

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
August 26, 2014 Meeting**

6. **CAR No. 14-083** (L. Fawell)

**504 N. Boulevard
Boulevard Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Install textured glass and storm door**

Staff Contact: **W. Palmquist**

The applicant requests approval for the replacement of front door glass with a textured glass which would obscure visibility through it. The applicant also requests approval to install a storm door with six clear glass panels.

Staff recommends partial approval of the project with a condition. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* states, "Do not remove original doors. Replacement doors and door surrounds with stamped or molded faux paneling or leaded, beveled, or etched glass is strongly discouraged and rarely permitted" (pg. 61 #13). Therefore, staff recommends the denial of this portion of the application. While property owners are allowed to increase privacy by installing a curtain or other distorting material behind a glass door, non-historic glass textures that distort light are generally not permitted in City Old and Historic districts.

Regarding the proposed storm door, the *Guidelines* states that, "storm door divisions and color should match the original door," and that, "storm doors must allow the original door to show through" (pg. 61-62 #13 & 15). Therefore, staff recommends the approval of the storm door with the condition that it be painted or stained a color which complements the existing door or main structure.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the condition above (the installation of clear glass in the doors), is partially consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 114-930.7(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.