

ARCHITECT MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON FAIA

February 28, 2018

Mayor Kevin Faulconer
City of San Diego
202 C St
San Diego CA 92101

Re: Letter of Concern, Proposed Change of Historical Uses of the North Chapel at NTC

Dear Mayor Faulconer,

I am writing this letter of concern regarding a proposed change of historical use of the Naval Training Center (NTC) North Chapel (Building 208) located at 2881 Roosevelt Road.

My name is Milford Wayne Donaldson and I am president of award winning Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, Inc. Since 1978, for 40 years, my firm has been specializing in historic preservation services restoring and rehabilitating hundreds of buildings in San Diego. I have been affiliated with several historical and preservation organizations and was past president of the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) and past chairs of the State Historical Building Safety Board, the State Historical Resources Commission, and the Historic State Capitol Commission. I was also a member of the San Diego Historical Resources Board. Recently I served as the California State Historic Preservation Officer from 2004-2012. On June 1, 2010 the United States President appointed me Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and I currently hold that position.

I was also the architect of record for the restoration of the Naval Training Center working for both the City of San Diego and the master developer through a long and successful process that we all are proud of being a partner in preserving San Diego's heritage and its historical association with the U.S. Navy.

Recently the McMillin Company, the master developer of NTC has explored leasing the historic North Chapel for a restaurant or event space requiring extensive food and alcoholic beverage services inconsistent with the original intent during the base reuse. The Liberty Station event websites states that the building will no longer be available after June 30, 2018.

Following the closure of the NTC McMillin sub-leased the North Chapel and adjacent barracks to C.W. Clark who restored the North Chapel preserving stained glass windows, ornate tile and hand carved pews using historic tax credits. For 15 years the North Chapel has been used for religious services of many denominations, weddings, memorial services, conference plenary sessions, and concerts. These uses were consistent with the historic uses of the Chapel by the U.S. Navy.

Many of our sailors attended their last church service before going off to defend our country in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Following several public workshops in 2000, I prepared jointly for the City of San Diego and the McMillin NTC, LLC, the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties at the Naval Training Center, San Diego (Guidelines)*. This document was approved by the San Diego City Council on October 3, 2000. Besides giving an overview of the history of NTC, the development and consensus building of the citizens of San Diego, the goals and objectives for its preservation and development, there are several references to unique buildings, landscaping and places for special care within the *Guidelines*. The North Chapel is one of those unique buildings, constructed immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to honor those men and women of the U.S. Navy. Although Liberty Station contains many old barracks buildings, now used for retail of which I participated and proud of the results, the uses of both the North Chapel as well as the Command Center (Building 200) are unique public spaces and their historical uses are an important public policy consideration.

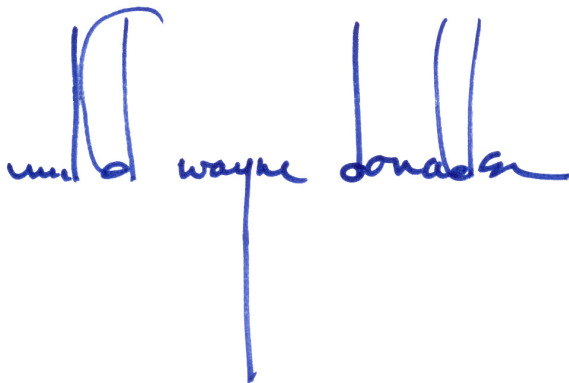
Based on *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties at the Naval Training Center, San Diego*, it is my belief that this change into a restaurant at the North Chapel would be inconsistent with the *Guidelines* as well as the desires of Corky McMillin and his proud remembrance of the events that happened in the Chapel that he shared with me. It is critical to retain the Chapel for its intended uses as well as public uses without major alterations to the Chapel's spectacular interior.

I also strongly feel this is a violation of public trust to the men and women who served in our armed forces in defense of our nation. The memories of their dedication, service and support of family will be forever lost.

I urge the City of San Diego to oppose any change of historic uses of the North Chapel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Milford Wayne Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

Milford Wayne Donaldson FAIA

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CC:

Councilmember Lorie Zapf

Mara Elliott, City Attorney

Robert Vacchi, DSD

Joe Haeussler, Exec VP McMillin

E Lowe, DSD

Jodie Brown, Historic Review Board

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Jon Linney, Peninsula Community Planning Board

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P3 Joel Young

Aimee Faucett, Mayor Faulconer

Conrad Wear, CD 2