

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
September 27, 2016 Meeting**

5. **CAR No. 16-127** (S. McCoy) **2611 West Grace Street
West Grace Street Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Paint brick façade blue.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to paint the front façade of a previously painted Colonial Revival brick rowhouse in the West Grace Street Old and Historic District. This application is result of enforcement activity as the façade was painted Leisure Blue (#31 on the Commission's Paint Palette) without receiving a certificate of appropriateness. The brick façade was painted an off white color similar to Classic Light Buff (#41) prior to being painted blue.

Staff recommends denial of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state when painting previously painted masonry the colors of natural brick are strongly encourages and are preferred over less appropriate colors such as blue (pg. 59). In addition, blue is not an appropriate color for Colonial Revival homes (pg. 58). For these reasons, staff recommends denial of the painting of the previously painted brick façade blue.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is not 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.