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**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD  
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

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Landmark/District: **Plan of the City of Washington (L’Enfant Plan)** ( ) Agenda  
Address: **Proposed Closing of Public Streets** (X) Consent Calendar  
**Adjacent to Squares 613, 667-S and 667-ES**  
**1<sup>st</sup>, V and Water Streets, SW**  
Meeting Date: **December 15, 2022** ( ) New Construction  
H.P.A. Numbers: **23-088** (X) Alteration  
( ) Demolition

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The Office of the Surveyor has forwarded an application by the National Park Service (NPS) to close portions of 1<sup>st</sup>, V and Water Streets, SW adjacent to Squares 613, 667-S and 667-ES. The subject streets are contributing elements of the Plan of the City of Washington (L’Enfant Plan) and are, therefore, listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places. Section 7-422(4) of the DC Code requires that the Mayor refer to the Historic Preservation Review Board any application “to close any street located on the L’Enfant Street Plan.”

**Proposal**

The purpose for the proposed closures is to facilitate rehabilitation of Buzzard Point Park. NPS and the DC State Historic Preservation Office agreed that, for purposes of Section 106 consultation, the rehabilitation would have “no adverse effect” on historic properties provided the historic seawall on site that contributes to the National Register of Historic Places-eligible Anacostia Park Historic District would be preserved in place. The NPS agreed to make efforts to retain the structure and to consult further if preservation were deemed infeasible. Letters of support from adjacent landowners and the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District were submitted along with the application.

**Evaluation**

It is important to note that most of the area to be closed, specifically 6,725 sq. ft of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, SE, 6,153 sq. ft of V Street, SE, and 11,930 of Water Street, SE consists of unimproved “paper streets” within Buzzard Point Park whose underlying ownership is held by the United States of America. Moreover, much of the area to be closed within the 1<sup>st</sup> and Water Streets rights of way is physically located within the Anacostia River. Refer to areas highlighted in yellow in the attached map.

Another relevant fact is that the unimproved portion of Water Street to the north of Buzzard Point Park was closed and conveyed to the Potomac Electric Power Company in 1933, thus rendering the remaining portion to the south a remnant with no direct access to the north. For these reasons, the closure of the subject unimproved paper streets will not alter the L’Enfant Plan in any discernable way, but it will help facilitate rehabilitation of Buzzard Point Park in a manner that provides more open space and extends the public walkway along the river

**Recommendation**

For the reasons outlined above, HPO recommends that the Board report to the Surveyor as follows:

The Historic Preservation Review Board does not object to the closure of the unimproved portions of the paper streets known as 1<sup>st</sup>, V and Water Streets, SW that are adjacent to Squares 613, 667-S and 667-ES and located within Buzzard Point Park.

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