

From: Leslie Stricklen
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Lia Niebauer
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Regarding Holiday Inn Color

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We were very surprised, disappointed, and very unhappy when we suddenly happened to read, in an article, the plans for the former Holiday Inn. Normally, there is a notice, out of courtesy, to neighbors of changes proposed and an open discussion. The color choice of black on such a huge footprint covering an entire block is an eyesore, especially when you have Liberty Row residences on the west side of the building, Watergate on the East, and Canal Way on the north, all of which are the traditional brick color. Why would you ever approve a massive all brick structure in gothic black? There are no windows on the west side, so Liberty Row residences will face a huge black wall! The residences on that side have windows all along their units. How would you feel if the only thing you had to look at was a dark, drab, gothic, depressing black wall? It is very out of place in both character and good taste, not to mention the dreadful lack of appeal to future guests. We ask you to reconsider the choice of color in your decision. We do not wish to see Old Town lose its character and charm. We have lived in Old Town since 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stricklen III

Liberty Row
635 First Street
Unit 305
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Michael Diffley](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]BAR Public Hearing on Hotel AKA
Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:59:14 PM

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We are writing this E-mail in response to your request for input for the public meeting that you have scheduled on February 16, 2022 (re: Hotel AKA).

We live in Liberty Row condominium adjacent to your proposed project on First Street in North Old Town, Alexandria Virginia.

First, we'd like to say, "Welcome." We believe that you will make a positive contribution to our neighborhood, and we look forward to your opening soon.

However, we have one matter of concern: the color scheme you have chosen for the exterior of the buildings. Although we have no problem with the overall concept of a gray base color for the bricks and black for the trim and highlights, we feel that the base color is several shades too dark. This contrasts sharply with the "Gables" directly across the street. The (north-facing) facade of the "Gables" -- the side with, by far, the greatest visual connection to your project -- is light beige with black trim. The facades of the "Gables" that employ a gray/black color scheme either have no visual connection with your project or employ a lighter shade of gray.

Your proposal to paint the brick exterior of the buildings dark gray generates, by far, the greatest change in the external appearance of the property. So, although this is our only objection to the project, it is not trivial. We have spoken with several of our neighbors, and we are prepared to elevate our concerns. However, we sincerely hope you resolve this issue by voluntarily committing to a lighter shade for the bricks in the spirit of being good neighbors.

Incidentally, we do not share your position on the visibility of your property from George Washington Parkway. It is clearly visible from the parkway in the vicinity of its intersection with First Street.

The Diffley's

635 First Street

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From: [Thomas Soapes](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]BAR #2021-00470 625 First Street
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:54:56 AM

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February 8, 2022

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW:

Several residents of North Old Town have contacted me regarding the proposed color change to the building at 625 First Street. The proposal indicates that the brick structure will be painted black. Further, the proposal states that this color is consistent with the color of the building opposite on First. The building opposite on First is constructed predominantly of unpainted tan brick. Black is only an outlining color on that side of the building. Substantial black surfaces are on the interior facings of the building largely visible from North Pitt Street. Black is also not a significant part of the palate of the townhouses on North Pitt Street that are immediately east of the hotel building. Those townhouses are all unpainted brick or stucco. We do not see solid black walls as a good color for this community. A solid black building of this size would produce a jarring appearance, not one that works with the existing architecture.

The community has not had the opportunity to work with the applicant to review this proposal or suggest alternative colors. I, therefore, respectfully request that the BAR require the applicant to work with the community to reach a mutually agreeable color scheme before approval is granted.

Thomas F. Soapes
1035 N. Pitt Street

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From: [Marjorie Lauer](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]BAR #2021-00470 OHAD
Date: Monday, February 7, 2022 5:36:44 PM

I would like to go on record that I have no objections to the proposed alterations, including the paint color. I think it will look sophisticated, and I am happy to see an upscale business move next door. I live at 635 First Street, #303, and 3 of my windows look directly onto the building, as well as my patio.

Marjorie Lauer
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Maureen Ward](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Comment Hotel AKA
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:44:33 PM

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maureen Ward
Date: February 1, 2022 at 1:42:13 PM EST
To: lia.niebauer@alexandria.gov
Cc: Barb and John Carroll, Sydney Olson

Subject: Comment Hotel AKA

My husband and I live at 635 First Street, Liberty Row condominiums, next to the proposed renovation of the Holiday Inn to be renamed as Hotel AKA. We are most upset by the proposed design of the hotel. The overwhelmingly black design of the structure is very gothic, very ugly and certainly not complementary to the architectural structures of the existing neighborhood. The 76 page proposal argues with this opinion but the very fact of the "blackness", particularly during the evening hours reflects the obscurity and absurdity of what should be an inviting offer to stay in luxurious hotel!

Furthermore, the presence of this very black structure, surrounded by red brick residences, devalues our existing home and the those of our neighbors.

BAR members picture yourself walking through this neighborhood at night and decide for yourself if this proposed renovation offers you a safe, comfortable and inviting stay in Old Town. We suspect, if you are honest, you would have to admit this proposal currently under review, should never be approved!

Maureen and Richard J. Ward Jr.

Sent from my iPad

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Hi Lia Niebauer,

Frances Usher has registered for "2/16/2022 - Board of Architectural Review - Public Hearing" on: Feb 16, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

First Name: Frances

Last Name: Usher

Questions & Comments: Two concerns:

1. Color of exterior paint. Could it be more in keeping with Alexandria? Perhaps light to medium gray?
2. Exterior walls that impact view from Liberty Row. Currently, there is an appropriate wall that needs to be painted periodically and kept in good repair. Need commitment that will be handled appropriately.

Hi Lia Niebauer,

Jane Kolson has registered for "2/16/2022 - Board of Architectural Review - Public Hearing" on:
Feb 16, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

First Name: Jane

Last Name: Kolson

Questions & Comments: I am concerned that the new Hotel AKA's black exterior will not lend itself well to this neighborhood, where the residences are almost all unpainted red brick. As someone who lives next door to the hotel, I do not relish the idea of seeing a big black wall when I look out my windows!

Joanne Broderick has registered for "2/16/2022 - Board of Architectural Review - Public Hearing" on: Feb 16, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

First Name: Joanne

Last Name: Broderick

Questions & Comments: I am concerned about the building being painted black.

Mary Horner has registered for "2/16/2022 - Board of Architectural Review - Public Hearing" on: Feb 16, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Horner

Questions & Comments: Not in favor of black paint. Most of the building can only be seen from our complex Liberty Row and it will overwhelm our property. I would hope that the board will look at this from the view point of adjourning property owners

From: [Robert Caspar](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Cc: [Sarah Jackson](#); [Barb Carroll](#); [Olivia Bushman](#); [Sydney Olson](#); [EXTERNAL]Holiday Inn Renovation
Subject: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:57:41 PM
Date:

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Lia,

I am an owner at the Liberty Row Condominium at 600 Second Street (our Condo comprises 635 First Street, the Manor House and two Townhomes, 540 Second Street and 600 Second Street) and I have numerous concerns regarding the documents that were filed for alterations for the Holiday Inn & Suites at 625 First Street and 510 Second Street, and they are as follows:

1. I cannot imagine the entire "BRICK" building of the Holiday Inn being painted all BLACK. It was stated in those documents that the brick color (black) would be compatible with the existing buildings across the street. Those buildings are of colored brick, (grays, tans with decorative black metal and black window trim) and are not painted all black nor the bricks are not colored black!
2. In those documents, it also states that the building is not in the historical district. From what I gather from the drawing, it appears that a good portion of the structure is in the historical district. It is visible from the George Washington Parkway.

I would hope that the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review would not allow this to be done and would have the owners of Hotel AKA select another choice of color for the exterior painting for the project and respect the historical district. Thank you!

Jolene Caspar
Bldg 600 Suite 102

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From: [Branding](#)
To: [Preservation: Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]BAR#2021-00470 625 First Street
Date: Sunday, February 13, 2022 3:16:17 PM

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Dear Board of Architectural Review Members,

First of all, we would like to express our delight in welcoming Hotel AKA to Alexandria. Having an upscale hotel with a destination restaurant will be a nice addition to our Old Town North Neighborhood. We live at 1041 N Pitt St and are directly across the street from the east side of the new Hotel AKA.

We have a couple questions that we would like BAR to think about when considering the Application for Certificate of Appropriateness.

1. Lighting. - is the exterior uplighting white/clear or is it yellow colored? Piero Lissoni has been known to purposely incorporate colored light into his designs and the application talks about "Lissoni Concept" lighting with "warm" light levels. Could you please get clarity on this? The photos on pages 53-55 of the application look like they are perhaps using distinctly yellow-colored lights. Colored lights wouldn't mesh well with the streetscapes in Old Town North. However, nice soft white/clear uplighting of trees and perimetral planters could be a lovely enhancement to the property and would be welcomed! Just checking...

2. Painting of unpainted brick - could the developer go back to the architectural designer of the exterior of the renovation and ask for a creative way to get the upscale and modern feel desired without painting the entire building? Although Hotel AKA is in the OHAD (thus giving BAR the ability to approve its Application for Certificate of Appropriateness, as it is visible from the George Washington Memorial Parkway and is along one of the most popular gateways into our city from the Parkway), the property is also in SubArea 2 of the Old Town North SAP which is a residential area. Hotel AKA is bordered on three sides by colonial-style brick residential communities and the red brick of the hotel has helped it blend with its residential neighbors. As we know from the Campagna Center's history, once painted, brick in the OHAD cannot be "unpainted." This a permanent change and painting an entire building spanning a whole block creates a huge monochromatic facade - there is not even the contrast in color provided by mortar of the original brickwork. Can't there be a better and more creative way to achieve the same aesthetic goal without painting so much brick?

People, even leadership at AKA, value the historic area of Alexandria which includes the Washington Street corridor where this property is located. In a hotel industry article I found while researching our new neighbor, I came across the following quote regarding the Alexandria property purchased by Electra America Hospitality Group, the joint venture between Electra America and AKA:

Larry Korman, president of AKA Hotel Residences and co-CEO of Korman Communities, said: "We believe its location will attract significant business from the nearby high-end submarkets. The location also has a calming, historical flair and is in close proximity to DC, where AKA also has an

existing property.”

We are grateful to the Board of Architectural Review for your hard work to preserve the "calming, historical flair" of Alexandria and for your ongoing community outreach to residents and all those who live, work and play in our wonderful city.

Respectfully,
David and Karen Branding
1041 N Pitt St
Alexandria, VA 22314

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600 Second Street, Unit 202
Alexandria, VA 22314
February 14, 2022

Emailed to lia.niebauer@alexandriava.gov for the BAR

The Board of Architectural Review (BAR)
City of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Proposed AKA Hotel renovation at 625 First Street and 510 Second Street
("Proposed Renovation").¹

Dear Members of the Board:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on the Proposed Renovation. The Proposed Renovation site is adjacent to the Liberty Row Condominium residences ("Liberty Row"), where I live.

At the outset, renovation of the site would be welcome, given the property improvements to adjacent parcels of land to the South and North during the past few years. Such developments were enhanced through the involvement, recommendations, and participation of residents from surrounding neighborhoods. Hopefully, the same spirit of cooperation with residents will occur with the Proposed Renovation.

General Overview:

The Applicant states that the *"proposed renovation and enhancement of the existing hotel will increase the value of the Property, create new jobs, and generate additional economic activity in the neighborhood by attracting tourist and hotel patrons to the area."* My observation is that there is a hotel two blocks to the South on N. St. Asaph Street; one under construction about 3 blocks to the Southwest at N. Washington and Madison Streets; and another proposed at South Washington and Prince Streets, approximately one mile to the South. Alexandria taxpayers will bear \$20 million of development costs for that project. One report suggests that the estimated return on that investment may be about \$34 million over 20 years.

What market analyses have been conducted to buttress the Applicant's foregoing statement? A legitimate concern of Old Town residents is rising real property taxes to support hotel development that does not or cannot generate revenues as projected. Burden shifting to residential property owners should not be a default position to support the City's budgetary goals. Marketing analyses and proposed marketing plans for the Proposed Renovation would be helpful to understanding what we may expect from a revenue standpoint for the City.

Comments on the Proposed Renovation:

1. Exterior Color: The Applicant proposes that the exterior brick will be painted black. It is true that several of the recent projects in North Old Town use multiple colors of brick, including

¹ The December 28, 2021 letter from Electra America Hospitality to Karl Moritz of the BAR refers to 504 Second Street. Is there any part of the Proposed Renovation at that address?

darker browns and charcoal grays. Black walls on the front of the Proposed Renovation (South facing) would not be objectionable. However, this color selection may not be successful for the West-, East- and North-facing walls. To the West, Liberty Row residences at 635 First Street and 540 Second Street would face black walls at fairly close proximity. Similarly, this issue would confront Liberty Row residences at 540 and 600 Second Street with respect to the North-facing wall abutting the Liberty Row driveway. This would not be enhancing for the residents and will affect residences in all three Liberty Row buildings.

To the East, residential townhomes of the Watergate community would face a long stretch of black walls on N. Pitt Street. It would be more neighborhood-friendly to have a color palette for the West-, East- and North-facing walls more compatible with adjacent residential dwellings. Consultation between the Applicant and Liberty Row and Watergate could lead to a mutually agreeable color for the noted areas.

2. Vehicle Drop-off Areas: The Applicant states that these areas will be “significantly reduced” at the entry area of the Proposed Renovation, the South-facing area. Where will tour buses be permitted to park to allow passengers to disembark and board? Parking along First Street has been an issue in the past with tour buses blocking visibility from the Liberty Row entryway. Also, is it proposed that tour buses park along N. St. Asaph Street or N. Pitt Street? Consideration should be given to safety and noise issues associated with tour buses in this area, which is largely residential.

3. Outdoor Bar: The Proposed Renovation includes an outdoor bar to be located on the Southeast corner (First Street and N. Pitt Street). This is inappropriate for a residential area for several reasons. While we do not know the capacity or hours of operation of this bar, an outdoor bar at this site raises issues related to noise, trash, and rodents assuming that food service is included.

The Applicant suggests that there will be restaurant seating at this location as well. There are a number of restaurants in the next block to the South — along Montgomery Street and N. St. Asaph Street. The earlier proposed renovation of the former Old Colony Inn included plans for a restaurant fronting on Second Street. This idea was not favorably received by the adjacent neighborhoods and subsequently eliminated from the proposed renovation. (The former Old Colony Inn was never renovated. Rather, the commercial structure was demolished and the site now consists of luxury townhomes.) A proposal for an outdoor bar and a restaurant at the AKA Hotel, immediately across the street from a residential area should be rejected.

4. Outdoor Courtyard: The Proposed Renovation includes an outdoor courtyard to be located on the Southwest corner (First Street and N. St. Asaph Street). It is unclear from the renderings whether there will be a wall of glass on First Street partially shielding this outdoor courtyard. This outdoor courtyard would be adjacent to Liberty Row and the brick walkway leading into the condominium grounds. The Application shows several seating areas in this courtyard. Is food to be served in this location? How would this location be restricted to hotel guests? In the urban residential area of Old Town, care should be taken to avoid the unintended creation of spaces for loitering. This is also a safety issue for area residents in this walkable City.

5. Egress onto Liberty Row Property: Presently, there are two points of egress from the existing structure onto Liberty Row property. One on the West side and one on the North side. The renderings of the renovated building seem to eliminate these points of egress. Is this accurate? If the Proposed Renovation will include points of egress onto Liberty Row property, it would be helpful to know where these points will be located and then to work with management to ensure proper safety measures for Liberty Row residents to include outdoor motion-sensing lights and security cameras.

6. Entry to Hotel Parking on Second Street: Entry to the hotel parking lot and garage continues to be on Second Street. The above-ground parking lot which extends from part of Second Street and along N. Pitt Street has sometimes been conducive to loitering. Special care should be given to landscaping and hardscaping plans that will discourage such use of this portion of the hotel property. For example, plans should avoid creating areas that are not clearly visible from N. Pitt Street and Second Street. There should be ample lighting around this area as well. This is a matter of safety for area residents.

7. Security Cameras: Installation of security cameras at key locations along the property's perimeter is important. The renderings go into some detail about outdoor lighting, but I did not see any mention of security cameras. Again, given that there is a significant residential element to this area of Old Town, measures enhancing safety are paramount.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to present my views on the Proposed Renovation. I hope that the issues outlined will be taken into consideration by the Applicant as this project evolves.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Lord

Linda L. Lord, Esq.

From: [Alicia B](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Cc: [Sarah Jackson](#); [Barb Carroll](#); [Sydney Olson](#);
Subject: Comments For BAR Meeting 2/16/2022 re: Proposed Exterior Changes to Former Holiday Inn 625 First and 510 Second Streets
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:11:03 AM

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Hi Ms. Niebauer,

I am an owner/resident at the Liberty Row Condominium which sits next door to the former Holiday Inn property. I don't object to progress, but believe the proposal to paint the brick facade of the hotel "all black" will create an "eyesore" for an otherwise tastefully planned Old Town North Alexandria community, as well as raise ecological concerns.

The entire front of the Hotel property is visible when heading north on Washington Street (or GW Memorial Parkway). I don't know how this cannot be viewed as being part of the historic significance of Alexandria. As a taxpayer of this city, my community will be adversely impacted as we will all be forced to look at a "hideous blob" everytime we walk out the front door of our homes.

Additionally, painting such a large area of brick the color black raises ecological concerns. As we all know, the summer months can be very hot and humid in this region. We also know that dark colors such as black absorb heat. To have such a large mass of brick painted black in hot weather will most likely place a greater strain on the power grid to be able to adequately cool the hotel. Any landscaping located near or next to black brick will be scorched or require more water to survive; that is, unless the new owners are planning to landscape with nothing but desert cactus.

The assertion that there are other all black brick buildings in the area is false. I have walked the community and only observed black brick being used at construction sites where it is interspersed with sandy-tan, red, gray, or beige-colored bricks. Other recently built buildings have used black architectural elements such as select metal siding, friezes, balconies, windows, and doors with otherwise light-colored brick or glass. Waterman Place, which is close by, is an older building constructed of a medium chocolate-brown brick and glass. It is also surrounded by mature trees which provides a great deal of shade in hot weather.

I urge members of the BAR to walk around Old Town North to make this observation for themselves and request the BAR ask the new owners of the Holiday Inn property to select a color scheme that fits in/contributes to the community, rather than introducing an "eyesore." This will go a long way in building a positive relationship with their neighbors!

The BAR's attention to these concerns is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Alicia Ballard
600 Second St, # 103
Liberty Row Condominium

From: [Barb Carroll](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Proposed Exterior Changes to 625 First Street/510 Second Street
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 3:08:48 PM

Ms. Niebauer:

I am writing in advance of the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 16 to discuss the changes being proposed for the former Holiday Inn Hotel, located at 625 First Street and 510 Second Street. In particular, I am writing to express concern and objection about the proposed exterior paint color--black--for the entire exterior of the building(s). While the developer notes there are a number of buildings in the vicinity of the former Holiday Inn that are black, they most certainly are not--most are accented with other colors, but more to the point, the size and scale of the exterior of the former Holiday Inn painted all black will be an eyesore to those who live in the surrounding community and certainly not in harmony with surrounding residential and retail communities.

I also note the developer says the site cannot be seen from the George Washington Parkway--again, that is untrue. Going both north and south, the hotel can be seen by pedestrians and cars on the Parkway.

In closing, I would respectfully ask the BAR not to approve the exterior paint color as presented in the developer's BAR application.

Thank you.

Barbara W. Carroll
Treasurer, Liberty Row Condominium Board of Directors
635 First Street, Unit 401

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From: [Pat Day](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Holiday Inn
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:36:30 PM

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My husband and I live at Liberty Row. We are appalled at the thought of the hotel being painted a dismal and gothic black. The hotel takes a complete block, how depressing! I cannot believe that this is allowed to happen. It is so disturbing, that I understand that some neighbors are considering relocating from this area!

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [JOANNE BRODERICK](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]BAR review of the AKA proposal
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 5:24:37 AM

[You don't often get email from joannebroderick@verizon.net. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

> Dear Ms. Niebauer,. I am writing to express concerns about the proposed renovation of the Holiday Inn on First Street. I am a long term resident of Canal Place Condominium (1100-1200 North Pitt St.), and I believe this proposal is deeply flawed. The renovation will not be harmonious with the existing ambiance of the neighborhood. Our buildings are primarily brick and styled to fit in with the historic buildings in Old Town. While I understand the some recent buildings are not necessarily of this nature, they at least have some combination of materials that do not clash horribly with the existing neighborhood. The proposal to paint the entire property black is an abomination. It will be an eyesore, clearly visible to neighborhood residents and from the George Washington Parkway. What a welcome to Alexandria for visitors heading south on it! I implore the Board to compel AKA to come up with a more reasonable proposal. North Old Town is in need of freshening, not defacement.

>
> Sincerely,
> Joanne Broderick
> Canal Place Condominium
>>
>
>
>

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From: [Sydney Olson](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]BAR meeting 02/16/22
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:30:49 AM

Good morning, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to paint the former Holiday Inn on

First Street. As you have heard from many residents of the surrounding area, the prospect of a totally black

building the size of

the hotel is not only alarming, but depressing. The new owners fail to take into consideration the building's relationship to the communities of Liberty Row, Watergate of Old Town Alexandria, Canal Way, Canal Place and the new townhomes off Second Street.

These communities reflect the overall look and feel of Old Town. They were developed following extensive hearings, meetings and public input. I have read the documents related to the building of Liberty Row and note the requirements that the new construction comply with the Washington Street Guidelines. Recognizing that the Gables is multicolored (black, gray, beige) does not remove, in my opinion, the requirement that buildings be "complementary" to Old Town standards.

The Liberty Row Condominium association is required to maintain landscaping on the property. We've been advised by our landscapers that black walls could require the bushes and trees to be moved at least three feet from where they are currently planted. Will they survive? What will that move mean for the requirement that 6 feet of green space be provided for the public areas between First and Second Streets? There are

many more questions and concerns raised by this ill-advised Paint It Black plan. any? Perhaps some novelty value which will fade as will the paint.

What are the positives, if

Please reject this proposal and send the Hotel AKA back to the drawing board.

Kind regards,

Sydney Olson
Liberty Row Condominiums

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From: [Elizabeth Chimento](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]AKA Hotel Renovation- BAR Public Hearing, Feb. 16, 2022
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:54:02 PM

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Board of Architectural Review

Re: AKA Hotel Renovation, 625 First St. and 510 Second St.

Members of the Board:

What is this nearby resident's response to such an odd renovation? A proposed dark olive painted hotel, unlike any other building in the neighborhood, described by the applicant as Goth and named "AKA." As I look at the picture of the proposed renovation, I am tempted to laugh. It is so incongruous with the generally colonial style homes and townhouses surrounding it. Why so much darkness? To what does "AKA" ("also known as") refer? Why are there no windows on walls that face other homes?

This hotel, as proposed, deconstructs all residences around it by creating an opposing structure that denies symmetry, style, light and openness. The painted gray/black brick dominates rather than blends with the surrounding neighborhood. It is carnavalesque. It reflects on nearby structures by its difference, challenging the dominant architectural designs and laughing at them through creating opposition.

The carnivalesque theory originated with Russian thinker, Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1975). He began using his theory in literature and since then it has spread to architecture, as well (see internet "Architecture and the Carnavalesque"). Bakhtin's theory delivers Marxist overtones by deconstructing ideas of class. The hotel, as proposed, flattens out attention to neighboring more classical homes by its overwhelming Gothic difference, darkness and strangeness.

The building, partially wrapping around three city blocks, North Pitt, First and Second Streets, establishes an enormous footprint. Painting the current exterior red brick walls gray/black will further accentuate the hotel's dominance rather than aesthetically blending it with the neighborhood.

I ask the Board to please retain the hotel's original red brick exterior walls and deny the applicant's request to paint them.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Chimento

1200 N. Pitt St.

Alexandria, VA 22314

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From: [kathwaugh8](#)
To: [Lia Niebauer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Former Holiday Inn Painted Black
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 4:12:03 PM

You don't often get email from kathwaugh8@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Niebauer,

I wholeheartedly agree with Alicia Ballards' email sent to you regarding the Holiday Inn's new owner request to paint the building black. Ms. Ballard really expressed valid and authentic reasons why this would destroy the historical beauty of Old Town and would be a blot on the landscape. Please take her thoughts in consideration when this request is brought before the BAR.

Thank you for helping.

Kathleen Waugh
600 Second Street #302
Alexandria

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