

MEDIA RELEASE



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NCPC Hears Information Presentation on National Mall Signage

Commission provides favorable comments on text amendment for firearm retail sales establishments

Washington, DC – At its March meeting the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) heard an information presentation from the National Park Service (NPS) on proposed new signage for the National Mall and neighboring memorial parks. According to the National Park Service, the current signage on the National Mall is in poor condition, inadequate, and lacks uniformity. All NPS signs will therefore be replaced.

The proposed new signage will follow the Park Service's UniGuide Sign Standards that establish standards for the planning, design, fabrication, installation, inventory, and maintenance for outdoor signs at all National Park Service locations in the United States. It is being funded as part of the NPS Centennial Initiative, a challenge grant program of economic stimulus projects to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service. It will be paid for through a 50/50 partnership between the NPS and the Trust for the National Mall.

Signs will be added in phases. During phase one, signage will be replaced around the Lincoln Memorial and parts of Constitution and Independence Avenues. In phase two, signs will be replaced in East and West Potomac Parks and on the Washington Monument Grounds. Phase three will add signs east of the Washington Monument and near the plaza located in front of the Grant Memorial. Today's presentation was information only, so no Commission action was taken.

The Commission also commented favorably on a zoning text amendment submitted by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission to allow firearm retail sales establishments in several commercial and industrial zoning districts in Washington, DC. NCPC's review determined that the project is not inconsistent with federal interests or with the federal elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. The amendment would allow firearm retail sales establishments as a matter-of-right use in specified medium and high-density, commercial areas, but not allow them to locate within 300 feet of a residential district, special purpose district, church, school, library, or playground.

This month's agenda also included one consent calendar item (no presentation given): concept design for patient connectivity corridors and courtyards at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Information regarding Commission actions can be accessed at www.ncpc.gov.

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