

Docket Item #2
BAR CASE #2005-0215

BAR Meeting
February 1, 2006

ISSUE: Sign
APPLICANT: Rodrigo Restrepo
LOCATION: 824 King Street
ZONE: CD/Commercial

BOARD ACTION, OCTOBER 5, 2005: Chairman Hulfish recused himself from this item. On a motion by Mr. Smeallie, seconded by Mr. Keleher, the Board deferred the application for restudy. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0.

REASON: The Board believed that a better representation of the proposed signs was required. The Board also suggested that the applicant explore using a different font for the lettering.

SPEAKER: Rodrigo Restrepo, applicant, spoke in support.

Update: The applicant previously proposed individual letter signs on King Street and South Alfred Street that would be compatible with a new storefront design that was approved by the Board in September. At the October 5, 2005 hearing, the Board deferred the individual letter signs for restudy so that the applicant could submit a better representation of the proposed signage. According to the applicant, the building is currently for sale and the recently approved alterations to the storefront at 824 King Street will not occur. Therefore, the applicant has now submitted a design for a wall sign at the corner of King and South Alfred Streets that will work with the existing storefront and signband.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 824 King Street. The sign, measures 2.5' in height by 3.6' in length and reads "Top Services". The aluminum sign has a yellow background and blue lettering. The sign will be located at the corner of King and South Alfred Streets above the business entrance.

II. HISTORY:

824 King Street is a commercial building dating from the mid to late 19th century. Both buildings appear on the Hopkins 1877 City Atlas of Alexandria.

A building permit from 1936 describes the proposal to install new "modern show windows" on the buildings (#2010, 11/2/36). At this time a steel door on the Alfred Street side of the building was also replaced with a new steel door. In August of 1953, the Board approved alterations to the buildings for Gibsons Drug store (permit #11038) which extended the existing plate glass show windows, bulkhead sign band and carrara glass panels.

The Board recently approved alterations to the existing storefronts at 822 -824 King Street (BAR Case #2005-0148/149, 9/21/05).

III. ANALYSIS:

According to the applicant, the subject building facing King Street is 20' and 38' facing South Alfred Street. Therefore, the maximum sign area allowed is 20' and 38' respectively. The proposed sign complies with zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff believes that the proposed sign meets the recommendations of the Design Guidelines.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

C-1 Wall letters / signs must comply with USBC [H103-H111]

C-2 A construction permit is required for the proposed project.

Historic Alexandria:

“No comment.”