

Sara S. J. James  
██████████ Clark Road  
Crozet, Virginia 22932

August 16, 2010

The Honorable Steven Pougnet  
Mayor of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: Welwood Murray Memorial Library

Dear Mayor Pougnet,

It has recently come to the attention of the members of my family that some significant changes are being considered that would affect the appearance and use of the Welwood Murray Memorial Library. As direct descendents of Dr. Welwood Murray (Palm Springs co-founder Welwood Murray was our great-great grandfather), we have a special interest in the future of the Welwood Murray Memorial Library.

We are concerned and alarmed that the city's proposed design for the library's "remodeling" erects new walls, demolishes existing walls and attaches a foreign roof structure to this historically important building. All of these changes would fundamentally and negatively impact the architecture of the building, and do a disservice to architect John Porter Clark's original vision. The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation's ongoing efforts to achieve a sensitive restoration of the original library structure are closely aligned with our hopes to maintain the historical integrity of the Library, and we would ask you to support the Foundation in their efforts.

We would also suggest that the best use of the downtown library would be as a research library resource for the Coachella Valley, housing relevant materials from the main library and the historical society. This would be a use consistent with the restrictions stated in the deed, and fitting for a building with such history.

If you have any questions, I would be glad to speak with you. You can contact me at (434) 960-██████████.

On behalf of the descendents of Welwood Murray, sincerely,

Sara S. J. James

Copy to:  
City Council members (G. Foat, L. Weigel, C. Mills and R. Hutchenson)  
City Manager (D. Ready)  
City of Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board  
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation