



American Foreign Service Association

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July 25, 2013

Richard S. Nero, Jr
Deputy Director of Operations, DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200 South
Washington, DC, 20001

Dear Mr. Nero:

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) represents over 13,000 active service members of the Foreign Service of the United States of America from the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture. They serve at 256 embassies and consulates around the world from Iraq to Kenya to India and Peru. As Vice President of AFSA for USAID, I am writing to you today on behalf of Ms. Stephanie Funk, a USAID employee and AFSA member presently serving overseas in Malawi, Africa.

For all Foreign Service diplomats serving overseas it is a fact of life that they must, by regulation, designate a state of residence. In the absence of a decision to change it, this state of residence will remain their state of residence throughout their Foreign Service career, which may last thirty years or more. Their home leave address will be in this state of residence, they will pay taxes there (if applicable), they will often own property there, and it is to this state that the Department of State will transport them, their family and their possessions when they retire from government service. Under the Geneva Convention, these diplomats serving overseas are not considered "resident" in the country to which they are accredited. On the contrary, the U. S. Government requires them to designate a state of residence in the United States, and it is a reasonable expectation that this state will in turn recognize them as residents for all appropriate benefits.

Thus Ms. Funk's primary residence is in the District of Columbia at 2516 Mill Road, NW Washington, DC 20007. Ms. Funk bought this residence in 2012 and despite her absence from the country has never rented it. She wants to renovate it in order to be able live in it upon her return to the United States. It is AFSA's opinion, therefore, that variance fees should be applied at the "Resident" rate (\$325 for all variances) rather than the non-resident rate (\$1040 for each individual variance.)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully yours,

Sharon Wayne
Vice President for USAID
American Foreign Service Association

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18652

EXHIBIT NO. 8

Board of Zoning Adjustment
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