

## Tom Bergins Bar: Evidence of Financial Support for the Monument Application by Mid City West Community Council

1 message

Reznik, Benjamin M. <BMR@jmbm.com>

Mon, Jun 10, 2019 at 10:46 PM

To: "clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org" <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>, "debby.kim@lacity.org" <debby.kim@lacity.org>, "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, "Bob Blumenfield:" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "David Ryu:" <david.ryu@lacity.org>, "Paul Koretz:" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "Nury Martinez:" <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, "Monica Rodriguez:" <monica.rodriguez@lacity.org>, "Marqueece Harris-Dawson:" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "Curren D. Price:" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "Herb J. Wesson:" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "Mike Bonin:" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "Greig Smith:" <Councilmember.Smith@lacity.org>, "Mitch O'Farrell:" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "Jose Huizar:" <jose.huizar@lacity.org>, "Joe Buscaino:" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, "gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org" <gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org>

Dear PLUM Committee Members and members of the City Council:

You recently received a letter from the Miracle Mile Residential Association, dated June 3, 2019, attempting to convince you that there was nothing improper nor illegal in the funding of the preparation of the application for historic cultural monument of Tom Bergins Bar. This letter no doubt was in response to our earlier letter to you bringing this issue to your attention. Here is further evidence that financial support was in fact provided by the Mid City West Community Council (which as our prior letter points out is illegal and has tainted this entire process.)

1. Eblast from Ken Hixon, VP of MMRA, to the community dated Sept. 26, 2018 about the Tom Bergin nomination in which he says: "...with the financial support of Mid City West Community Council..."
2. Elizabeth Fuller article Sept.15, 2018 in Larchmont Buzz quoting Keith Nakata of the MCWCC: <https://www.larchmontbuzz.com/featured-stories-larchmont-village/tom-bergins-nominated-as-historic-cultural-monument/>  
The [Mid-City West Community Council](#) provided funding for the nomination effort, and Keith Nakata, co-chair of the Mid City West Planning and Land Use Committee said, "The Mid City West Community Council overwhelmingly felt that it was important to participate, along with other community partners, in the funding and the preparation of the Historic Cultural Monument application. This application will preserve a written history of the iconic Tom Bergin's, a treasured gathering place of the community for over 80 years. From locals to celebrities, everyone felt welcome at this Los Angeles landmark."
3. Rachel Olivier article in Larchmont Chronicle Feb. 28, 2019 confirming financial support from MCWCC"  
<http://larchmontchronicle.com/bergins-under-historic-review-march-7/> "The Mid City West Community Council provided financial support for the drafting of Bergin's HCM nomination."
4. Compare the recent June 13, 2019 MMRA letter to PLUM Committee which tries to diffuse the issue but cannot quite get there:

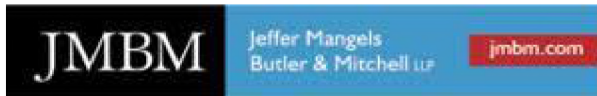
**Benjamin M. Reznik** | Chairman of Government, Land Use, Environment & Energy Department

**Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP | JMBM**

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## 2 attachments

 **mmra-bergins-plum-letter-june-3-2019.pdf**  
95K

 **ExtractPage1.pdf**  
140K



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

**From:** [kenhixon@pacbell.net](mailto:kenhixon@pacbell.net)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2018 3:52 PM  
**Subject: Save Tom Bergin's**

Hello,

Tom Bergin's Bar and Restaurant, a long time and historic part of Los Angeles, is threatened by demolition in the near future. The Miracle Mile Residential Association and the Los Angeles Conservancy (with the financial support of Mid City West Community Council) have sponsored Tom Bergin's Bar and Restaurant for Historic-Cultural Monument status. Here's a link to a story about it from the Larchmont Buzz:

<https://www.larchmontbuzz.com/featured-stories-larchmont-village/tom-bergins-nominated-as-historic-cultural-monument/>

We've created an email generator that makes it quick and easy for folks to send a message to Los Angeles City Councilmember Ryu and the Cultural Heritage Commission in support of landmark status for Bergin's: <https://support.miraclemilela.com>

So far it's been utilized to sent over 300 emails. Could you please share this link with fellow Bergin's fans? The more the merrier — and the better our shot at saving Bergin's.

Thank you,

Ken

Ken Hixon, Vice President  
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323-935-7227