

Docket Item # 9
BAR CASE #2007-0168

BAR Meeting
October 3, 2007

ISSUE: Alterations

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria, Department of General Services

LOCATION: 520 King Street

ZONE: KR/King Street Urban Retail

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends deferral of the application for restudy.

(Insert sketch here)

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for vehicular security bollards to be installed at the King Street and the South St. Asaph Street pedestrian entrances to the Alexandria courthouse.

The bollards in an English street light pattern are each 42” high with a 15” diameter and will be located 4’ o.c. They will be constructed of precast concrete and have a brick color.

Ten bollards will be installed just to the south of the first set of steps off of the King Street entrance and four bollards at the walkway leading to the courtyard from South St. Asaph Street

II. HISTORY:

The five story brick, Colonial Revival style office at 500-532 King Street was constructed in 1981. The offices of the Alexandria courts are in the building.

In the past ten years the Board has approved numerous signs for the retail tenants of the building including Starbucks (1993) and La Madeleine (1994 and 1997).

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed alterations comply with zoning ordinance requirements.

The bollards are proposed as an enhanced security measure for the physical safety of the building.

While staff has no objection to the installation of additional security measures for this building, staff believes that such devices should not detract from the overall visual integrity of the building. Staff finds these bollards minimally acceptable from a visual standpoint. However, staff believes that metal bollards in a similar type of pattern would be more appropriate to overall Colonial Revival motif of the building design.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends deferral of the application for restudy.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

C-1 Construction permits are required for this project. Plans shall accompany the permit application that fully details the construction as well as layouts and schematics of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

F-1 Clearance between the bollards shall be three feet to allow for an EMS Stretcher.

Historic Alexandria:

No comments.