



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS
H. CARL MOULTRIE I COURTHOUSE
500 INDIANA AVENUE, NW
Reconfiguration of Main Entrance
Washington, D.C.**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

February 23, 2007

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve preliminary and final site and building plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (e) for reconfiguration of the main entrance to the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse at 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C., as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.20(38.00)42191.

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The District of Columbia Courts has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for a reconfigured entrance to the Moultrie Courthouse. The Executive Director favorably commented on the concept design for the proposed entrance in the May 2006 delegated review. The entrance reconfiguration was included in the approved 2005 Judiciary Square Master Plan. The new entrance will accommodate interior queuing space for visitors and allow the introduction of new biometric technology for staff identification. Long lines of staff, litigants, and visitors (10,000 visitors a day) are the result of increased security measures in the lobby of the courthouse.

The reconfiguration of the entrance will create a new glass façade that will project from the building in a graceful curve from the plaza grade to the underside of the second story overhang. The glass and steel design of the reconfigured entrance will create a sense of openness and visibility for the courthouse that are now lacking, and improve both its appearance and its identification as the entrance. The entrance vestibule, including the capture of 640 square feet of exterior plaza space, will expand from 174 square feet to 1690 square feet. An additional pair of double doors will provide increased capacity to move staff and visitors through the entry. A separate staff vestibule with biometric scanners will remove the staff from the queue as it operates now and that fact, coupled with the decentralization of functions within the Judiciary Square court buildings is expected to reduce or eliminate visitor queues on the plaza.

The project was coordinated at the April 2006 Coordinating Committee meeting. NCPC served as the lead agency for Section 106 and NEPA reviews, which were completed with an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in July 2003 and a Memorandum of Agreement for the Commission approved final Judiciary Square Master Plan in August 2005.

The District of Columbia Courts will soon return to the Commission with a proposal for the redesign of the plaza in front of the entrance; staff has reviewed early design development of plaza improvements, which are intended to increase visitor accessibility, improve pedestrian amenities, and include a vehicle barrier in front of the entrance.

I commend the District of Columbia Courts for a project that will improve the appearance, visibility, and function of the Moultrie Courthouse and its Indiana Avenue entrance.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director