

Docket Item #3
BAR CASE #2005-0137

BAR Meeting
October 5, 2005

ISSUE: After-the-fact approval of signs

APPLICANT: Thao Van Le

LOCATION: 222 North Lee Street

ZONE: CD/Commercial

BOARD ACTION, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005: On a motion by Dr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Smeallie the Board deferred the application until all of the other signs are removed. The motion passed on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Hulfish was opposed).

REASON: The Board was concerned that although the applicant stated that all signs except for the proposed hanging signs would be removed, they had not yet been removed. Members also believed that it was difficult to review the design of the hanging signs among the multitude of unapproved signs.

SPEAKER: Hoa N. Tran, spoke in support of Smoothy Nails.

BOARD ACTION, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005: Deferred due to lack of public notice.

UPDATE: Since the last public hearing, all of the signs except the two proposed hanging signs have been removed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the hanging signs as submitted.

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting after-the-fact approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage for the businesses Old Town Barber and Smoothy Nails at 222 North Lee Street. The hanging signs measure 2' by 2' and are cream colored with red and blue colored lettering. The sign located to the south of the entrance reads "Old Town Barber" and the northern sign reads "Smoothy Nails, Professional Nails Care."

II. HISTORY:

222 North Lee Street is a one story commercial building constructed in the early 20th century. The building is divided into three retail storefronts, each with a recessed entryway.

The Board has approved numerous signs for the various retail businesses that have occupied these spaces. In 2003, the Board approved a hanging sign for the center tenant "IUOL, Amara Fashion" (BAR Case #2003-0087, 8/6/03). Recently, the Board approved signs for the corner tenant, "Helen Olivia Flowers" (BAR Case #2005-0062, 4/6/05).

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed hanging signs comply with zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff notes that this application is a request for after-the-fact approval of signs. Staff has received numerous complaints about the proliferation of unapproved signs for these two businesses. In response to citations from Staff, the applicant has submitted this application for the two hanging signs and agreed to remove all of the other existing signs.

The *Design Guidelines* recommend generally only one sign per business is appropriate (Signs - Page 2). Staff has no objection to a single hanging sign for each business.

Staff believes that the hanging signs meet the recommendations of the *Design Guidelines* and are appropriate.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the hanging signs as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F- finding

Code Enforcement:

C-1 Projecting, hanging signs must comply with USBC [H103-H107, H112] for type of materials, maximum projection, vertical clearance below all parts of the sign, and additional loads.

C-2 Construction permits are required.

Historic Alexandria:

“No comment”