

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
October 25, 2016 Meeting**

6. CAR No. 16-147 (P. King)

**2712 Monument Avenue
Monument Avenue Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Replace existing porch columns with new fiberglass columns to match the existing design.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to remove the two existing full round columns and the two half square columns which flank the front door of a home in the Monument Avenue Old and Historic District. The existing columns are fluted Corinthian columns that show signs of deterioration due to exposure to the elements. The applicant proposes to construct the columns in fiberglass and to replicate the details of columns.

Staff recommends approval of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that when replacing elements, materials that match the original in type, or are physically and chemically compatible substitute materials that convey the same appearance as the surviving elements should be used (pg. 55, #7). The proposed columns will convey the same appearance of the existing columns. As dimensions of the proposed replacement columns have not been provided, staff recommends the columns match the existing in size. The Guidelines acknowledge the unavailability of skilled craftsmen to construct ornamental features such as the subject capitals and note that in such cases substitute materials are considered acceptable (pg. 57). For this reason, staff recommends approval of the proposed substitute material.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation in Section 30-930.7(b) of the City Code, as well as with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically, the pages cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.