



United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 30, 2013

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REF 13-1056

Ms. Sara Benjamin Bardin
Director, Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200/210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 18678
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman
Square 0183, Lot 0106
Annex at 1100 16th Street, N.W.

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 Sultanate of Oman regarding its desire to open a chancery annex in a vacant building in the SP-2 Zone District located at 1100 16th Street, N.W. The application was submitted pursuant to D.C. Code 5-1206 and Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §4306.) This case is scheduled to be heard on December 17, 2013.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act, 22 U.S.C. §4301, *et seq.*, 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

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18678

EXHIBIT NO. 28

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the acquisition of adequate and secure premises by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

Second, after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services, we have determined, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (6), that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking in this case. I have also, after similar consultation, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(4), determined that the subject site and area are capable of being adequately protected.

Finally, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (6), there is a federal interest in this project. The Government of the Sultanate of Oman is a reliable partner in providing for needs of the U.S. Embassy in Muscat, including an increased security presence during periods of increased threats. Such cooperation is essential for successfully achieving the Federal Government's mission for providing safe, secure, and functional facilities for the conduct of U.S. diplomacy and the promotion of U.S. interests worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Ketchem', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fredrick J. Ketchem
Deputy Assistant Secretary

cc: Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman