



United States Department of State

Office of Foreign Missions

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 7, 2023

REF 23-239

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

RE: **BZA Application No. 20887**
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Square 2049 Lots 0807
Square 2049 Lots 0808
4200 Linnean 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 the Netherlands regarding its plans to construct a parking garage on its chancery premises, located at 4200 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008. 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 May 10, 2023.

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, we 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 provision of adequate and secure premises for the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Washington.

Secondly, 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,

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and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(4), 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 the Netherlands has been helpful in addressing the United States' land use needs in The Hague, Netherlands. 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,



Gretchen Franke
Assistant Director
Property and Special Projects

cc: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands