



DC HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 23, 2026

TO: Ella J. Ackerman, Zoning Specialist

FROM: Vermecia Alsop, DC HSEMA Hazard Mitigation Officer

RE: Case No. 16-18I (Georgetown University & National Park Service – Campus Plan Amendment)

The DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) reviewed the publicly available project materials from an emergency management and resilience perspective. While the formal permitting and technical processes are underway, we wanted to share a few considerations that may support long-term preparedness, operational resilience, and public safety as the project moves forward.

- An evacuation plan appears to be anticipated for the facility. Given the waterfront location and planned activities, it may be helpful to outline clear procedures for flooding, severe weather, medical incidents, and other situations that could require pausing operations or evacuating the site.
- The project team may want to identify specific operational triggers that indicate when to secure equipment, suspend activities, or evacuate. District tools such as the Flood Risk Viewer can help provide situational awareness and support early decision-making during changing conditions.
- Consider how emergency information will be communicated to participants both onshore and on the water. A multimodal communication approach (e.g., mobile alerts, audible signals, visual notifications, or other established procedures) can help ensure members, visitors, coaches, and staff receive timely instructions regardless of their location.
- The project materials did not clearly show how boats, rowing equipment, and other assets would be stored or secured during emergencies. Considering how equipment will be protected during storms, flooding, or other hazards may help reduce risks to people and property.
- Ensuring adequate lighting and safe access along docks and waterfront areas can support daily operations, emergency evacuations, and responder access, especially in low-light or nighttime conditions.
- As the project advances, developing an emergency action plan will be important. This may include evacuation steps, communication protocols, staff roles and responsibilities, key contacts, and how members and visitors will be notified during an incident.

HSEMA appreciates the opportunity to review the proposal and offers these considerations to support continued resilience, preparedness, and public safety planning.