

# COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6458



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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX**  
**PERIMETER SECURITY**  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

May 6, 2004

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*Commission Action Requested by Applicant*

Approval of concept site development plan pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(d) and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b) (1)).

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*Commission Action*

The Commission:

**Approves** the concept site development plans for perimeter security for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters Complex, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.71(05.17)-41358.

**Commends** the U.S. Department of Agriculture for adopting a unified approach in developing the concept for enhanced perimeter security for its Headquarters Complex.

**Recommends** that, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture develops preliminary and final site development plans:

- Increase bollard spacing throughout to the full extent practicable and in accordance with current recommendations of the Interagency Security Committee. This applies particularly to vehicular entrances to the South Building from C Street, where bollards intrude into the pedestrian path and bollard placement precludes high-speed vehicle approaches.
- Increase pedestrian circulation and queuing space at all street corners where the concept recommends bollards, and ensure that bollard spacing and placement does not obstruct wheelchair access on and around handicapped ramps.

- Provide additional street trees and hardened benches, particularly along Independence Avenue adjacent to the Whitten and South Buildings.
- Minimize use of wedge-type vehicle barriers at driveways. Where required, these barriers should be located so that their visibility from adjacent sidewalks is minimized.
- Coordinate with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority regarding the placement of other bollards and security elements around the existing Metro station entrance at the northeast corner of the South Building, at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue.
- Relocate bollards along 12<sup>th</sup> Street at the west side of the Cotton Annex to the building yard, or provide additional justification for the threat level assigned to this facility.

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Deborah B. Young  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission