

**From:** [Michael Ferragamo](#)  
**To:** [Lia Niebauer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Comment on March 16, 2022 BAR Hearing, BAR#2022-00069 OHAD  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 12:20:17 PM

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Dear Lia,

We are writing you as abutters (952 North Washington Street) to the above-referenced proposed project in opposition of its approval. Although BAR staff is recommending approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness, their analysis, while likely accurate relative to the technical specifications of zoning regulations, seems to ignore the fact that the design as proposed is inconsistent with the BAR's standards: determining whether a proposed design is consistent with that of the existing area.

The applicant's materials demonstrate that the proposed alteration is neo-industrial in its nature. And, the BAR staff's report indicates that the site is located within an "urban streetscape." However, the proposed site is located within an area that pointedly represents the City's intended vision of development with clear architectural purpose that does not include references to anything remotely neo-industrial. In fact, based on a simple walk on the streets of the area, the city has gone through great lengths to ensure that reasonable construction techniques and design constraints revitalize the area from one of "urban streetscape" to modern residential. The consistent efforts to reduce the overall number of overhead utilities, along with the architectural treatments applied to the recent townhome developments, as well as the local Mobil gas station on North Washington Street, are all emblematic of this.

Therefore, we must voice our opposition to the proposed design which unnecessarily augments and accentuates "urban streetscape" features in an area that is actively minimizing them, or integrating them in significantly more discreet ways.

We write further to note that we are not opposed to the project in principle as there are benefits to growing reliable communications infrastructure. However, the project, as designed and rendered, is significantly more compatible with a rooftop installation that would have limited to no visual impact on the area.

Kind regards,  
Michael and Sarah Ferragamo  
952 N. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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