

Docket Item # 3  
BAR CASE # 2007-0221

BAR Meeting  
December 6, 2007

**ISSUE:** Signage  
**APPLICANT:** Bezu Auto Services  
**LOCATION:** 834 North Washington Street  
**ZONE:** CDX Commercial

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval as submitted.

(Insert sketch here)

**I. ISSUE:**

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a wall sign for the business Bezu Auto Services located within the garage of Old Town Gas at 834 North Washington Street. The proposed sign is flat metal and measures 10'x 2.5'. The sign reads "Bezu Auto Services" in English, below script in Aramaic that also reads "Bezu Auto Services". The sign has a white background with red text. The proposed sign will be attached to the building, centered between the two garage bays, through the mortar joints. The photograph provided by the applicant shows the proposed location of the sign placement; however, the sign itself has not been installed. The banners above the bays shown in the photographs have been removed.

The applicant is also proposing a wall sign measuring 3'x 2' with the text reading "VA State & Emission Inspection." This wall sign will be installed to the left of the left garage bay, above the existing air hose machine.

The business is subleasing space in the garage of the gas station for auto service and repairs.

**II. HISTORY:**

834 North Washington Street is a freestanding one story Colonial Revival style gasoline service station that was constructed in 1967 according to tax records.

The Board has previously approved signage for a gas station at this located (BAR Case #'s 2006-0249, 93-073), as well as alterations to this property including canopy changes and wood fencing (BAR Case #'s 2001-0275, 2000-0264).

In 2006, the Board approved a replacement brand sign using the existing sign frame on the consent calendar (BAR Case #2006-0249).

**III. ANALYSIS:**

The subject property is zoned CDX, Commercial Downtown, Old Town North. According to Sanborn maps, the building's frontage facing North Washington Street is 52.0 ft +/- (maximum sign area allowed 52.0 sq ft). The total sign area proposed is 31 sq ft.

Section 9-202(B)(1) of the zoning ordinance states all signs displayed below 20 feet height on any building wall which faces a street, alley or parking area, shall not exceed one square foot for each foot of building width facing such street, alley or parking area.

Section 9-202(B)(4) of the zoning ordinance states a sign may be displayed flat against a building wall or at an angle...so long as the sign does not project more than four feet from the building wall...at least eight feet above a sidewalk. The proposed signs comply with the Zoning Ordinance requirements.

The Board is particularly concerned with the maintenance of the memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway which passes through Alexandria as Washington Street. Requests for certificates of appropriateness for signs on Washington Street must be compatible with the memorial nature of the Parkway. Staff has no objection to the new signs to be installed.

They are necessary to identify the business and their size is not overwhelming to the façade on this gas station building.

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

F-1 The applicant shall obtain a sign permit for the proposed sign.

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.

Historic Alexandria:

R-1 No recommendation.