

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 22, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Architectural Review

FROM: Brendan Harris, Urban Planner III, Historic Preservation
Bill Conkey, Preservation Architect, Historic Preservation

SUBJECT: Proposed changes to the BAR Design Guidelines Committee

The BAR Design Guidelines Committee has met regularly since 2022 and has reviewed 14 updated chapters covering both the Parker Gray and Old and Historic Alexandria Districts. Each chapter was subsequently adopted by the Board following a public hearing. Most of the longer and more complex chapters have now been completed. Approximately 20 chapters remain, the majority of which are shorter and less complex.

To complete the remaining work efficiently, staff proposes a modified approach. The remaining chapters would be divided into three sets. After the Committee reviews each set, staff would host a community outreach meeting to gather public input before presenting that set of chapters to the Board for adoption.

Three community meetings would be held, approximately four months apart, with the goal of adopting all remaining chapters within one year (April 22, 2027). The Committee would be sunset and discontinued on this date or when all the updated Design Guidelines have been adopted, whichever occurs first.

Staff requests that the Board vote to endorse this approach and, for the record, reaffirm the Committee's membership composition:

- James Spencer
- Christine Roberts
- Theresa Del Ninno
- Margaret Miller
- Andrew Scott
- Bill Conkey (Staff)
- Brendan Harris (Staff)