

Communication from Public

Name: Adrian Scott S Fine, Los Angeles Conservancy

Date Submitted: 06/03/2023 09:44 AM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, please support this pending Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nomination in whole, by rejecting the amendment put forth by City Councilmember Hernandez. For Pride Month, the City of Los Angeles is about to marginalize LGBTQ+ heritage by making a local landmark nomination a “site of” only to facilitate proposed demolition and loss. Calling something a “Historic-Cultural Monument” in name only without protecting the place itself is not preservation or equitable to how L.A. treats other places of heritage. This practice is increasingly becoming a trend, especially for threatened places of cultural significance. This house is where the idea for L.A.’s LGBT Center was born, which is now the largest of its kind in the world. Making the Morris Kight Residence on 4th Street a “site of” designation undervalues the important civil rights contributions made by LGBTQ+ people and the place where they happened. The LGBTQ+ community and all of us deserve more than just a plaque in telling the full story of how civil rights were attained that many now take for granted today. Why are places associated with LGBTQ+ heritage treated less than and any differently from others, especially given there are so few places left that can impart this history? Currently, approximately 1% of all designated Historic-Cultural Monuments in Los Angeles represent LGBTQ+ heritage. Is a “win-win” possible? Yes, the property owner could add additional housing or another use to this site without calling for the demolition of the historic Morris Kight Residence. The Conservancy took part in a months-long effort to explore this potential with the former city council office staff, property owner, and an architect. Both housing and preservation are possible; the current owners prefer to clear the site instead. We strongly encourage City Councilmember Hernandez to reconsider her proposed amendment and instead support this HCM nomination in whole and stand up for this place and LGBTQ+ heritage in Los Angeles. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/03/2023 10:47 AM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers, Please vote yes to make Morris Kight's 4th Street Residence a Historic-Cultural Monument at the June 6th hearing. Everyone I know is either scared, depressed, or angry (or all of the above), especially me and my LGBTQ family and friends. Denying HCM designation to Morris Kight's 4th Street house would not only be wrong (because the house has already been judged and found historical), but it will also send the wrong message (Los Angeles must stay vigilant against LGBTQ bias). At least 417 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the United States since the start of 2023 — a new record, according to American Civil Liberties Union data as of April 3. That's already more than twice the number of such bills introduced all of last year. And 24 bills that restrict LGBTQ rights have passed in 11 states. Morris Kight fought for all of us. His home at 1822 4th Street is the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement. Kight's home was a gay community services center, an outreach center and a meeting place for grassroots activists, actions and causes. Kight co-founded the Gay Liberation Front/Los Angeles chapter (1969) and held their meetings at his 4th Street house; one of their actions was to force the American Psychiatric Association to stop listing homosexuality as a mental illness. Kight personally ran the first-ever LGBT crisis hotline. The first-ever gay pride parade was conceived and planned at 1822 4th Street. And the first ever Gay Community Services Center (1971) was born from the services center at Kight's home (and would grow into the country's largest LGBT services center). I urge you to do the right thing. Please vote yes to make Morris Kight Residence 1822 W. 4th Street a Historic-Cultural Monument at the June 6th hearing. Sincerely, Frank Shaver-Burgess