

YOUR VOICE

A 'curious' omission

I am a full-time resident of Los Angeles and a lifelong visitor to Palm Springs.

It's very curious as to why the T& CC is not included in the proposed settlement agreement with Grit, which because of the timing should be included.

In addition to T& CC, another concern is the Downtown Development. Did the City ever conduct a thirdparty audit of the entire project? If any liability issues are discovered, should also be included in the global settlement.

Alan Merson, Woodland Hills

Allow citizen input

Re: "PS Council, take time to strike best 1090 deal with Grit Development, "July 7 Our Voice editorial Thank you, Desert Sun for your reporting on the ongoing 1090 negotiations between the City Manager and Council, and Grit/Wessman Development.

I had no idea this was even an issue, much less one with ongoing negotiations. I concur with the Editorial Board that the city should take their time with these negotiations. How about an opportunity for the citizens to be involved? The cynical side of me wonders if this is another "dead-of-summer" backroom deal. We have seen this lack of transparency before.

Absolutely the Town &

Country Center must be wrested from John Wessman's decades-long neglect of this treasure. With years of neglect and a passion to tear it down, he has shown us how he stewards one of Palm Springs' treasures. The Town & Country Center AND the adjacent properties owned by Wessman should be first on the list of any land swap.

Another option is the city could stipulate that Wessman must sell this property to a city-vetted reputable developer that is versed in historic preservation.

Stephen Rose, Palm Springs

PS Modern Committee can help

In the past year, with direction from City Council and guidance from the Palm Springs Modern Committee, the Town & Country Center has been physically stabilized and secured from vandalism by owner Grit Development. However, we're concerned that it will still be many years before Grit obtains sufficient funds to restore the property.

Right now, the city is in negotiations with Grit to settle its 1090 issues. We believe the Council must include the Town & Country Center in this settlement. To be clear, we cannot expect, nor do we want, the City to be responsible for restoring the property. Instead, were the City to acquire the Town & Country Center, it should move rapidly to sell it to investors committed to restoring and integrating it into our vibrant downtown. We know there's buyer interest because several

potential investors have approached the T& CC's owners in recent years, but their offers have not been accepted.

The Palm Springs Modern Committee pledges to help the City find an appropriate buyer; then, if requested, aid in the property's restoration.

We feel this is one of the few paths that can be taken to successfully save and properly restore the Town & Country Center.

Courtney Newman, founding board member and president, Palm Springs Modern Committee