

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsay Mulcahy

Date Submitted: 08/03/2023 10:59 AM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, we urge City Council to approve the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nomination for the 4th Street Morris Kight Residence. The house is a significant site of LGBTQ+ civil rights activism in the late 1960s and 1970s as the home of leading activist Morris Kight, and the site where the Pride Parade was conceived of and the Gay Community Services Center (now the LGBT Center, the first and largest LGBTQ+ services organization in the world) was founded. This house represents 1 out of 880,000 parcels in the city, and, when designated as an HCM, will join less than 1% of places in LA currently designated for LGBTQ+ contributions. We are grateful that another house associated with Kight and a later wave of LGBTQ+ activism was successfully designated in June. However, the LGBTQ+ community deserves more. Designating the 4th Street Residence ensures that Kight's full story and contributions, and those of the many people who made LGBTQ+ history happen in this place, are told and preserved. We ask you to deny Councilmember Hernandez's previous request to designate the site "in name only" as it negates the role of LGBTQ+ civil rights in Los Angeles and marginalizes the role of early leaders to attain equal rights, then and now. Full designation of the house can and should be part of the plan to rehabilitate the building, add density, and ensure the house continues to serve the MacArthur Park community.

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Cooper & Richard Schave

Date Submitted: 08/03/2023 06:35 PM

Council File No: 20-1341

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council, We write in support of the Cultural Heritage Commission's recommendation that Morris Kight's house at 1822 West 4th Street be designated as an Historic-Cultural Monument—as a full landmark and not a demolished “site only” HCM with a commemorative sign. This house has already been granted National Register status as a key location in the establishment of Gay Rights in America, and is certainly deserving of municipal designation as well. From 1967 to 1974, Morris Kight opened up his personal residence as a place where members of the oppressed and criminalized LGBTQ+ community could freely gather, receive services, organize and strategize. Gay Rights as we know them would not exist without 1822 West 4th Street. The site is associated with the founding of Los Angeles Chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF/LA), the founding of the Gay Community Services Center (GCSC), development of the Christopher Street West Parade, and much more. And today, as it did in Morris Kight's time, 1822 West 4th Street still serves as naturally occurring affordable housing for renters. But the property owner wants to tear 1822 West 4th Street down and displace the residents. Please help preserve this significant National Register landmark by extending the protections of full HCM status, and not the symbolic and ultimately meaningless “site designation” plaque. A vote for “site designation” is a vote for demolition and displacement, and an act of violence against the incredible work done by Morris Kight and his friends in a pretty Craftsman cottage in the Westlake District. sincerely yours,
Kim Cooper & Richard Schave / Los Angeles Historians & Preservationists / Co-Hosts of “The Run: Gay Downtown Los Angeles History Walking Tour” / Esotouric