



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Engine House 14 Modernization and Expansion</b> 4801 North Capitol Street, NE Washington, D.C.	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7402
	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 53.10(38.00)43619
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> District of Columbia Department of General Services	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Preliminary and final approval of site and building plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Advisory per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

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The District of Columbia Department of General Services has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for the modernization and expansion of Engine House 14, a District of Columbia fire station located at 4801 North Capitol Street, NE. The existing building has never been upgraded since being constructed in 1944, and is in need of significant improvement particularly on the interior.

Engine House 14 is located within a primarily residential area with multi-family housing immediately to the north and south. Directly across North Capitol Street is Rock Creek Cemetery. The Armed Forces Retirement Home is located just south of the project site. The project site is approximately 44,000 square feet and has an elevation differential of approximately three feet from front to back (front to rear). The existing red brick building, which has a floor area of approximately 8,200 square feet, is composed of a central apparatus bay flanked by administrative and support wings to the north and south. Vehicular access to the site is from North Capitol Street, which will remain following completion of the project, with a curb cut providing access to the apparatus bay and a second curb cut leading to parking located at the rear of the building. Moderately dense plantings along the north, south, and east property boundaries provide a buffer between fire station and the surrounding residential neighborhood.

The proposed modernization and addition will add approximately 4,300 square feet to the existing structure, resulting in a total of 12,575 square feet of building area. The exterior of the existing building will be re-pointed and restored while the interior will be completely renovated including new sprinkler, electrical, and HVAC systems. Due to the site's topography, the additions will be placed primarily at the front and back of the two wings that flank the central apparatus bay in order to avoid costly excavation and re-grading as well as provide a new façade to the fire house while allowing the central portion of the building to remain a centerpiece to the overall composition. The additions will be primarily constructed of plaster walls with block backup or glass curtain walls. The additions to the front and back of the building's north wing will contain expanded living and dining facilities. The reconfigured north wing will contain a large living and dining room along North Capitol Street connected to a large kitchen and kitchen storage area. The remainder of the north wing will contain the dormitory, locker rooms, and shower facilities. The south wing will contain administrative offices, equipment storage, officer's bedrooms, and a fitness facility.

Proposed site work includes widening of the central apparatus bay access drive and providing a dumpster enclosure and 14 parking spaces. The majority of the parking spaces will remain at the rear of the building. In addition, a small outdoor plaza will be constructed at the rear of the building behind the central apparatus bay, between the proposed additions. The plaza is intended to provide outdoor recreation space for those working and living at the facility.

The proposed modernization and expansion of Engine House 14 is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. This project will significantly upgrade an important District of Columbia fire and emergency facility and improve the quality of the workplace environment for those District of Columbia public servants working and living in the building. The proposed additions are modest in size and result in an overall building mass that remains compatible with the prevailing scale of the surrounding residential neighborhood. Furthermore, the fire house will continue to be screened by the planted buffer that exists around much of the site.

This is a District of Columbia public building project located outside the Central Area of Washington, D.C., as defined by NCPC and the D.C. Council. NCPC is advisory as to its review authority over this project and therefore does not have an obligation to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its August 15, 2012 meeting and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the modernization and expansion of District of Columbia Engine House #14 located at 4801 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C. as shown in NCPC Map File No. 53.10(38.00)43619.

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Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

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