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**United States Department of State**

*Office of Foreign Missions  
Washington, D.C. 20520*

November 15, 2013

REF 13-1106

Anthony J. Hood  
Chairman, Zoning Commission  
Office of Zoning  
441 4th Street, N.W., Ste. 200-S  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Hood:

The Department of State (Department) understands that the record for the Zoning Regulations – Comprehensive Text Revisions case will remain open until further notice to accept written comments. The Department requests that Subtitle X and portions of other subtitles dealing with chanceries remain open until February 15 to allow the Federal Government sufficient time to provide meaningful input on these significant revisions.

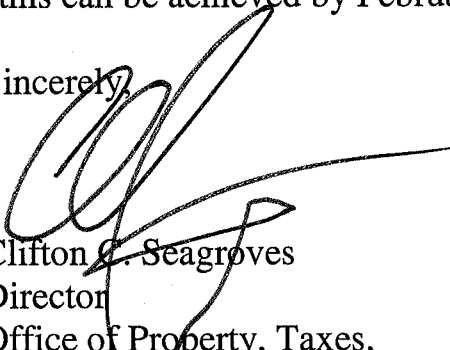
Although the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan calls for a joint effort among the District government, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the Department of State in the development of regulations governing chancery location, replacement and expansion, the text revisions under consideration by the Zoning Commission were developed without input from the Federal Government. In fact, the Department was not informed of the substance of the revisions until shortly before the November 5 public hearing on Title 11, which includes Subtitle X.

The Department, in conjunction with NCPC, first met with the Office of Planning and the Office of the Attorney General on November 13 to discuss the revisions. This discussion highlights the urgent need for the Department to submit comments and propose further revisions in order to maintain the balance of federal and municipal interests in accordance with the Foreign Missions Act.

The Department recognizes that this case has been a multi-year effort and understands the Commission's desire to finalize the regulations as soon as possible. However, it is critically important that this effort result in regulations that are consistent with the federal law that governs the location, replacement and expansion of chanceries in the District.

Therefore, the Department requests that the Commission set aside Subtitle X and portions of other subtitles dealing with chanceries in order to give the Department sufficient time to carefully consider the proposed regulations and provide meaningful input. We anticipate that this can be achieved by February 15.

Sincerely,



Clifton C. Seagroves  
Director  
Office of Property, Taxes,  
Services & Benefits