



June 27, 2008

Mr. David H. Ready
Palm Springs City Manager
Palm Springs City Hall
3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear David,

You may recall that we talked last spring about the idea of creating a full-time Preservation Officer for the city of Palm Springs. As you know, Palm Springs has a rich architectural heritage that attracts visitors from around the world. Yet despite these unmatched historic resources, our city does not have a full-time Preservation Officer. Many cities with far fewer historic resources (for example Long Beach and Scottsdale) not only have Preservation Officers, but supporting staffs as well.

The benefits of a Preservation Officer on the city staff are substantial. Such an employee could:

- *Conduct historic building surveys, review projects to determine compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic properties, and prepare environmental analysis in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act.*
- *Support the operation of the city's Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) and be a pro-active voice within the city staff for the preservation of historic structures.*
- *Serve as a liaison to the city's Tourism Board and promote the economic advantages of increased architectural tourism.*
- *Provide advice to developers and building owners regarding the adaptive reuse of historic structures. Advise the city's Resource Conservation Commission on the "green" advantages of adaptive reuse.*
- *Serve as a liaison between the city and the local non-profit preservation organizations.*

I have discussed this matter with our sister preservation organizations and they enthusiastically support this proposal. As it happens, I will be stepping down from the Preservation Foundation this summer after serving on it for eight years, with six years as president. It has been a great experience to work with the City of Palm Springs on a variety of issues, I feel that impactful accomplishments have been made for our great city and I wanted to personally thank you for always being available to assist me in whatever I asked of you, whether it be to obtain a conference room or how to request funding for Modernism Week. That said, the contact person regarding this issue is PSPF board member, Ron Marshall at 760-808-6988 or email pspfrnm@yahoo.com. Ron and I have discussed this matter at length and he is as enthusiastic about the idea as I am.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Kopelk", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William Kopelk, President
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation