



RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Assemblymember 42nd District
Kings County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on
Oversight of Minority & Women-Owned
Business Enterprises (MWBE)

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Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian
Legislative Caucus
Legislative Women's Caucus

September 27, 2017

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

RE: Little Haiti, Little Caribbean

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

It was brought to our attention that there is an effort to have a neighborhood designated "**Little Caribbean**", which would go from Brooklyn College, along Flatbush Avenue, to Empire Boulevard, most of which consists of my Assembly District.

In and of itself this is not an issue, except that there were also conversations about a designation for "**Little Haiti**" long before. The conversations about "**Little Haiti**," which included the efforts of **Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams**, were put on hold until the establishment of the **Haitian Studies Institute** was complete and well underway. Additionally, outside of requesting letters of support, the decision to move forward with the "**Little Caribbean**" designation was done largely without having any conversations and/or meetings with many elected officials of Caribbean descent and/or those who represent communities with significant Caribbean constituencies such as **State Senator Kevin S. Parker, Assemblymember N. Nick Perry, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte, Assemblymember Diana C. Richardson, Councilmember Mathieu Eugene, and District Leaders Josue Pierre, Melba Brown, and Cory Provost**. Also excluded from the conversation was community leader, **Dr. Roy Hastick** of the **Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc., (CACCI)**, who had the original idea. Furthermore, the merchant associations of these communities are not fully on board.

We the undersigned, propose that the official designation of "**Little Caribbean**" be put on hold until elected officials can come to the table to discuss the proposal and try to build consensus about naming the geographical boundaries and decide what merchant participation will look like.



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We are also aware that disrespectful comments were made in opposition to a designation for **“Little Haiti,”** ignoring the significant presence of the Haitian community in Brooklyn, particularly in Flatbush. This has resulted in the opening of old wounds, and having to revisit painful and historical discrimination experienced by Haitians. This legacy of discrimination has excluded Haitians and their ancestry from being recognized as a member of the Caribbean Islands, West Indies, and Latin America.

Furthermore, the elected officials, the Haitian community and their merchants will make the designation of **“Little Haiti”** a higher priority. Our support for the designation of **“Little Caribbean”** will be based on the support and designation of **“Little Haiti”** preceding the designation of **“Little Caribbean.”**

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to discussing next steps.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte and the undersigned:
District Leader, 42nd Assembly District, Josue Pierre
Haitian American Business Network Chamber of Commerce (HABNET)
Haitian American Caucus (HAC)
Haiti Cultural Exchange (HCX)
Haitian Round Table (HRT)
Haitian Centers Council (HCC)
Haitian Americans United for Progress (HAUP)
Haitian American Professors of CUNY
Haitian-American Engineers
Haitian-American Lawyers
Haitian-American Doctors
Haitian-American Clergy members
Haitian Times
Haiti Liberte
Radyo Panou



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Radio Soleil

Haitian merchants of the Flatbush area

Haitian constituents of the neighborhood of Flatbush and Greater New York

Life of Hope (LOH)

Tonel Restaurant

cc : Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Marco Carrion
Commissioner, Department of Finance, Jacques Jiha
Commissioner, Department of Parks, Mitchell Silver
Commissioner, Small Business Services, Gregg Bishop
Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Harold Miller
Chair, Department of City Planning, Marisa Lago
Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke
State Senator Kevin S. Parker
Assemblymember N. Nick Perry
Assemblymember Diana C. Richardson
Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams
Councilmember Mathieu Eugene
Dr. Una S.T. Clarke
Dr. Roy Hastick, Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CACCI)
Kenneth Mbonu, Flatbush Junction BID
Lauren Collins, Flatbush and Church Avenue BID