

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6321



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM
JUDICIARY SQUARE
400 Block of E Street, NW, Washington, DC

Submitted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc.

April 1, 2004

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of design concept pursuant to Public Law 106-492.

Commission Action

The Commission:

Waives the requirement imposed in the Commission's August 7, 2003 action on the Draft Master Plan for Judiciary Square that the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, Inc. and the District of Columbia Courts agree on the design of the plaza area located between the proposed National Law Enforcement Museum pavilions and north of the proposed new entrance to the Old D.C. Courthouse/City Hall because the parties have not agreed on a design in accordance with the Commission's order and the Congress' direction to the parties.

Commends the applicant for modifications to the design that have substantially eliminated physical and visual barriers that interfered with access to the new north entrance to Old City Hall in the previous submission that was withdrawn; and anticipates continued cooperation between National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, Inc. and the District of Columbia Courts in achieving a successful design solution for both the National Law Enforcement Museum and the Old City Hall that enhances Judiciary Square.

Directs the applicant to resubmit a more fully developed design concept for the National Law Enforcement Museum, including additional information on the above-grade entrance pavilions and a permanent design solution for the surrounding plaza at Judiciary Square, 400 block of E Street, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.23(73.10)-41342, with the following conditions/recommendations:

- Work with the District of Columbia Courts to ensure that the permanent design for the lower plaza, the connecting elements between the lower and upper plazas, and the upper plaza are complementary and result in a unified vision for Judiciary Square.

- Revise the massing and height of the entrance pavilions to be more compatible with the neoclassical proportions of the Old City Hall, Court Building C and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and with the neoclassical placement of buildings within Judiciary Square. Include plans and elevations that illustrate how the Museum pavilions will relate to adjacent buildings, and perspectives to illustrate how the Museum will appear in context when seen from the Pension Building and the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial, and when seen from the open areas at the corner of D and 4th Streets, and of Indiana Avenue and 5th Street through openings between the adjacent buildings, and from the new courthouse entrance.
- Simplify the design of the plaza area, including paving, ramps, skylights, planters and stairs, so that the overall design concept supports and enhances the character of Judiciary Square as identified in the Draft Judiciary Square Master Plan as both a “green precinct” and “an accessible open space.”
- Ensure that there is direct, axial, and universal access to the Courthouse (Old City Hall) that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Provide information on the pattern and appearance of the translucent and opaque paving materials proposed for the lower plaza area.
- Provide elevations and sections of the ramps and skylights connecting the lower plaza and upper plaza.
- Provide a circulation plan that indicates proposed vehicle and pedestrian movements throughout the lower and upper plazas, including service access. Consider locating service entries on the south side of the pavilions, to enhance the streetscape on E Street.
- Work with the District of Columbia Courts and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to develop a plan for perimeter security that complies with the National Capital Urban Design and the Security Plan as well as the Judiciary Square Master Plan.
- Prepare an environmental assessment in conformance with the Commission's environmental policy and procedures and that the public scoping, distribution for review and comment, and response to any substantive comments on the environmental assessment be achieved prior to the submission of the project for NCPC review.

Requests that the NLEOMF work with the District of Columbia Courts to explore the feasibility of allowing the Museum underground access to its proposed service entry from 4th Street.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission