

# COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File Nos. MP028 and  
7019/7021/6918



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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS  
CAMPUS MASTER PLAN  
4C WING EXPANSION, OPERATING ROOM/EMERGENCY  
DEPARTMENT/DECONTAMINATION CENTER EXPANSION, FISHER HOUSE**

50 Irving Street, NW  
Washington, DC

Submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs

December 3, 2009

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***Commission Action Requested***

Approval of comments on the draft master plan for the District of Columbia Veterans Affairs Medical Center Campus, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b)(1) and (d).

Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans for the 4C Wing Expansion, the Operating Room/Emergency Department/Decontamination Center Expansion, and the Fisher House on the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center Campus pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b)(1) and (d).

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***Commission Action***

The Commission:

**Commends** the Department of Veteran Affairs for providing a comprehensive framework for site development at the VA Medical Center over the next two decades that improves the urban character of the site by locating buildings out to the street edge, removes the surface parking and replaces it with structured parking, improves the campus perimeter by adding street trees, and proposes a transit center to improve shuttle and bus pickup for both its campus and the Washington Hospital Center.

**Comments** on the draft master plan for the VA Medical Center Campus as follows:

- Requires the applicant to modify the master plan to reflect recent planning work for the Armed Forces Retirement Home Master Plan and the North Capitol Street Cloverleaf Feasibility Study for active ground floor uses and build-to lines along Irving Street, NW.
- Requires the applicant to explore further the design of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, NW, as a pedestrian and bicycle connection for the VA Medical Center and between the Armed Forces Retirement Home site and the McMillan Sand Filtration site.

- Requires the applicant to provide more detail in the final master plan concerning the parking phasing to demonstrate that its parking ratio meets the 1:4 ratio stipulated in the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements as the master plan is realized and to submit additional justification for the increase in visitor parking.
- Notes that the applicant should explore an agreement with DDOT and WMATA to better define the proposed transit center on the VA Medical Center campus. While this discussion has been initiated, it is not clear whether the transit center includes a reconfiguration of the roadway, rerouting buses, a pedestrian bridge over 1<sup>st</sup> Street, NW or some other option.
- Requires the applicant to explore alternatives in the final master plan to address potential visual impacts of the Domiciliary and the Community Living Center on the North Capitol Street corridor and the Armed Forces Retirement Home viewshed. Alternatives for minimizing the impact include shifting these components, reducing their scale or adding landscape screening and need to be included in the final master plan.
- Requires the applicant to refine the perimeter security proposal in the final master plan to balance security needs and future planning objectives within an urban context.
- Encourages the VA to participate in the shuttle service study being conducted jointly by the D.C. Office of Planning and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in an effort to make shuttle service that utilizes Brookland/CUA Metro Station safer, more reliable and more efficient.
- Notes that since the applicant began its archeological survey as stipulated by the DC State Historic Preservation Office an update on this progress needs to be included in the final master plan. The applicant should also submit plans and designs for individual buildings facing the McMillan Sand Filtration site and the Armed Forces Retirement Home to the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office.

**Approves** the preliminary and final building and site plans for the 4C Wing Expansion, the Operating Room/Emergency Department/Decontamination Center Expansion, and the Fisher House on the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center Campus as shown on NCPC Map File No. 12.20(38.00)42930 noting that the requested changes to the Master Plan do not affect these projects.

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Deborah B. Young  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission