

of the economy: “I am responsible for the strongest job creation economy in modern times.

“The stock market has hit record after record after record on my watch.

“Since I took office, families are carrying less debt, their average savings are up.

“Our economy had zero inflation in the month of July. Zero percent.

“We’re not in a recession.”

Stop lying to the American people, Mr. President. Here is the reality of your economy. Americans are facing the highest inflation in 40 years, up 13.7 percent since President Biden took office, a recession.

In fact, inflation has increased by 13.7 percent since Biden has become President.

Year after year, prices are up more than 12 percent, the largest increase ever. Nearly three in four employees say the cost of living is outpacing their salary and wages.

Gas prices have risen 55 percent since President Biden took office. The average mortgage payment is up 42 percent higher than a year ago. One in six households are behind in utility payments.

Democrat-ruled Washington has spent trillions of your hard-earned dollars for liberal priorities that Americans don’t want and can’t afford.

House Republicans have a plan to get our country back on track and to put an end to the wasteful spending that has crippled our economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: On September 29, 2022, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider one resolution included in the General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

I have enclosed a copy of the resolution adopted.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chair.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 1,623,500 rentable square feet of space, including 25 official parking spaces, for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, currently housed at 600 Dulany Street in Alexandria, VA, at a proposed annual cost of \$57,439,430 for a lease term of up to 5 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 128 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 128 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services may not enter into this lease if it does not contain a provision barring any individual holding a Federally-elected office, regardless of whether such individual took office before or after execution of this lease, to directly participate in, or benefit from or under this lease or any part thereof and that such provision provide that if this lease is found to have been made in violation of the foregoing prohibition or it is found that this prohibition has been violated during the term of the lease, the lease shall be void, except that the foregoing limitation shall not apply if the lease is entered into with a publicly-held corporation or publicly-held entity for the general benefit of such corporation or entity.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the lease procurement consider the availability of public transportation consistent with agency mission requirements and that the space to be leased be renovated for all cost-effective improvements, including renewable energy upgrades, water efficiency improvements, and indoor air quality optimization, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA23
Congressional District: 8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes to exercise an option for an additional 5-year term of approximately 2,387,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the U.S Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). USPTO is currently located at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA, and 2800 Randolph Square, Arlington, VA. USPTO has occupied space at 600 Dulany Street since 2003 under an initial 20-year term that expires on August 23, 2024. USPTO will be consolidating its operations located at 2800 Randolph Square, Arlington, VA into the 600 Dulany Street lease.

The additional 5-year term will allow USPTO to conduct additional analyses related to modernizing its workforce, optimizing space utilization, and making the necessary changes to its union agreements to best define the long-term needs for USPTO’s mission. Upon the completion of the analysis, GSA and USPTO will seek to determine how to best house the USPTO’s continuing, long-term needs in the best interest of the Government.

The lease will provide continued housing for USPTO and will reduce the office and overall utilization from 88 and 154 to 73 and 128 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	USPTO
Current RSF:	2,577,486 (Current RSF/USF = 1.20)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	2,387,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	190,486 RSF Reduction
Current USF/Person:	154
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	128
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	8/23/2024
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	5 years
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	25
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$78,598,610 (leases effective 11/1/2003)
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	\$35.38 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$84,452,060

¹ The proposed rental rate is net of gas and electric expenses, which is paid directly by the USPTO at \$1.73/RSF.
² Leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

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Background

The USPTO mission is to ensure that the intellectual property system contributes to a strong global economy, encourages investment in innovation, and fosters entrepreneurial spirit. The USPTO provides inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses with free resources on how to protect their intellectual property.

The USPTO's headquarters are leased on a five-building campus located at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA. The campus lease expires on August 23, 2024 and contains multiple purchase and renewal options available to the Government for continued occupancy.

Justification

The USPTO has worked towards reducing its overall real property footprint and will be releasing 190,486 RSF of office and related space in their GSA leased Randolph Square leased location. The USPTO plans to consolidate its existing and future personnel into the USPTO main campus and reduce its overall footprint by 7.4% in Northern Virginia.

In addition to housing existing personnel, the USPTO plans on adding 1,570 personnel to this location who PTO anticipates on-boarding through FY2027 due to programmatic needs identified in USPTO's Office of Personnel & Budget's (OPB's) out-year hiring data. These are USPTO's authorized position levels through FY 2027.

Patent Examiners in the Office of the Commissioner for Patents and Trademark Attorneys in the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks make up the majority of the personnel at USPTO. These individuals handle everything from Intellectual Property to designs, hybrid plants, medical devices, prescription drugs, computer software and hardware, fabrics, musical instruments, etc. Other groups housed at the USPTO's Alexandria campus include: The Office of the Administrative Officer (OCAO), The Office of the General Counsel (OGC), The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), The Office of the Chief Communication Officer (OCCO), The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), The Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA), Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), The Office of EEO and Diversity (OEEOD), and the Office of the Under Secretary.

The USPTO's Alexandria campus consolidates employees and resources, increases efficiency and productivity, and streamlines operations, thereby reducing costs to USPTO. The consolidated campus helps the USPTO attract and retain the highly skilled and specialized workforce they need to promote U.S. job growth and help America compete in

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
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the world economy while providing USPTO with the time necessary to undertake additional long term planning activities.

This requirement is consistent with the agency's approved "Return to Workplace" plan.

Before exercising the existing option, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to ensure that award to any other lessor for a 5-year term would result in substantial relocation costs or duplication of costs of real and personal property needed for USPTO to accomplish its mission that the Government would not recover through competition.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

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
**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA23
Congressional District: 8

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 7/18/2022

Recommended:  _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:  _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: VALLEY LUCHADORES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evelyn Cortez-Diaz as a Valley Luchadora, Valley Fighter.

Evelyn is a civil engineer with more than 25 years of experience in the water industry, water conservation, water quality, pipeline design and construction, environmental compliance, recycled water, water rights, groundwater remediation and groundwater planning.

She is the highest-ranking Latina at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which is the largest municipal water and power utility in the United States.

She is also the first Latina and second woman to be appointed Director of Water Engineering and Technical Services.

In her role, Evelyn leads a team of over 400 engineers and technical professionals to safely retreat, store, and transport water for the 4 million people of the City of Los Angeles and the thousands of businesses that they serve.

□ 1745

At LADWP, Evelyn helped launch the Society of Women Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers chapter to support its employees and inspire the next generation of engineers and STEM professionals.

She immigrated to the U.S. from El Salvador when she was 12 years old and was placed in remedial English classes to become fluent in English.

At a young age, she knew she wanted to help make the world a better place. She aspired to protect the environment and decided to focus her studies on water resources and environmental engineering.

After she graduated high school as 10th in her class with a 4.3 GPA, she earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2015, she published her book, which chronicles her family's immigration story and journey to U.S. citizenship.

Evelyn Cortez-Davis, thank you for sharing your story and for your commitment to conservation and our environment and to all the people of Los Angeles. It is my honor to recognize you as a distinguished community leader and luchadora this Hispanic Heritage Month.

HONORING MARGARET "MAR" DIEGO

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret "Mar" Diego as a Valley Luchadora.

Mar is the co-owner and operator of Dough Girl, a small business pizzeria located in Sylmar. She grew up in San Fernando Gardens, a low-income housing project in my district.

Her business, Dough Girl, is much more than a local valley pizzeria. Mar

is a proud employer of formerly homeless and incarcerated individuals, two demographics of people who traditionally struggle to find stable employment and who are often ignored and tossed aside.

A formerly incarcerated person herself, Mar understands the obstacles people face as they work to rebuild their lives after serving their time in the system. Through her restaurant, she continues to pay it forward and makes a positive impact in her community.

Mar can often be found on the street, finding and hiring employees on the spot. She gives people a second chance and a job, training to help them succeed and be productive members of the community.

Most importantly, she gives them the opportunity to rebuild their lives. She has made her restaurant a positive rehabilitation-oriented space.

Upon her own release from prison, Mar attended the prestigious Cordon Bleu culinary arts school and continued to blossom from there. She has a one-of-a-kind inspirational story and has traveled the world, visiting 16 countries on her culinary journey.

She received notable praise and appeared on television with well-known celebrity chefs such as Wolfgang Puck and Roy Choi.

Her restaurant, Dough Girl, has given her the chance to elevate and formally showcase her culinary skills and positively benefit her community.

Mar is an inspirational chef and philanthropist who envisions her restaurant as a home for amazing food and a place where people develop vital life skills. She continues her work and is developing a curriculum centered around the teaching of essential life, culinary, and entrepreneurial skills.

Thank you, Mar, for your commitment to paving the way forward, making a positive impact in our community, and uplifting others to give them a second chance.

Thank you for being a caring and loving person. It is my honor to recognize you as a distinguished community leader and luchadora during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

HONORING VERONICA PADILLA-CAMPOS

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veronica Padilla-Campos as a Valley Luchadora.

Veronica continues to serve the community she grew up in and has been fighting for environmental justice in the San Fernando Valley for the past 25 years.

She grew up in Sun Valley and is a daughter of hardworking parents. Her dad was a gardener, and her mom worked at a local factory.

A graduate of UCLA, she has experience in the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, including environmental consulting, GIS mapping, and work for the Los Angeles Housing Department.

Throughout the last decade, Veronica has played a crucial role at Pacoima Beautiful, a grassroots environmental justice organization in my district that provides education, impacts local pol-

icy, and supports local arts and culture to promote a healthy and sustainable San Fernando Valley.

She joined Pacoima Beautiful as deputy director in 2010 and has served as executive director since 2013. During her leadership, she has spearheaded environmental cleanup and safety campaigns in some of the poorest and hardest-impacted areas of Los Angeles County.

Previously, she helped lead ICON CDC, a community-based, not-for-profit organization that serves small business owners and entrepreneurs, and serves on the North Valley Area Planning Commission for the city of Los Angeles.

In 2020, Veronica joined the South Coast Air Quality Management District as a board member, after being appointed by the speaker of the California State Assembly.

In her role as board member, she continues her commitment to building people power and improving the lives and voices of her community. She creates equitable, healthy, and safe neighborhoods every single day by her commitment to the community and the wonderful work that she does.

Thank you, Veronica, for your countless years of public service. It is my honor to recognize you as a distinguished community leader and luchadora during Hispanic Heritage Month.

HONORING CORINNE SANCHEZ

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Valley Luchadora Corinne Sanchez for her decades of service in our community.

Corinne is the daughter of a World War II veteran of the Pacific front in Burma and a mother who worked at the Santa Fe Railroad.

Corinne attended Long Beach State University, where she became a student leader and was involved in the creation of the Chicano/Chicana studies program and social justice organizations. There were only three Chicanas that started the United Mexican American Students, UMAS, in 1967 at Long Beach State University, and Corinne was one of them.

Corinne is a lifelong trailblazer. Upon her graduation, she worked for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and then went on to travel throughout the Midwestern and Southwestern U.S. to promote the creation of Chicano studies departments in universities and colleges.

She then began her work for El Proyecto del Barrio, a not-for-profit, community-based organization that provides health and human services to communities with underserved populations. As president and CEO, Corinne oversees expanded services in comprehensive primary healthcare, employment, childcare, and perinatal social services.

After realizing her dream of becoming an attorney, she, alongside eight