

JOINT RESOLUTION

Reserving as public open space the area in the District of Columbia between E Street and Constitution Avenue and 23rd and 25th Streets, Northwest

WHEREAS, the area in the District of Columbia between E Street and Constitution Avenue and 23rd and 25th Streets, Northwest, designated on the original 1803 King Flats for the City of Washington as Appropriation No. 4, includes one of the highest points of land of the original city as contemplated by Pierre Charles L'Enfant; and

WHEREAS, because of its height it affords an unexcelled view of the Washington Monument and Potomac Park to the southeast and of the Potomac River and surrounding hills in Virginia to the south and west; and

WHEREAS, all of the early plans for the city, including the Ellicott Plan of 1800, designated its use as an open space of considerable prominence; and

WHEREAS, the construction of any governmental office or similar structure on this site would detract from the significance of the National Cultural Center and the Lincoln Memorial;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the area in the District of Columbia between E Street and Constitution Avenue and 23rd and 25th Streets, Northwest, shall be reserved for public open space and may be used only as a national monument or memorial site.

SEC. 2. No structure shall hereafter be constructed in the area, except monuments and memorials of such dimensions, including height, as will not detract from the use of the area as public open space or from the significance of the National Cultural Center and the Lincoln Memorial.

SEC. 3. Reservation of the area as public open space shall not preclude construction by the District of Columbia within the area of approaches to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, the West Leg of the Inner Loop, and roadways in connection therewith.

SEC. 4. Reservation of the area as public open space shall not preclude the construction of sewers, water mains, and other underground municipal utility lines deemed necessary by the District of Columbia.

SEC. 5. Nothing contained herein shall limit the present use of the area, including proper maintenance of existing buildings, by the Department of the Navy and other agencies, provided, that no new buildings shall be constructed and no existing buildings shall be altered or renovated, and provided further, that existing buildings shall be vacated and removed as soon as reasonably feasible.

SEC. 6. Use of the area or any part thereof for monument or memorial purposes shall be in accordance with plans approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Secretary of the Interior.