



United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions

Washington, D C 20520

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OFFICE OF ZONING
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REF 15-1003

Ms. Sara Benjamin Bardin
Director, Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 16620A
EXHIBIT NO. 31

RE: BZA Application No. 16620A
Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Square 2122, Lot 27
2741 34th Street, NW

Dear Ms. Bardin:

The Department of State hereby provides its comments concerning the application submitted to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding its desire to construct a security fence at its Embassy located at 2741 34th Street, NW. The application was submitted pursuant to 11 DCMR § 1002.66 and section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. § 4306). This case is scheduled to be heard on October 27, 2015.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §§ 4301-4316), particularly sections 4303 and 4306, I hereby convey to the BZA the following comments and determinations concerning the subject application. These comments and determinations relate to the statutory criteria governing BZA determinations that lie within the purview of the Federal Government, namely 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(1), (4), and (6), as well as the pertinent portion of (d)(3).

First, with respect to the criterion set forth in 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(1), we have determined that favorable BZA action on the present application would fulfill the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the provision of

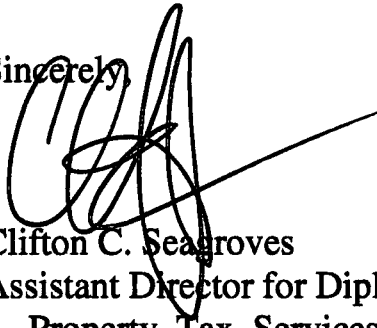
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adequate and secure premises for the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Washington.

Second, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(3), after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services, we have determined that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking in this case. I have also determined, after similar consultation, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(4), that the subject site and area will be capable of being adequately protected with the addition of the requested fence.

Finally, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(6), there is a Federal interest in this project. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has generously assisted the U.S. Government with creating setbacks, closing streets, and erecting barriers to accommodate the security requirements for the U.S. Embassy in Baku. Such cooperation was essential for successfully achieving the Federal Government's mission of providing safe, secure, and functional facilities for the conduct of U.S. diplomacy and the promotion of U.S. interests worldwide.

Sincerely,



Clifton C. Seagroves
Assistant Director for Diplomatic
Property, Tax, Services, and Benefits

cc: Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan