



3 June 2019

VIA EMAIL (clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org)

Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson,
Chair Planning Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Tom Bergin's – Case No.: CHC-2018-5803-HCM – Council File 19-0293

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and Honorable Members of the PLUM Committee:

Some confusion may have been created by representatives of the owner's of Tom Bergin's regarding our campaign to preserve the property as a landmark and I think this is an appropriate time to set the record straight.

The Miracle Mile Residential Association (MMRA) has monitored Tom Bergin's for many year years with HCM status in mind. When its owner, Derek Schreck, shuttered Bergin's in March 2018 we feared that Bergin's would be sold and then demolished for a new development project. The MMRA decided to submit an HCM nomination for Bergin's. As our intentions became known both the Los Angeles Conservancy and Mid City West Community Council offered their support.

In July 2018, MMRA Senior Vice President Ken Hixon; Adrian Scott Fine, Director of Advocacy for the Los Angeles Conservancy; and Keith Nakata, then Chair of Mid City West Community Council's PLUM Committee, met with Mr. Schreck to share our concerns for the future of Tom Bergin's and to inform him that the MMRA was going to initiate a HCM nomination.

Shortly thereafter, the MMRA entered into an agreement with Architectural Resources Group (ARG) to prepare the nomination. At around that same time, the MMRA invited the Los Angeles Conservancy to be a co-applicant on the nomination and they agreed to do so.

Mid City West Community Council offered to contribute towards the cost of preparing the nomination. This was done on their own volition. The MMRA was pleased that our local community council recognized the importance of preserving Bergin's and we were grateful that they were willing to support our effort. But the MMRA neither requested nor lobbied Mid City West to take this action.

To be clear, the MMRA initiated HCM process for Tom Bergin's. The MMRA selected and entered into an agreement with ARG for their professional services and all monies paid to ARG have been paid solely by the MMRA. The campaign to secure HCM status for Tom Bergin's has been entirely managed by the MMRA in consultation with the Los Angeles Conservancy.

The MMRA has been the sole coordinator of the publicity efforts to save Bergin's and we also paid the costs of creating an email generator to facilitate messages of support for HCM to city officials.

Mid City West's assistance was mentioned in our bulletins only as evidence of wide spread community support to save Bergin's. We also publicized PICO Neighborhood Council's endorsement of HCM status for Bergin's – as we also publicized the unanimous recommendation of the Cultural Heritage Commission, and Councilmember Ryu's endorsement.

Had the MMRA known that Mid City West's support would become a point of contention, we would have refused their offer. Our pursuit of HCM status of Bergin's was never contingent on the support of Mid City West.

Any questions raised by the opponents of preserving Tom Bergin's regarding Mid City West's offer of support have been rendered moot by the simple fact that this offer has gone unpaid and there is no indication that these funds will ever be expended.

The MMRA and the Los Angeles Conservancy represents thousands of Los Angeles residents who want to save Tom Bergin's from the wrecking ball. Their voices must not be drowned out by this attempt to nullify our good faith efforts to preserve this Los Angeles landmark.

Sincerely yours,



James O'Sullivan, President
Miracle Mile Residential Association
P.O. Box 361295
Los Angeles, CA 90036-9495

jamesos907@gmail.com

CC:

Councilmember David Rye, Council District 4

Adrian Scott Fine, Director of Advocacy, Los Angeles Conservancy

Nicholas Greif, Chief of Staff, Council District 4

Emma Howard, Planning and Land Use Deputy, Council District 4

Ken Hixon, Senior Vice President, Miracle Mile Residential Association