

# The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



www.committeeof100.net

February 18, 2012

***Founded 1923***

**Chair**

George R. Clark, Esq.

**Vice-Chair**

Nancy J. MacWood

**Secretary**

John W. Yago

**Treasurer**

Carol F. Aten

**Trustees**

Reyn Anderson

Bill Crews

Dorothy Douglas

Monte Edwards

Alma Gates

Erik Hein

Meg Maguire

Loretta Neumann

Laura M. Richards, Esq.

Lance Salonia

Marilyn J. Simon

Richard Westbrook

Dr. Beverley Wheeler

Evelyn Wrin

945 G Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

202.681.0225

[info@committeeof100.net](mailto:info@committeeof100.net)

Mr. Robert Vogel  
Superintendent, National Mall & Memorial Parks  
United States Park Service  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Mr. Steve Whitesell  
Regional Director, National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Mr. Vogel and Mr. Whitesell,

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City is once again participating in the Section 106 process reviewing alternate proposals for visitor screening at the Washington Monument. I won't review the unfortunate history of our relationship with NPS ten years ago and beginning again two years ago on this matter. The important point is that, while conducting the required reviews, NPS has consistently refused to engage C100 directly and openly in connection with its proposed alternate, which would not require irreversible damage to be done to the historic fabric of the building or the grounds. Subsequent to an on-site conversation with Captain Harasek last week, we have submitted a new version of it to Jennifer Talken-Spaulding. This latest proposal is for installation of a security system which would have no effect whatsoever on historic elements of the building.

In the first round of attempts by NPS to construct underground visitor access through the foundations and cellar of the Monument, the various review bodies and Congress were unpersuaded of its necessity. Given the present economic conditions, and the cost of tunneling and of modifying the recently completed Olin landscape relative to the cost of installing an improved security system within the Monument, it is difficult to believe that Congress would choose to finance the larger undertaking. Yet Congress has indicated its dislike of the present situation.

We were encouraged to send you the present material by Mr. Whitesell's expressed interest at last week's meeting. We hope that our recent submission will inaugurate a new era of open and constructive discussion between C100 and NPS.

Thank you for your early consideration of this matter,

Don Alexander Hawkins, Member, Planning Subcommittee