



President AIC <president@ambedkarinternationalcenter.org>

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## FW: Permit for a Statue?

4 messages

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Robert Alter <bob@alter-assoc.com>

Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:14 PM

To: "President@AIC" <president@ambedkarinternationalcenter.org>, Mahendra Kumar <mkvinita@yahoo.com>

Sanjay / Mahendra

Good news!

See the highlighted comments below in the two emails.

We apparently do not need any permit to install the statue, as long as we make it difficult to see from the road. If that is acceptable, you should be able to install the statue without a permit.

Do you still want me to move forward to determine a program to use the existing house as an initial phase of the "cultural center"?

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**From:** Kosack, Jill [mailto:[Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org)]

**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 1:57 PM

**To:** Robert Alter <[bob@alter-assoc.com](mailto:bob@alter-assoc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Permit for a Statue?

Bob – It does not need to be fully screened; it just needs to not be obvious from the road, so screened at least partially by either grading or vegetation.

Thanks,

**Jill S. Kosack, RLA, ASLA**

*Planner IV | Urban Design Section | Development Review Division*



14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Direct 301-952-4689 | Team Mobile 240-253-6314

[jill.kosack@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:jill.kosack@ppd.mncppc.org)



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**From:** Robert Alter <[bob@alter-assoc.com](mailto:bob@alter-assoc.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 12:06 PM  
**To:** Kosack, Jill <[Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Permit for a Statue?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hi Jill

Thanks for responding. The statue would be about 120' from the existing road r/w (60' from the r/w after a master planned widening sometime in the future) and in front of the existing house (which they plan to use for phase 1 of a cultural center). Do we need to screen the statue so that it can't be seen at all from the road 120' away or just partially hide it so it is not obvious?

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Alter".

202-506-1800

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**From:** Kosack, Jill [<mailto:Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** Robert Alter <[bob@alter-assoc.com](mailto:bob@alter-assoc.com)>; Zhang, Henry <[Henry.Zhang@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:Henry.Zhang@ppd.mncppc.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Permit for a Statue?

Hi Bob,

Good to hear from you. If the statue contains no advertising copy and cannot be seen from the road, then no permit is required and it does not qualify as a sign.

Thanks,

# Jill S. Kosack, RLA, ASLA

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**From:** Robert Alter <[bob@alter-assoc.com](mailto:bob@alter-assoc.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** Kosack, Jill <[Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:Jill.Kosack@ppd.mncppc.org)>; Zhang, Henry <[Henry.Zhang@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:Henry.Zhang@ppd.mncppc.org)>  
**Subject:** Permit for a Statue?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Jill / Henry

Hi, it's been awhile. I'm not sure how many other staff people that I know are still there at Parkin' & Plannin', and I can't just stop in to find out with the COVID protocols. I hope one of you can help me or send me to someone who can.

Just prior to the 'Great Recession' we (Phoenix) were able to get a preliminary plan approved for an R-R subdivision on Accokeek Road adjacent to the library a little west of Indian Head Highway. The project never went forward and was eventually sold to a non-profit organization, Ambedkar International Center. Here are a couple of short descriptions from the web and a link to their website, in case you want to know more about them.

Ambedkar International Center - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambedkar\\_International...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambedkar_International_Center)

Ambedkar International Center (abbr. AIC) is a civil rights advocacy group formed in 2012 to fight against caste discrimination in the United States.

Ambedkar International Center (AIC) - Twitter

[https://twitter.com/ambedkar\\_center](https://twitter.com/ambedkar_center)

Official handle of AIC - a USA based nonprofit org working to build a fairer, egalitarian society based ...

Who We Are - Ambedkar International Center

They currently have some artist renderings and conceptual architectural plans which show what they would eventually like to achieve, but they have a lot of fund raising, design work, and approvals before they get there. As a first step they would like to show progress to their members by installing a statue of their namesake, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, a leading Indian social activist and caste reformer, and also architect of the Constitution of India.

Unfortunately the only person I've been able to talk to in the County to who has any experience with a permit for installation of a statue was as a sign permit. A sign permit application requires a valid U&O permit. In addition, I'm told that the U&O has to be for the organization (a cultural center), which is a long way off. There is currently a residential occupant in the existing house on the site. I could understand this requirement, if there was an active cultural center on site and the statue was being placed (as close as 10' from the road r/w) to make the public aware of presence of the Center, but (other than a small nameplate) there will be no message, and the statue would be located about 90' off the road.

If I were the resident of a single family home on a 13 acre parcel who wanted to install a 12' tall bronze statue (or some sculpture) on a 5' high base would I need a sign permit? Would I need any permit? If so, what permit(s)?

Any help will be appreciated.

I hope you are both doing well and I am truly sorry I couldn't come in and hassle you in person.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Alter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue highlight behind it.

Principal

**Alter Associates**

715 G Street SE

Washington, DC 20003

202-506-1800