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Public Comments Not Uploaded Morris Kight Residence

1 message

Jessica Parral <jparral@lgbtcenter.org>

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Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

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Dear Councilmember Hernandez, Councilmember Harris-Dawson, and members of the PLUM Committee,

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-LBGT policies across the country.

Places that tell the story of LGBTQ+ 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.

Jessica Parral

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