U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

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25 February 2005

Dear Mr. Floyd:

During its meeting of 17 February 2005, the Commission reviewed the proposed revised concept for the National Law Enforcement Museum in Judiciary Square with the specific request from the applicant for the reconsideration of the inclusion of skylights within the plaza between the museum's two pavilions.

While the Commission is sympathetic to the lighting difficulties of an underground facility, it has not yet seen a proposal that would make a skylight in the plaza acceptable. However, the Commission will entertain the review of future designs for the museum that include a skylight element in the plaza. Furthermore, the members recommended that any skylight proposed for the plaza should maintain a low profile and not obstruct access to the Old Courthouse for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

We request that the museum's design team continue their efforts to coordinate with the District of Columbia Courts and their architects for the adjacent project to adapt and add to the Old Courthouse Building to house the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The careful coordination of these two projects is paramount to the success of both endeavors.

The Commission looks forward to further review of this project. Future submissions should include security features for the Museum and the Courts and a proposal for the museum's signs. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Lindstrom
Acting Secretary

Craig Floyd
Chairman, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund
400 7th Street, SW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20004

cc: Davis Buckley, AIA
Judge A. Wagner, DC Courts
Hani Hassan, AIA, BBB Architects