



United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 24, 2015

REF 15-334

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

RE: BZA Application No. 19013
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Square 2122
Lots 0006, 0016, 0017, 0020, 0021, 0804, 0809

Dear Ms. Bardin:

The Department of State hereby provides its comments concerning the application submitted to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) by the Apostolic Nunciature regarding its desire to install a perimeter security fence at its Chancery located at 3339 Massachusetts 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 May 19, 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). The Department of State supports this project for the following reasons:

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

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the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the provision of adequate and secure premises by the Apostolic Nunciature for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

Second, we have determined, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (3), that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking in this case. I have also, after similar consultation, with respect to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(4), determined that the subject expansion will enhance the ability of Federal agencies to ensure the adequate protection of the chancery.

Finally, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (6), there is a Federal interest in this project. Cooperation with host governments is 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. The Department of State's standard for perimeter security has become a minimum height of nine feet at facilities overseas, and the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See has a nine-foot perimeter fence. The Federal Government supports security enhancements for foreign mission facilities in the United States including this project.

Sincerely,



Clifton C. Seagroves
Director, Acting

cc: Apostolic Nunciature