



LAFAYETTE BUILDING
PERIMETER SECURITY CAMERAS
811 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

July 28, 2005

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of three security cameras, two pole mounted and one building-mounted, all with bishop's crook arms, at the Lafayette Building, at 811 Vermont Avenue, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 21.00(38.00)41643.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted plans for the installation of three security cameras at the Lafayette Building, with frontage along Vermont Avenue, H, I, and 15th Streets, NW. The primary building occupants are the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Export Import Bank. The project is a consequence of a recent Building Security Assessment conducted by the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and resulting recommendations of the Department of Justice Vulnerability Study and the Building Security Committee.

The GSA and FPS propose to install three new cameras near the building's air intakes. Two cameras would be mounted on 15-foot high bronze fluted poles with bishop's crook arms near air intake vents at opposite ends of the landscaped area in front of the building's southwest corner at Vermont Avenue and H Street, NW. A third camera would be mounted on the building's northeast corner at 15th and I Streets, NW, near the Loeb's Restaurant entry and sign.

The project was coordinated by all agencies attending the July 13, 2005 Coordinating Committee meeting. The building is located across I Street from McPherson Square, faces the statue of the Brigadier General, and is part of the 15th Street Historic District. In order not to adversely affect the building's limestone facade, two of the cameras will be mounted on poles, and the third will make use of one of several existing penetrations in the limestone near the Loeb's entry. In consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, GSA determined that there will be no adverse effect from the undertaking, based on their intention not to make

any additional penetrations in the limestone. GSA also agreed to minimize the appearance of any conduit running along the building face by matching the limestone color. In further conversation, the applicant agreed to attach the third camera to the building via a bishops' crook arm like the one that attaches to the poles. In accordance with the Commission's submission procedures for environmental review, at Section 8, staff has determined that the proposed action is a Categorical Exclusion for Commission NEPA review purposes. GSA has determined that the proposal qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under its environmental review procedures in conformance with Chapter 5 of the GSA NEPA Compliance Guide.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director