



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of Foreign Missions
Washington, DC

August 13, 2026

REF 26-1642

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. 21515
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 install security barriers and a perimeter fence at its chancery 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 October 7, 2026.

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

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 21515
EXHIBIT NO. 27

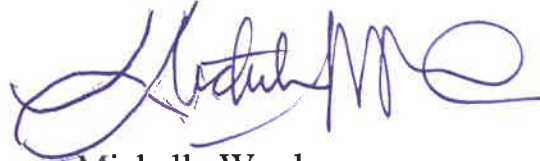
governing BZA determinations that lie within the purview of the Federal Government, namely 22 U.S.C. § 4306(d)(1), (4), and (6), as well as the pertinent portion of (d)(3).

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 Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Washington, DC.

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, 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 Saudi Arabia has been helpful in addressing the United States' land use and security needs in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Ward", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Ward
Assistant Director
Property and Special Projects