



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

---

<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Fencing and Gates at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic</b> 3523 International Court, NW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7798
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of State	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 72.10(38.00)44372
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approve as requested
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval Per Section 4 of the International Center Act (Public Law 90-553, amended by Public Law 97-186)

---

The Department of State has submitted for approval new security fencing and gates at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic (Embassy), located at 3523 International Court, within the International Chancery Center (ICC) in Northwest Washington. A similar plan for new fencing and gates at the Embassy was approved by the Executive Director through a delegated action on December 1, 2011; however, this approved plan was never implemented.

The scope of the project includes: a reconfiguration of the driveway and walkways entering the Embassy property from International Court; the removal of three existing trees where the new driveway and walkways will be located; two new aluminum pedestrian gates and two new aluminum vehicular gates (approximately 6 feet 6 inches in height) flanked by cast stone pillars (approximately 7 feet in height); a short section of aluminum fencing (approximately 6 feet 6 inches in height) tying together the gates to an existing fence at the Egyptian Embassy to the south; and a section of aluminum fencing (approximately 6 feet 6 inches in height) that begins north of the gate area and follows an existing retaining wall along the north/northwest side of property, connecting to an existing fence at the northeast corner of the Embassy structure.

The proposed plans for the new fencing and gates at the Embassy are not inconsistent with the *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.” The proposed fencing and gates are designed to the maximum height prescribed in the development controls and have a similar appearance to adjacent existing perimeter fences and gates. In addition, the design of the fencing and gates is compatible with the current site design and landscaping of the Embassy site; the proposed material palette of aluminum fencing and cast stone pillars is in keeping with the existing site fencing and materials used at the Embassy.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of State determined that the project is consistent with the Development Controls and approved Master Plan for the ICC. Therefore, the Department of State determined that the original Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Master Plan satisfies their responsibility to comply with NEPA. NCPC has an independent responsibility to comply with NEPA and NCPC staff determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(c)(2) of the Commission'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." Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA procedures.

Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has a responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During Section 106 consultation, NCPC found that the site development plans for the new fences and gates would not cause adverse effects on historic properties and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) concurred with that finding on June 24, 2016.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its June 15, 2016 meeting. The Committee 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 District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the DC SHPO; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

\* \* \*

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per Section 4 of the International Center Act (Public Law 90-553, amended by Public Law 97-186), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for new fencing and gates at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, at 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC.

// Original Signed //	July 1, 2016
_____ Marcel Acosta Executive Director	_____ Date