

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

FROM: HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO THE BAR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL POLICY TO INCLUDE SOLAR PANEL FOR OHAD AND PG COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

At the September 16, 2021 hearing staff will present a BAR administrative approval policy for solar photovoltaic panels. The proposed administrative approval policy would allow staff to administratively approve solar panels on later buildings in the Old and Historic District and Parker-Gray commercial properties. The policy will be consistent with the solar panel policy for later residential properties located in the Parker-Gray District.

The proposed language is below:

Solar Panels	<p>Solar panels, provided the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mounted directly to the roof slope.• Located on later buildings (constructed after 1935).• If the roof will be replaced, an appropriate color roof replacement material should be used so that the solar panels visually blend-in with the roof. <p>It is recommended that the roofing material be replaced prior to installation, so that the solar panels do not have to be removed and reinstalled a short time later.</p>
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As with all administrative approval policies, failure to meet the requirements does not result in denial but rather requires that the applicant seek BAR approval at a public hearing. In addition, using good judgement, staff may find that a proposed solar panel project may need full Board review, in which case the application would be docketed.

Staff looks forward to any questions and feedback from the Board, as well as the public. Following that discussion staff looks forward to the Board's approval of the proposed policy.