

MOLLY HOLLISTER
CHAIR

CLAUDE L. WINFIELD, FIRST VICE CHAIR
AHZIA BADI, SECOND VICE CHAIR



JESÚS PÉREZ
DISTRICT MANAGER

BRIAN VAN NIEUWENHOVEN, TREASURER
BEATRICE DISMAN, ASST. TREASURER
AMELIA ACOSTA, SECRETARY
SEEMA SHAH, ASST. SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

April 22, 2019

Hon. Carlina Rivera
250 Broadway, Suite 1808
New York, NY 10007

Resolution supporting a proposal for honorary street co-naming of William Evarts Way on the northwest corner of East 14th Street and Second Avenue

At the April 10, 2019 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Robert Pigott appeared before the Transportation Committee on April 1, 2019 and proposed a street corner co-naming at the northwest corner of East 14th Street and Second Avenue to honor William M. Evarts, a prominent New York City lawyer and community resident during the “Gilded Age” of New York City history who resided there in a mansion for over 50 years. Pigott authored an article for the Historical Society of the New York Courts entitled, “William M. Evarts: Forgotten Lawyer-Statesman and Second Avenue Fixture”;

WHEREAS, located on the site of Evarts’ home there currently are apartment houses bearing carved inscriptions, "The U.S. Senate" and "The W. M. Evarts", reflecting the fact that Evarts served as a United States Senator from New York, in addition to his service as United States Secretary of State and United States Attorney General. William Evarts was a descendant of Declaration of Independence signer Roger Sherman and became the first President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (now known as the NYC Bar Association), where meetings of committees are regularly held in a room which bears his name in a landmarked building in Midtown;

WHEREAS, among the notable achievements of his legal career, Evarts successfully defended President Andrew Johnson at Johnson’s impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate. As a Senator, he was responsible for the Evarts Act, legislation that organized and shaped the Federal court system as we know it today. And, as a lawyer in private practice, on the eve of the Civil War, Evarts successfully argued the appeal of the Lemmon Slave Case in the New York Court of Appeals, which, contrary to the US Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision in 1857, affirmed a lower court decision that

transporting slaves into the free state of New York even in transit from one slave state to another, rendered them free men;

WHEREAS, William M. Evarts was in his time a well-known leading citizen of New York City. He spoke at dedication ceremonies of several New York City landmarks, including Cleopatra's Needle in Central Park, the Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue and the Statue of Liberty. Indeed, Evarts was the chairman of the American Committee for the Statue of Liberty, formed to raise the funds needed to build the statue's pedestal on Bedloe's (now Liberty) Island;

WHEREAS, street co-namings are a good way to recognize contributors to our community and encourage newcomers to learn more about its history;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board Six supports the permanent installation of co-naming signage honoring William M. Evarts to be affixed to the northwest corner of East 14th Street and Second Avenue.

VOTE: 31 in Favor 3 Opposed 2 Abstention 0 Not Entitled

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesús Pérez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Sandra McKee, Chair, CB6 Transportation Committee
Applicant