



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

August 21, 2017

Mr. Frederick Hill
Chairperson
Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001
bzasubmissions@dc.gov

RE: 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW (BZA #19557)

Dear Chairperson Hill,

At its regular meeting on August 9, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0):

WHEREAS, the Chancery of Australia has applied to renovate its embassy at 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has created an expedited Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment which encompasses public space, historic preservation, and zoning entitlements review for foreign missions,

WHEREAS, the renovation as proposed is within the confines of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports the zoning variance portion of the request, and notes that the floor area ratio of the proposed new building is 20% less than the existing floor area ratio,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B understands that the current building is a non-contributing structure within the 16th Street Historic District and therefore has a lower preservation standard than contributing structures,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the current building is not a candidate for historic landmarking and is encouraged by the design of the proposed new construction,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B appreciates the applicant's attention to improving public space along Massachusetts Avenue and 16th Street NW, ANC 2B notes that the public space improvements along Massachusetts Avenue do not strictly conform to ANC 2B's public space guidelines, which request that sidewalks within our neighborhood have a width of at least ten feet and that there will be portions of the sidewalk along Massachusetts Avenue which will only be six feet in width,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B nevertheless supports the public space portion of the application because the applicant will be providing a car drop-off woonerf on its own property, inviting the public to walk on embassy grounds where the path is more than ten feet wide, and not on the six foot wide sidewalk, and


WHEREAS, ANC 2B encourages the applicant to study and minimize the impact of glare from its facade as it relates to nearby residential buildings and traffic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project as proposed.

Commissioners Randy Downs (randy.downs@dupontcircleanc.net) and Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Mann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann
Chair