

Times Square billboards, Intrepid to glow blue-and-white to celebrate Mother Teresa's 100th birthday

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Keh for NewsBillboards in Times Square will glow blue to mark Mother Teresa's 100th birthday Thursday.

The Great White Way will shine where the Empire State Building will not.

Several major Times Square billboards and marquees will glow blue on Thursday to mark Mother Teresa's 100th birthday - even as the Empire State Building continues to refuse the Catholic hero the honor.

"This is in honor of everything she gave to the world," said Emily Banks of the Times Square Advertising Coalition, whose members include business and billboard owners at the Crossroads of the World.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn led a campaign last spring to persuade Malkin Properties, which owns the Empire State Building, to light the building's iconic spire in the blue-and-white colors of Mother Teresa's religious order.

When Malkin refused - citing a policy on religious requests - others agreed to go blue and white, including the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum and Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Lights on those structures and in Times Square will inspire participants in a citywide Mother Teresa day of service, Quinn said.

"We moved on," Quinn said. "We're not going to spend Thursday being angry or mad or waving fingers at [Empire State Building owner] Tony Malkin. We'll be out helping people in need."

Quinn said she has no hard feelings and won't let the Mother Teresa fight affect her position on a proposed midtown tower coming before the Council today that would block views of the Empire State Building.

Other Council members say they won't so easily forget.

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"How can they go ... asking for support when they have not supported a resolution of the majority of the City Council calling on them to light the building blue and white?" asked Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez (D-Washington Heights).

Rodriguez was among pols and religious leaders who Sunday called on Malkin to change his mind at a Washington Heights press conference.

Malkin did not return calls seeking comment.

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