island. Independent studies have suggested an initial investment of \$25 million to \$40 million, plus several million dollars more in annual operating expenditures, would be needed to ensure the preservation of the island's historic structures.

The requests, which must be submitted by Sept. 11, must include revenue estimates that show how the financing can be met.

Deputy Mayor Randy Levine said informal interest has been expressed by a number of companies, including the Walt Disney Company, Tivoli Gardens, MGM and other film and television enterprises.



Tolerance Park Historic New Amsterdam

GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL* — WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG
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139 EAST 79TH STREET, 15TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10075, U.S.A.
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WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

June 24, 2007

To: Governor **Eliot Spitzer**; Lieutenant Governor **David Paterson**; Assembly Speaker **Sheldon Silver**, Senate Majority Leader **Joseph Bruno**, NYC Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**; NYC Council Speaker **Christine Quinn**, Attorney General **Andrew Cuomo**, Inspector General **Kristine Hamann** Esquire, NYS Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**, NYC Comptroller **William Thompson, Jr.**, Assemblyman **Richard Brodsky**

Dear Gentlemen and Ladies,

For your information, Dutch National Television (<http://envandaag.nl> or “DNT”) was unable to secure a permit from the Empire State Development Corporation to film for an hour on Governors Island during the week of June 18, 2007. The group comprised three persons: a journalist, a cameraman and me.

The journalist was told by the Press Office that everybody was too busy and that Dutch National Television should try again in the fall.

However, DNT didn't request an official personal escort and was not in need of one in the same way that none of the visitors on Army Heritage Weekend needed official escorts to roam the island on Saturday, June 23.

As DNT didn't comprehend the rationale for the refusal and because time was of the essence, I made the decision to join the general public with the journalist on June 23 without professional cameraman. Instead, we filmed with a personal amateur video camera. Not quite the same quality but hopefully acceptable for Dutch viewers.

We trust that you have no objection to our having joined the public as tourists.



National Heritage Triangle

Bcc April 2010: US Attorney General **Eric H. Holder Jr.**; Acting Deputy U.S. Attorney General **Gary Grindler**; Acting Assistant Attorney General **Loretta King**; Dept. of Justice Review Section Chief **Merrily Friedlander**; Interior Department Secretary **Ken Salazar**; Interior Department Acting Inspector General **Mary L. Kendall**; Interior Department Chief, Public Civil Rights **Carroll J. Andre**; Counsel, Deputy Counsels and Special Counsel to the President **Robert F. Bauer, Esq.**, **Daniel Meltzer, Esq.**, **Mary DeRosa, Esq.** and **Norman L. Eisen, Esq.**; Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board **Earl E. Devaney**; NY State Inspector General **Joseph Fisch**. Bcc July 2013: Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Interior Department Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; GSA Inspector General **Brian Miller**; Commission to Investigate Public Corruption Co-Chairs **Kathleen Rice**, **William J. Fitzpatrick**, **Milton L. Williams, Jr.**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning

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President@TolerancePark.org

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www.LifebloodofAmericanLiberty.com

www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com

* THE FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC NEW AMSTERDAM IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: THE LIFEBLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.

Bcc July 2013: Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Interior Department Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; GSA Inspector General **Brian Miller**; Commission to Investigate Public Corruption Co-Chairs **Kathleen Rice, William J. Fitzpatrick, Milton L. Williams, Jr.**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

April 13, 2006

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer; U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton; Senators David Paterson and Liz Krueger; Representatives Catherine Nolan, Joseph Morelle, Adriano Espaillat, Deborah Glick, John McEneny, Joan K. Christensen; Congressmen Maurice D. Hinchey and Charles B. Rangel; Majority Leaders Joseph Bruno and Paul Tokasz, Speaker Sheldon Silver

**The Dynamic Values of Religious, Ethnic and Racial Tolerance
—the Lifeblood of American Liberty—
Unite Us in Freedom**

For the Record

Today, Mr. Michael Slattery, a researcher at the Real Estate Board of New York, an organization representing the Real Estate Industry vis-à-vis the government, confirmed to me that his organization has neither a list of New York real estate developers nor just a short list of the largest Real Estate developers, ranked by whatever measure.

This discussion came about as a result of an attempt to follow-up on our letter to Board President, Mr. Spinola, of March 9, 2006 (on the reverse).

Mr. Spinola's secretary said initially that Mr. Spinola was unable to see me and that he had no knowledge of the package. Subsequently, she thought she had seen it and given it to Mr. Slattery. Mr. Slattery claims no knowledge of the package either.

Mr. Slattery also had no knowledge of any real estate developer having any possible interest in Governors Island.

These are mysterious claims for a researcher representing the most powerful lobbying group in New York.



NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE

January 12, 2007
cc: Remaining Legislators
bcc: Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning
President@TolerancePark.org
www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governors_Island

** In 1624 and 1625, the settlers to Governors Island had to attract, “**through attitude and by example**”, the natives and non-believers to God’s word “**without, on the other hand, to persecute someone by reason of his religion and to leave everyone the freedom of his conscience.**” It founded the legal-cultural underpinning of pluralism in the NY Tri-State and was the basis for the statement that “Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion” as codified in 1791.

bec April 2010: US Attorney General **Eric Holder Jr.**; Acting Deputy U.S. Attorney General **Gary Grindler**; Acting Assistant Attorney General **Loretta King**; Dept. of Justice Review Section Chief **Merrily Friedlander**; Interior Department Secretary **Ken Salazar**; Interior Department Acting Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Interior Department Chief, Public Civil Rights **Carroll Andre**; Counsel, Deputy Counsels and Special Counsel to the President **Robert Bauer**, **Daniel Meltzer**, **Mary DeRosa**, and **Norman Eisen**; U.S. President **Barack Obama**; Vice President **Joseph Biden Jr.**; Director Domestic Policy Council **Melody Barnes**; Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**; Secretary of State Aide **Huma Abedin**; S.D.N.Y. Attorney **Preet Bharara**; Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan**; Secretary of Commerce **Gary Locke**; National Security Advisor **James Jones**; White House Chief of Staff **Rahm Emanuel**; Senior Adviser **David Axelrod**; Senior Adviser **Valerie Jarrett**; Senior Adviser **Peter Rouse**; Press Secretary **Robert Gibbs**; General Services Administrator **Paul F. Prouty**; NYS Attorney General **Andrew Cuomo**; NY State Inspector General **Joseph Fisch**; Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.**; NYS Commission on Public Integrity **Michael Cherkasky**; United States Senators **Charles E. Schumer** and **Kirsten E. R. Gillibrand**; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom: **Judith S. Kaye**; **July 2013**: Justice Department Inspector General **Michael Horowitz**; NY State Inspector General **Catherine Leahy Scott**; U.S. Attorney N.D.N.Y. **Richard Hartunian**; Kings County District Attorney **Charles Hynes**; Interior Department Inspector General **Mary Kendall**; Acting GSA Administrator **Daniel Tangherlini**; GSA Inspector General **Brian Miller**; Commission to Investigate Public Corruption Co-Chairs **Kathleen Rice**, **William J. Fitzpatrick**, **Milton L. Williams, Jr.**; JCOPE Chair **Daniel Horwitz**

Education and History Committee					
Dr. David W. Voorhees Editor Jacob Leisler Papers New York University	Dr. Oliver Rink, Author Chairman, History Dept. California State University Bakersfield, California	Dr. Patricia Bonomi Author, Professor Emeritus, History Dept. New York University	Dr. Leo Hershkowitz Author, Prof. History Dept., Queens College New York City	Dr. Firth Fabend Prize winning author Colonial Historian Upper Montclair, NJ	Dr. Joyce D. Goodfriend Author Prof. History Department University of Denver, CO

The Hon. Senator, Hugh T. Farley
Committee on Ethics
412 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

May 30, 2003

RE: AMERICA'S ULTIMATE VIRTUE

Dear Senator Farley,

Thank you for your kind recommendation of April 29 to work with Senators and Assemblymembers whose community will be the most affected by a Governors Island development.

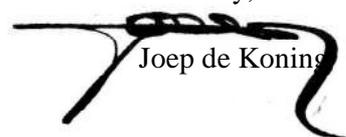
With, for example, the development of [meaningless] Roosevelt Island, local politicians and local real estate developers were the short-term beneficiaries and thus the most directly affected parties in building [unnecessary] subsidized housing. With Roosevelt Island, the existing surrounding communities of Manhattan or Queens were neither then nor are now affected. And even if they would have been affected negatively, these direct, short-term, local beneficiaries would have been powerful enough to mislead their [gullible] constituents into thinking otherwise. The situation with regard to Governors Island is no different as we can now confirm was the case from the very beginning.

I personally have spent 12 hours per day, at least five days a week, for nearly six years now, on building federal, State and City consensus for a new destination for the nationally meaningful, historic island—which represents New York State's unique 1624 patrimony—in the interest and for the long-term benefit of all Americans (not just for the immediate gain or self-interest of local politicians and commercial developers). I may therefore be the only person [still] alive to trace every step in that process and to have *a complete picture* of everything that was undertaken or said by the various political jurisdictions under two presidents, two mayors and one governor. With over a hundred thousand letters distributed, thousands of requests for meetings (and zero “local” meetings) I know now where we shouldn't go. Even a thousand-page book would be too short to describe what we have encountered in that process.

I could enclose supporting documentation that would enable you to likely conclude that the process was a charade and built on deliberate deceit and lies. What proves that point, though, is that even CUNY's Chancellor Dr. Matthew Goldstein has admitted that he was tricked into a photo opportunity for political expediency only—no more. As the federal government has supported our education and history project by devoting the island to the theme of education and donating it—thanks to us—to the State for one dollar (which it legally wasn't entitled to any longer), it is now up to only the Governor, with the legal backing of the Legislature, to compose the National Heritage Triangle by accepting the museum park-to-tolerance, Historic New Amsterdam. You know that, as a privately-operated, not-for-profit park, we won't have a chance against the powerful local commercial/political interests without the express approval of the Legislature. A State decision on the park through the Legislature is therefore imperative rather than a non-binding “local” political promise.

Will there be a chance that there may be enough Senators to rally around the State's unique thematic heritage and to act altruistically by legally accepting the 50-acre Tolerance Park for the common (not just local) good?

Cordially,



Joep de Koninck

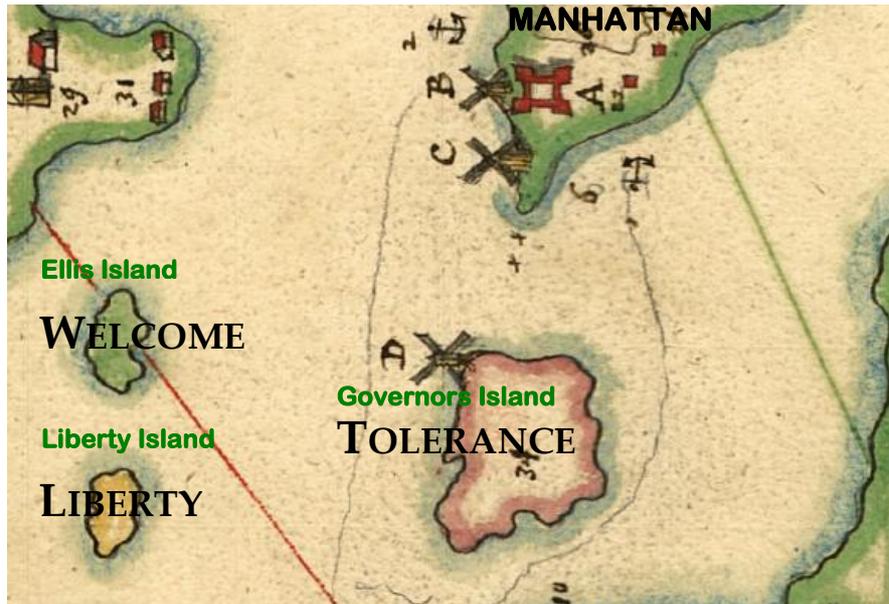
CC: The Hon. Senator Byron W. Brown: BCC Committees on Ethics, Education and Tourism

PRESERVE AMERICA

Executive Order 13287 by President Bush on March 3, 2003

to

Provide Leadership in Preserving America's Heritage by Actively Advancing the Protection, Enhancement and Contemporary Use of Historic [that is "momentous or meaningful", not historical] Properties



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Governors Island, 1624

Only Visual Existing Symbol of Seventeenth-Century American Toleration

"In America, the only existing historic symbol of tolerance has yet to be officially recognized—Governors Island—the 1624 source of American pluralism and the officially recognized birthplace of New York State. It could remind the world that the dynamic notion of tolerance as precursor to liberty-for-all remains an ongoing struggle and that only broad awareness and conscious vigilance will sustain it. When acknowledged politically as the nation's earliest fundamental cultural asset and the defining, active element in "American" freedom, the Island will safeguard America's lifeblood-of-liberty for future generations on the place of its birth—thus preserving the legacy of New York and the society that founded the one non-English colony among the Original Thirteen. The sum of this iconic "National Heritage Triangle", with each islet exemplifying its own unique facet of history, would be worth more than its collective parts and would promulgate that tolerance and liberty define the juridical and cultural construct to which American freedom refers—that the dynamic precept of tolerance distinguishes the specifically American notion of freedom from the generic or static."

Eleven year full-time dedicated focus (1998 through 2008) on

- Attainment of Sustainable Use and Preservation of a Cultural Asset
- Commitment to the Protection and Interpretation of an American Cultural Heritage Asset
- Integration of a Momentous Asset into Contemporary Community Life

In order to

- Achieve a Greater Shared Knowledge about the Nation's Past
- Strengthen the Tri-State's Identity and New York's Pride
- Increase New York's Participation in Preserving the Country's Fundamental Cultural Asset, and Support New York's Economic Vitality

What and Where is Religious and Racial Freedom?

The lawful right to Religious, Ethnic and Racial Freedom is unique to the United States of America. It lies at the foundation of America as a secular democratic republic wherein all religions, ethnicities and races are “equal and free.”

(1) Religious Tolerance—a reciprocal dynamic—politically recognizes and accepts diversity of faith which ensures freedom of conscience in religion for all.⁽¹⁾ However, by politically elevating a religion as a “privileged” or “preferred” religion, the other religious groups are per definition secondary and their followers **not** “equal and free.”

By abolishing and rejecting an establishment of religion—whether state, privileged or preferred—all religious devotees are “**equal and free**” under the Constitution.⁽²⁾

Religious Freedom is thus composed of (a) the unique Constitutional right to religious tolerance⁽¹⁾ and, (b) the unique Constitutional abolishment of a privileged, preferred or state religion.⁽²⁾

(2) Ethnic or Racial Tolerance—a reciprocal dynamic—politically recognizes and accepts ethnic or racial diversity which ensures freedom of mobility for all.⁽³⁾ However, by politically elevating one race or ethnicity as preferred or privileged (hence superior), other ethnic groups are per definition inferior and their members **not** “equal and free.”

By abolishing and rejecting any State laws that entail or allude to the existence of a superior race or ethnicity, all members of racial and ethnic groups are “**equal and free**” under the Constitution.⁽⁴⁾ and ⁽⁵⁾

Ethnic or Racial Freedom is thus composed of (a) the unique Constitutional right to ethnic and racial tolerance⁽³⁾ and (b) the unique Constitutional abolishment of any privileged, preferred or superior ethnicity or race.^{(4), (5)}

Ongoing political acceptance and understanding of the reciprocal notion of tolerance as America’s eternal value in the conception of American freedom-for-all is imperative in accentuating that all religious, ethnic and racial groups and its members are equal and free under the Constitution.

Political unwillingness or reluctance to explicitly recognize this quintessential American precept of tolerance condones the veiled existence of a superior race, preferred ethnicity or privileged religion. It rejects America’s ultimate virtue—also a universal value—through political silence or expediency thus aiding in the perpetuation of mankind’s natural tendency to discriminate or to conceal the existence of bigotry, unworthy to America’s ethos.

⁽¹⁾ **(The Jurisprudence of Toleration in the NY Tri-State Region—Governors Island, 1624)**

“Everyone shall remain free in religion and no one may be persecuted or investigated because of religion”...Settlers were to attract the natives and non-believers to God’s word “through attitude and by example...without, on the other hand, to persecute someone by reason of his religion and to leave everyone the freedom of his conscience.”

⁽²⁾ **(Bill of Rights—First Amendment in 1791: Abolishment of Religious Establishments in the Original Thirteen United States)** “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

(Bill of Rights—14th Amendment in 1868) “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.”

⁽³⁾ **(Bill of Rights—Abolishment of Slavery and Involuntary Servitude, 13th Amendment, 1865)**

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

⁽⁴⁾ **(Bill of Rights—Abolishment of discriminatory State laws (14th Amendment, 1868)**

“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

⁽⁵⁾ **(Bill of Rights—Abolishment of inequitable State laws (15th Amendment, 1870)**

“The right...to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”