



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. Tolerance is the founding principle of liberty. 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.



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
Tolerance Monument
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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 Fardthi; 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, Mr. Secretary Ken Salazar, Inspector General Earl Devaney; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr., Ms. Loreita 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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* 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 THUS SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: **THE LIFEBLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.**

The Hon. Barack H. Obama

President of the United States of America

**Commander in Chief of the Defense of the Dependable and
Binding Powers of Tolerance and Conciliation as the Successful
Foundation of American Heterogeneity and Freedom**

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Summary of the Rationale for a Presidential **Endorsement** Concerning a
National Iconographic Island Triad in New York Harbor

Representing America's Fundamental Values thus Defending America's

Inimitable Patrimony of Tolerance and Liberty

Central to American Culture since 1624

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Composing the

National Heritage Triangle

with

America's Ultimate Virtue

Museum Park-to-Tolerance on Governors Island

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Origin of American Toleration, Birthplace of New York State

www.GovernorsIslandToleranceMonument.com

January 20, 2009

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.”