



December 2, 2008

The Honorable Steve Pougnet
Mayor of Palm Springs
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Mayor Pougnet,

To those who know Palm Springs it is inarguably the 2000+ midcentury tract homes that are the treasures of our city's "built environment." In June of 2004, a survey of the city's historic architectural resources recommended that Palm Springs "conduct [an] historic district evaluation." Creating historic districts could potentially preserve the architectural integrity of *hundreds* of structures.

As you know, Palm Springs already has the necessary municipal code in place (Chapter 8.05, Historic Preservation) to create neighborhood historic districts. While the city's Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) has taken some small, initial steps to educate our residents about historic districts, what is very much needed is strong leadership from the city council. Around the country, most successful programs to create historic districts have come from "the top down."

In the current fiscal environment conducting a city-wide historic district evaluation might be viewed as expensive (perhaps as much as \$100,000). Fortunately, there are a number of programs that give grants for just such purposes (to include the *Preserve America* program). We strongly encourage the city to pursue such grants and would be happy to help in the preparation of any grant applications.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, I am available at (760) 837-7117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ron Marshall
President
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

Copy to: Council members G. Foat, R. Hutcheson, C. Mills, and L. Weigel
Chair, Historic Site Preservation Board (S. Williams)