

## Save Tahquitz Plaza

We are new residents to Palm Springs, and we are writing in hopes that our voices will be heard regarding the impending demolition the Hugh Kaptur-designed Tahquitz Plaza before it is too late.

We chose to move to this community from Los Angeles because, at the top of our list of many other great reasons, it has such a rich history in iconic architecture that we love and admire.

Since last September when we purchased our house (not insignificantly a Kings Point home that we consider an architectural masterpiece by William Krisel), we are seeing a trend towards thoughtless demolition of that legacy that is very disturbing. The aggressive



SKIP DESCANT/THE DESERT SUN

One of the two office buildings on Tahquitz Canyon Way that developers would like to demolish for the Aberdeen project.

demolition of the William Cody, Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison-designed colonnade at the Spa Hotel happened

days after we purchased our home, adding to the sadness we and others suffered over the 2012 destruction of Wexler-designed buildings at Palm Springs High School. The noise made over these losses are not just about the politics of preservationist nostalgists versus progress — they are representative of our collective dismay as residents that developers are literally diminishing one of the main attractions that brings new buyers like us into the area.

*P. David Ebersole and Todd Hughes,  
Palm Springs*

## Act for the citizens

As a citizen, I have had to watch the demolition of too many of our city's

architectural resources over the past several years by both the autonomous School Board and the Sovereign Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Our City Council had no jurisdiction over these entities or their destructive actions.

The approval of The Aberdeen project and the demolition of Hugh Kaptur's Tahquitz Plaza is 100 percent within the council's authority. They have the power to save these buildings. Will they do what is best for the city or what is best for the developer?

I hope their relationship to their constituency is stronger than their relationship to the developer.

*Gary Johns, Palm Springs*