



**PALM SPRINGS
PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION®**

October 13, 2025

Mr. Scott Stiles, City Manager
City of Palm Springs
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: City Staff Report of 9/25/2025, "Consider Adoption of Increases to...Fees...."

Dear Mr. Stiles,

Chapter 8.05 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code created the basis for one of the most successful historic resources programs in the nation. However, as a practical matter, it would not be a viable program without the efforts of the undersigned. As the local non-profits most affected, we strongly object to the fee structure (outlined in the referenced staff report) to process Class 1 Historic Resource and Historic District nominations (i.e., \$4,364 and \$5,196, respectively). **Traditionally, the city has waived any fees.**

In 2016, the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation proposed a Memorandum of Understanding with the city to formalize a "waiver of fees" arrangement (see attachment (1)). While the city neglected to respond, the waiver of fees has continued to this day.

Our concern is that the proposed roll-out of these significant fees will slow the rate of historic nomination submissions, and make them only affordable to the affluent. We ask the city to re-evaluate the proposed fee schedule recognizing the obvious and significant cultural and economic benefits that accrue from a vibrant historic preservation program.

Finally, recognizing the city's laudable efforts to cut costs associated with its historic resources program, we would happily meet with you to share ideas to achieve that goal.

The point of contact for this matter is Ron Marshall at info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Gary Johns, President
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

William Kopelk, Chairman
Modernism Week Board of Directors

Courtney Newman, President
Palm Springs Modern Committee

Sidney Williams
Palm Springs Architectural Alliance

Attachment 1 (Email dated March 21, 2016 with MOU)

From: Ron Marshall <modpod_one@yahoo.com>
To: "flinn.fagg@palmsprings-ca.gov" <flinn.fagg@palmsprings-ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 at 10:38:30 PM PDT
Subject: PSPF and city MOU

Hi Flinn,
I've attached a proposed MOU regarding the waiving of fees associated with Class 1 submissions by PSPF. As you might guess, the format of MOUs varies greatly. Please feel free to tweak.
Cheers!
-Ron

DRAFT Memorandum of Understanding
between the
City of Palm Springs
and the
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation (PSPF) (a California 501(c)3, non-profit charitable organization) has, for many years, provided considerable assistance to the City of Palm Springs' historic resources program (Palm Springs Municipal Code Chapter 8.05). On February 17, 2016, by city proclamation, this assistance was formally recognized.

PSPF's chief assistance to the city's historic resources program has been through the submission of scholarly Class 1 Historic Site and Historic District nominations. In the past, the city has recognized PSPF's assistance and traditionally not levied the fees (specifically application and notification fees) associated with the submission and processing of Class 1 Historic Site and Historic District nominations.

Both the City of Palm Springs and the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation (the "parties") have a desire to formalize this understanding and propose the following:

- That the city continues to waive the fees associated with Class 1 Historic Site and Historic District nominations submitted by PSPF under the following conditions:

1. That the PSPF Class 1 Historic Site and Historic District submissions be beneficial to the city's historic resources program as outlined in PSMC 8.05.
2. That the aforementioned determination of "benefit" be at the sole discretion of the city's Director of Planning Services.

Agreed to this date _____

Authorized city of Palm Springs representative

Authorized Palm Springs Preservation Foundation representative