



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

143 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106



F5419(INDE)

### Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park *Chapman*

Subject: Request for concurrence on interpretive fee for Franklin Court museum

Based on the technological, interactive nature of the exhibit at the Franklin Court Underground Museum, visitors will be charged an interpretive program fee of \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. There will be no charge for school groups. This decision has been made following the procedure outlined in RM#6 Interpretation and Education. The authority for the Service to charge these fees is contained in 16 USC 1a-2(g), according to which interpretive demonstrations may be construed as encompassing a wide variety of activities, not necessarily involving living history, that go beyond the scope of a park's primary interpretive program. A review of the park's comprehensive interpretive program has determined that the museum's interpretive service is not a primary interpretive service as required by the park legislative mandate but is a special service beyond the regular interpretive operation of the park. Clear guidelines and standards have been developed against which the quality of exhibits will be measured.

The park's primary interpretive themes will remain easily accessible to all visitors regardless of whether they choose to pay or not. Park facilities that interpret the park's theme "Benjamin Franklin – the relevant revolutionary" remain free for visitors. These are Independence Hall, the Second Bank Portrait Gallery, the Franklin Court Ghost House and five Market Street houses, three of which contain exhibits (on Franklin and printing, the *Aurora* newspaper office, and archeology at Franklin Court) and two that are a museum gift shop and a U.S. Post Office. The interpretive services offered in the Franklin Court Underground Museum add extra value to the experience. Technological interpretive media and park interpretive rangers will facilitate opportunities for emotional and intellectual connections between resources and visitors, including formal and informal interpretive interactions. The fee-based interpretive services in the Franklin Court Underground Museum offer greater depth of experience and greater duration of experience than the park's standard interpretive offerings.

I concur: *Don R. Pundel*  
Regional Director, Northeast Region

3/12/10  
Date

I do not concur: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Director, Northeast Region

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date