

Docket Item # 8  
BAR CASE #2007-0168

BAR Meeting  
December 6, 2007

**ISSUE:** Alterations

**APPLICANT:** City of Alexandria, Department of General Services

**LOCATION:** 520 King Street

**ZONE:** KR/King Street Urban Retail

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that the King Street bollards be located between the building piers in consultation with staff.

(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 metal bollards, in a circular fluted pattern, are each 36" high with a 10" diameter base and will be located 4' o.c. They will be black in color.

Ten bollards are proposed to 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 the proposed bollard design acceptable from a visual standpoint. However, staff believes that efforts should be made to reduce the overall number of bollards to eliminate as much visual clutter as possible consistent with the enhanced security needs of the courthouse. Accordingly, staff believes that it may be advantageous to explore locating the bollards slightly to the north (toward King Street) of the currently proposed location to a point between the existing brick building piers which would result in a reduction in the number of bollards needed to secure this entrance to the building.

Staff is persuaded that the proposal for the number of bollards at the South St. Asaph Street pedestrian entrance is the minimum necessary.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that the King Street bollards be located between the building piers in consultation with staff.

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.