



Curtis Kelly
Owner, The Stonewall Inn, LLC
53 Christopher Street
New York, NY 10014

June 19, 2026

Re: Nomination of Coco for Queen Mother II

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write to recommend Coco for the honor of Queen Mother II on behalf of The Stonewall Inn.

Since its reopening in 2007, The Stonewall Inn has shared a meaningful and enduring partnership with the Imperial Court of New York. Over the years, we have been privileged to host many Court events, strengthening a relationship rooted in community, service, and the preservation of LGBTQIA+ history. Members of our own extended family—including Tree, a Stonewall veteran and our staff member who serves as Emperor of the Court, and DJ Chauncey Dandridge, who generously volunteers at Court events—reflect this deep and ongoing collaboration.

Coco has been an integral part of this partnership. She brings to every endeavor a level of professionalism that is both exemplary and inspiring. Equally important, she is gracious, deeply knowledgeable, and guided by a profound respect for our shared history. Her presence elevates every event and initiative she is involved in, and she consistently represents the values that both the Court and Stonewall hold dear.

One of Coco's most significant contributions was her instrumental role in the development of the National LGBT Wall of Honor, which was unveiled at the Stonewall Inn in 2019 during the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. This project stands as a lasting tribute to LGBTQIA+ trailblazers, and Coco's leadership was essential in bringing this vision to life. She continued to chair the annual event for the following five years, helping it grow into a cornerstone of Pride Week at Stonewall—an event that continues to educate, inspire, and unite our community.

In addition, The Stonewall Inn was deeply honored to receive the President's Award from Coco LaChine at the Night of a Thousand Gowns. This recognition not only underscored the strong bond between our organizations but also reflected Coco's commitment to celebrating and uplifting those who contribute meaningfully to our collective legacy.

Coco's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to community make her exceptionally deserving of the title of Queen Mother II. She embodies the spirit of service, history, and excellence that this honor represents.

It is without reservation that I offer my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Curtis Kelly
Owner, The Stonewall Inn, LLC