

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Davis

Date Submitted: 06/06/2023 10:36 AM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: The New York City LGBT Historic Sites Project strongly supports the designation of the Morris Kight Residence as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) for its connection to gay rights activist Morris Kight, a major figure in the LGBTQ civil rights movement in Los Angeles. In its own SurveyLA initiative, the City of Los Angeles has been aware of the site's significance as a known resource through its inclusion in the LGBT Context Statement, completed in 2014. The NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, founded in 2015 by historic preservation professionals, is an award-winning and nationally recognized cultural heritage initiative and educational resource documenting LGBTQ place-based history in New York City. The Project has documented hundreds of sites from the 17th century to 2000 that are important to LGBTQ history and illustrate the community's influence on New York City and American culture. This has led to the designation of LGBTQ landmarks at the city, state, and national levels. The links between Los Angeles and New York City are numerous, and we have worked with our colleagues at the Los Angeles Conservancy to spread the message that LGBTQ history is American history. Los Angeles holds an important place in the history of LGBTQ activism, with one of its earliest contributions – the founding of the Mattachine Society in 1951 – leading to highly influential chapters elsewhere, including New York City. Morris Kight's house at 1822 West 4th Street in Westlake should be preserved as a significant, tangible place in that history, one that helps tell the story of the gay liberation movement in Los Angeles. The designation of the Morris Kight Residence as an HCM would also send a message to Angelenos that the City of Los Angeles values LGBTQ place-based history as it does all its diverse history. This is particularly crucial at a time when LGBTQ rights have faced pushback across the nation. While LGBTQ history and people are everywhere, it is imperative that major cities like Los Angeles – with a large LGBTQ community that has contributed greatly to the city's history and culture – lead the way in recognizing this vital part of our collective American heritage. While living in the Westlake house, Kight co-founded the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF), which originally formed in New York City directly following the 1969 uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich

Village. The LA chapter of GLF met and operated out of Kight's home. During this period, Kight also co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, which is known today as the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and the Christopher Street West gay pride parade, which was first held in 1970 on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. The earliest Pride marches provided unprecedented opportunities for large numbers of LGBTQ people to come together openly and in solidarity, fighting for equal rights and visibility while instilling pride. The City of Los Angeles has the opportunity to recognize the Morris Kight Residence as a significant contributor to the city's history. We urge the City of Los Angeles to designate the house an HCM so that current and future generations of Angelenos and visitors can better understand LA's cultural heritage in all its diversity.



NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project

Making an invisible history visible

www.nyclgbtsites.org

June 5, 2023

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
John Ferraro Council Chamber
Room 340, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Council File Number: 20-1341

*Testimony of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project
in support of the proposed Historic-Cultural Monument nomination
for the Morris Kight Residence*

The New York City LGBT Historic Sites Project strongly supports the designation of the Morris Kight Residence as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) for its connection to gay rights activist Morris Kight, a major figure in the LGBTQ civil rights movement in Los Angeles. In its own SurveyLA initiative, the City of Los Angeles has been aware of the site's significance as a known resource through its inclusion in the *LGBT Context Statement*, completed in 2014.

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Los Angeles holds an important place in the history of LGBTQ activism, with one of its earliest contributions – the founding of the Mattachine Society in 1951 – leading to highly influential chapters elsewhere, including New York City. Morris Kight's house at 1822 West 4th Street in Westlake should be preserved as a significant, tangible place in that history, one that helps tell the story of the gay liberation movement in Los Angeles.

The designation of the Morris Kight Residence as an HCM would also send a message to Angelenos that the City of Los Angeles values LGBTQ place-based history as it does all its diverse history. This is particularly crucial at a time when LGBTQ rights have faced pushback across the nation. While LGBTQ history and people are everywhere, it is imperative that major cities like Los Angeles – with a large LGBTQ community that has contributed greatly to the city's history and culture – lead the way in recognizing this vital part of our collective American heritage.

While living in the Westlake house, Kight co-founded the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF), which originally formed in New York City directly following the 1969 uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. The LA chapter of GLF met and operated out of Kight's home. During this period, Kight also co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Community

Services Center, which is known today as the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and the Christopher Street West gay pride parade, which was first held in 1970 on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. The earliest Pride marches provided unprecedented opportunities for large numbers of LGBTQ people to come together openly and in solidarity, fighting for equal rights and visibility while instilling pride.

The City of Los Angeles has the opportunity to recognize the Morris Kight Residence as a significant contributor to the city's history. We urge the City of Los Angeles to designate the house an HCM so that current and future generations of Angelenos and visitors can better understand LA's cultural heritage in all its diversity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a trailing flourish.

Amanda Davis
Project Manager

on behalf of

Andrew S. Dolkart, Ken Lustbader, and Jay Shockley, Co-Directors

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Parral

Date Submitted: 06/06/2023 01:40 PM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, I urge you to accept the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) for the Morris Kight Residence at 1822 West 4th Street without amendments. This house, where Kight lived from 1967 to 1974, was the epicenter of the movement for LBGT civil rights in Los Angeles. Here, Kight and other activists ran the Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA), the Christopher Street West (now Pride) parade, and the Gay Community Services Center (now the Los Angeles LGBT Center). This home was the birthplace of our organization, the first ever LBGT social service agency which has become the largest of its kind worldwide. Preserving the physical place where it all began helps us understand the trajectory of this movement and our role in it today, particularly in the face of growing anti-LGBT policies across the country. Places that tell the story of LBGTQ+ people should not be treated less than other monuments, especially since there are so few places that can impart this history. Currently approximately 1% of all designated HCMs in Los Angeles represent LGBT heritage. Calling something a HCM in name only without protecting the place itself is not equitable to how L.A. treats other places of heritage. We ask that you accept the Morris Kight Residence HCM nomination in whole, as recommended by the Cultural Heritage Commission, rather than a "site of" designation. Thank you for standing up for this place and LGBT heritage in Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Crusader

Date Submitted: 06/06/2023 06:04 PM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: 6/6/23 Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers, I am the 62 y.o. activist formerly known as Andrew Ross Exler who overturned Disneyland's ban on same-sex dancing in the 1980s. I legally changed my name to the mononame Crusader in the 1990s. Please vote yes to make Morris Kight's 4th Street Residence an Historic-Cultural Monument at the June 6th hearing. Denying HCM designation to Morris Kight's 4th Street house would not only be wrong (because the house has already been judged and found historic) but it will also send the wrong message (Los Angeles must stay vigilant against LGBTQ bias). Morris and I became fast friends in 1980 (when I was just 19 and fighting for gay rights in politically conservative Orange County, California). In fact, when others in the gay community were critical of some of my activism, I could always count on Morris to give me encouragement to continue fighting for what was right. He was a very positive role model to me and I was fortunate to meet many inspirational politicians, activists, writers, you name it, at a later residence of his on McCadden Place. Please vote yes to make Morris Kight Residence 1822 W. 4th Street an Historic-Cultural Monument at the June 6th hearing. Sincerely, Crusader