



Association of Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia¹



Established Dec. 7, 1865 – Celebrating our 159th year!

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October 26, 2024

Colonel Francis B. Pera, District Commander

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

2 Hopkins Plaza

Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Colonel Pera:

Again, thank you for providing the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia an opportunity to participate in helping to resolve the issues regarding the reconstruction of the Castle Building at the Georgetown Receiving Reservoir of the Washington Aqueduct.

We believe the draft MOA accurately and adequately addresses the history of the restoration project, the issues raised over the course of several years, provides a viable plan to address and mitigate the issues of concern, and lays a reasonable path toward the completion of the project.

As the District oldest historical organization and one that has prided itself on preservation matters even before “preservation” was a “thing,” the AOI of DC would like to especially express its appreciation for the items included in Stipulations, Part 4 Additional Mitigation, Subsection a-c Interpretive Panel, Documentation and Public Outreach [Please note the omission or mis-numbering of the Stipulations in that an item 2 appears to be missing.] The AOI of DC is a strong proponent of interpretive signage and waysides to tell the stories behind historic structures, neighborhoods, parks, and historic military fortifications. The addition of interpretive signage as described in 4a, Interpretive Panel will provide passersby, students from nearby schools, and future researchers an accurate description of the historic Washington Aqueduct system and in particular the features and functions of the Georgetown Receiving Reservoir. We also hope, as an aside, that

¹ The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia -- the District's oldest civic organization -- was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security, and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past. ¹Effective June 1, 1871, Congress revoked the charters of the cities of Washington, Georgetown and the County of Washington and established a consolidated government of the District of Columbia. For all intents and purposes, on that date Washington -- as far as a jurisdiction -- ceased to exist.



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the more generic “U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington Aqueduct” signs that were removed as a safety precaution following the events of 9/11/2001 may also be restored along the route of the system from the Great Falls Gatehouse to the Dalecarlia Filtration Plants and beyond.

The **one item** we request be added to the “Additional Mitigation” section is that the Historic Buildings & Public Parks medallion which appeared on the bottom of the south-east tower be returned to its original location as part of the mitigation, restoration process. While I do not want to speak for the District’s Historic Preservation Office, I would think that they, too, would be in support of the medallion being restored.



Dr. Cindy Gueli, the AOI’s President, looks forward to executing the signatory page up receipt of the final version of the MOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these remarks on behalf of the AOI of DC.

Sincerely,

William N. Brown, Past-President

Cc: David Maloney, CHPO; Robert Avery, Foxhall Community Citizens Association; Jessica Davis, Palisades Community Association; Rebecca Miller, D.C. Preservation League; et. al.

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