



United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 17, 2015

REF 15-165

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. 18953

EXHIBIT NO. 38

RE: BZA Application No. 18953
Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Square 0019, Lot 0823
601 New Hampshire Avenue, 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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding its desire to construct a security screening facility and perimeter security fence at its Embassy located at 601 New Hampshire Avenue, 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 March 24, 2015.

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

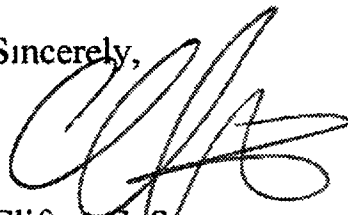
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adequate and secure premises by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has generously assisted with the zoning and land-use needs required for the construction of new U.S. facilities in the Kingdom over many years. The Department of State's standard for perimeter security at facilities overseas is a minimum height of nine feet, and the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh has a nine-foot concrete perimeter wall topped with concertina wire for additional protection. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Seagroves', written over the printed name.

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

cc: Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia