

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Wes Joe

**Date Submitted:** 12/03/2020 10:15 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1341

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please designate Morris Kight's residence at 1822 W. 4th Street a Historic Cultural Monument. The application material does a splendid job of describing Mr. Kight's life and work. On December 1, 1965 Rosa Parks declined to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This particular bus was decommissioned and sat in a field for many years. Researchers were eventually able to identify this specific bus. It has since been restored and placed in the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. It's easy to forget. Humble places are also where important things happen. That describes that bus on that day in Montgomery, and Mr. Kight's residence. History does not always spring from yachts, mansions or grand hotels. Please approve preserving this house. It tells us where we're from. Wes Joe

## Communication from Public

**Name:** JOHN JOHNSTON

**Date Submitted:** 12/03/2020 11:35 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1341

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is a comment on the proposal to preserve gay pioneer Morris Kight's original house at 1822 West 4th St as a Historic Cultural Monument in the City of Los Angeles. --- I FULLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. I am a gay man 67 years old, have spent my whole adult life in Los Angeles and am an architect and filmmaker. I have made documentary films about the history and current state of LGBT activism in Los Angeles. Morris Kight is an important link to understanding the history of Los Angeles. Very little physically remains of the early gay history in Los Angeles. The necessarily low-key bars and retail establishments only exist in photos in the archive. The next buildings, after Kights living room, that became the Los Angeles Gay Community Center - the first Gay Community Center in the US - the Victorian houses on Wilshire- are long gone. TO PHYSICALLY HAVE A PLACE THAT PROVIDES A GROUNDING IN THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF OUR EARLY GAY HISTORY, (as a part of the history of the larger human rights struggle ) MAKES IT REAL TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IN A WAY THAT FILMS AND DIGITAL REALITIES CANNOT MATCH. I recently read Mary Ann Cherry's book on Morris Kight and the growth of the idea of the community center. And I am convinced more than ever of Kight's importance and the importance of declaring this house as a Historic Cultural Monument for the City of Los Angeles. Thank You for your time.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karen Ocamb

**Date Submitted:** 12/03/2020 03:46 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1341

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a longtime journalist for the LGBTQ community in Los Angeles, serving as news editor for IN Los Angeles Magazine, Frontiers Magazine and the Los Angeles Blade. I knew Morris Kight and covered his extraordinary activism for the LGBT community, people with HIV/AIDS, as well as advocating for civil rights for other minority communities. He stood up to LAPD Chief Daryl Gates when others cowered; he worked with Rev. Troy Perry to press for LGBT visibility before homosexuality was decriminalized in California; and he founded the Van Ness Recovery House and worked with Don Kilhefner to provide culturally competent services for abused homeless youth, defying horrid gay stereotypes of the time. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky put him on the Human Relations Commission where he educated others about anti-LGBT discrimination. Much of that work originated in Morris' home at 1822 West 4th St. This house deserves preservation as an LA Historic Cultural Monument. Thank you for your consideration. - Karen Ocamb