



United States Department of State

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Office of Foreign Missions

2013 NOV 21 PM 10:13

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 15, 2013

REF 13-1104

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

RE:

BZA Application No. 18691
Embassy of Georgia
Square 134, Lot 167
1824-26 R 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 Georgia regarding its desire to purchase property located at 1824-26 R Street, NW, for use as its chancery. The application was submitted pursuant to DC Code 5-1206 and Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §4306.) This case is scheduled to be heard on January 7, 2014.

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 the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the acquisition of adequate and secure premises by the Government of the Republic of Georgia for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18691

EXHIBIT NO. 26

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18691
EXHIBIT NO. 26

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 Republic of the Georgia and the City of Tbilisi generously assisted with the zoning and land-use needs required for the construction of the new U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi in 2005. Such cooperation was 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 Republic of Georgia