

United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions

Washington, D C. 20520

September 29, 2015

REF 15-1010

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

RE: BZA Application No. 19130
Embassy of the Russian Federation
Square 2536, Lot 308
2001 Connecticut 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 Russian Federation regarding its desire to construct a security fence at its chancery annex located at 2001 Connecticut 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 October 20, 2015.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §§ 4301-4316), 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

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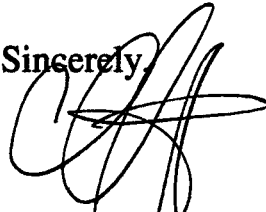
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the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the provision of adequate and secure premises for the Government of the Russian Federation in Washington.

Second, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(3), after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services, we have determined that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking in this case. I have also determined, after similar consultation, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(4), that the subject site and area will be capable of being adequately protected with the addition of the requested fence.

Finally, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(6), there is a Federal interest in this project. The Government of the Russian Federation has recently granted design approval for the U.S. Government's construction project in Moscow. Such approval 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 be 'C. Seagroves', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

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

cc: Embassy of the Russian Federation