

Capitol Complex Security Posture



Sending Office: Office of the Sergeant at Arms
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TO: All Members of Congress and Congressional Staff

FROM: Timothy P. Blodgett
Acting Sergeant at Arms

DATE: March 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Capitol Complex Security Posture

Working with their federal, state and local intelligence partners, the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) has informed the Sergeant at Arms (SAA) that “there does not exist a known, credible threat against Congress or the Capitol Complex that warrants the temporary security fencing.” In light of this information, the USCP, in conjunction with the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) will begin making alterations to the temporary fencing around the Capitol complex. The USCP will continue to monitor the threat posture, should a change occur, plans will be reevaluated.

FENCE UPDATE

Over the past weekend, fencing on Third Street between Independence Avenue S.W. and Constitution Avenue N.W. was modified to allow access to traffic. Also, Louisiana Avenue N.W. and Washington Avenue S.W. have been modified to allow traffic to more easily flow around the perimeter of our campus.

Over the course of this week, the AOC and USCP will work to reposition the inner perimeter fencing around Capitol Square (the area between Independence Avenue and Constitution Avenue from First Street in the East to First Street in the West). The new positioning will move the fence closer to the Capitol building and will provide access to the avenues and some of the sidewalks. The AOC will also remove the razor wire on the inner perimeter fence. Additionally, bike racks will be staged around each of the House Office Buildings. The inner perimeter fencing will remain around Capitol Square as the AOC continues to make necessary security repairs to the Capitol building.

During the later portion of the week of March 22nd, the AOC and USCP will begin removing the outer perimeter fencing and opening Independence Avenue and Constitution Avenue for traffic.

NATIONAL GUARD UPDATE

The USCP and National Guard continue to maintain a presence and an increased security posture. Based on the current threat posture, it is anticipated that the National Guard will begin to reduce its posture at the Capitol in the coming weeks. Again, the USCP will continue to monitor the threat posture, should a change occur, plans will be reevaluated. Thank you for your patience and assistance in maintaining our increased security posture.

Additionally, I thank the National Guard for its critical assistance supporting our institution as well as the brave men and women of the USCP. Your sacrifices and dedication are greatly appreciated.