

**EMBASSY OF ISRAEL  
SECURITY FENCE MODIFICATIONS**

3514 International Drive, NW  
Washington, DC

Submitted by the United States Department of State

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

August 25, 2011

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and the International Center Act of 1968, Public Law 90-553, as amended by Public Law 97-186 at Section 3, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for modifications to the existing security fence at the Embassy of Israel located at 3514 International Drive, NW, Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 72.10(38.40)43400.

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The United States Department of State has requested, on behalf the Embassy of Israel, preliminary and final approval of site development plans for modifications to its existing security fence. The Embassy of Israel is located at the intersection of International Drive and Van Ness Street, NW in the International Chancery Center (ICC). Due to the grade of the site, at some locations the existing fence height is low; and therefore, creates a security risk. The proposed modifications will increase the height of the fence by adding 28 inch high finials along its entire length.

Staff has reviewed the plans for the proposed fence modification against NCPC's *Development Controls for the Chancery Section of the International Center in the District of Columbia*, which, among other things, contain specifications pertaining to fences within the ICC. The development controls state, "the top of such fences may be no higher than six and one-half feet above the final grade," and "all surfaces of fences shall be finished and designed in such a manner as to harmonize with the design and materials used in the construction of the Chancery and shall present no objectionable characteristics to adjacent lots." Staff finds that while the majority of the fence will remain below the maximum height prescribed in the development controls following the addition of the finials, the fence will exceed 6'6" in limited instances due to changes in grade. Staff considers this inconsistency to be relatively minor as it is isolated to only

a few sections of fence around the embassy, and further finds that the fence will remain consistent with the intent of the development controls to prevent security fences from being overwhelming and obtrusive. The proposed finials will be in the same material and color as the existing fence and will not change the existing fence character.

The fence modification has been reviewed by the Department of State, which finds the work consistent with the policies and objectives of the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the International Center and has determined that no additional environmental assessment is required. NCPC staff has determined that the proposed project adheres to the NCPC Categorical Exclusion requirements under §8(C)(2) of the agency's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, which is for "repair, replacement, and routine installation of site elements such as site or building identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, retaining walls, curbs, or gates."

The Department of State has determined, and staff concurs, that the proposed security fence modifications inside the ICC are not subject to further review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act because the buildings are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the project on August 10, 2011, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were the NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.



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Marcel C. Acosta  
Executive Director