

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE National Mall and Memorial Parks 900 Ohio Drive, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20024-2000

April 1, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comments on the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the redevelopment of the United States Park Police (USPP) H1 Stables on the National Mall in Washington, DC. This 30-day public scoping effort is the first step in the EA process the NPS is conducting in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The purpose of the public scoping comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the redevelopment concept.

The project area is located on federal land in Ash Woods, between Independence Avenue and Ash Road, east of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and west of the DC War Memorial. The National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) NPS unit administers the project area. The purpose of the proposed project is to redevelop the horse stable facilities essential to the USPP mission as included in the approved National Mall Plan. The project is intended to improve horse living and stable conditions, provide adequate administrative space and storage, improve operational access, reduce vehicular and pedestrian conflicts, address drainage concerns, and engage the public through limited education/interpretation programs. The project area is located in the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District and the National Mall Historic District, which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the DC Inventory of Historic Sites.

In accordance with NEPA, the NPS will prepare an EA to evaluate the redevelopment of the USPP H1 Stables. The EA will address the project background, the purpose and need for the proposed actions, a determination of environmental issues and potential impacts resulting from the alternatives considered (including the no action alternative), and public involvement and agency coordination.

The public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the EA. A public scoping meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 17, 2019 at The Trust for the National Mall, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 370, Washington DC, 20004. Information presented at the public scoping meeting will also be presented via a webinar accessible at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/H1Stables on the same date and time. This public meeting and webinar will also serve as the initial public meeting for the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The public and interested parties are invited to identify ways to

avoid and minimize the potential for adverse effects to historic properties in the vicinity of the project site.

The public is encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, providing comments at the public scoping meeting. Comments received during the scoping period will be considered in the analyses to be conducted for the EA. The comment period will begin April 1, 2019 and closes May 1, 2019. The public is encouraged to submit comments online via the project website at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/H1Stables until May 1, 2019. Mailed comments must be postmarked by May 1, 2019 to receive consideration and sent to the following address:

Jeffrey P. Reinbold Acting Superintendent Attn: USPP H1 Stables Redevelopment EA National Park Service National Mall and Memorial Parks 900 Ohio Dr. SW Washington, DC 20024

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process and we appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,

Acting Deprty Superintendent Jeffrey P. Reinbold

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