NCPC
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20576
Tel 202 482-7200
Fax 202 482-7272
www.ncpc.gov

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The Honorable Anthony A. Williams

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Linda W. Cropp

Executive Director
Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC File No. Z.C. 03-10

SEP 8 2003

Zoning Commission for the
District of Columbia
2nd Floor, Suite 210 South
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Members of the Commission:

In response to your request, pursuant to delegation of authority adopted by the Commission on August 6, 1999, I have reviewed the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Regulations of the District of Columbia establishing zoning standards for public libraries, and found that the proposal would not adversely affect the identified federal interests nor be inconsistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

A copy of the Delegated Action of the Executive Director is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director

Enclosure

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-10
Exhibit 20

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-10
EXHIBIT NO.20

NCPC File No. ZC 03-10

NCPC
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ESTABLISHING ZONING STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

AUG 2 0 2003

Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority adopted on August 6, 1999, I find that the proposed text amendment to the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations concerning Public Recreation and Community Centers would not adversely affect the identified federal interests and is consistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

* * *

The District of Columbia Zoning Commission has taken a proposed action to amend the text of the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations by providing zoning regulations and standards for public libraries. This amendment includes adding three distinct categories of public libraries and providing use and parking standards for those uses. District of Columbia operations, such as public libraries, have only been regulated by zoning since 1990, and since that time the zoning regulations have not been amended to reflect standards for public libraries as a regulated use.

The proposed text amendment defines three categories of public libraries for zoning purposes. A Full Service Neighborhood Public Library is defined as a permanent facility that not only provides full book service, but ancillary spaces such as meeting rooms, work rooms, kitchen facilities, etc. The second category defines a Community Public Library as one that is housed in a portable structure and includes a small staff and minimal space for activities. Finally, the amendment adds a definition for a kiosk public library, which is also housed in a portable structure but provides no additional space for activities. The text amendment goes on to establish these as matter-of-right uses in the mixed-use, waterfront, and residential districts, which would also allow them to be matter-of-right in commercial districts. The proposed regulations provide parking standards for the libraries and a special exception process by which the Board of Zoning Adjustment can reduce the amount of parking required if a library is located within proximity of a Metro Station.

The federal interests related to this proposed text amendment are those existing or future library sites which are adjacent to a federal use or historic street, place or monument. These regulations provide zoning standards and guidelines for the permitting of public libraries and do not apply to any particular site or district. Under the National Capital Planning Act, NCPC has specific review authority over all District of Columbia projects, including public libraries. Specifically, this authority is approval within the Central Employment Area, and advisory outside of it. The regulations do not compromise NCPC's review jurisdiction on individual District of Columbia library projects nor do they alter Section 106.4 of the Zoning Regulations that exempt District projects within the Central Employment Area from zoning regulation. Therefore, it is my conclusion that the proposed text amendment will not negatively affect any federal interest.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director