

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
August 23, 2016 Meeting**

7. **CAR No. 16-124** (R. Cross)

**1902-1908 Princess Anne Avenue
Union Hill Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

**Modify previously approved plans
to change the color of the proposed brick.**

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to change the color of the previously approved brick to be used in the construction of three attached single family homes in the Union Hill Old and Historic District. A Certificate of Appropriateness was issued for the construction of four attached single family houses at 1902-1908 Princess Anne Avenue on June 23, 2015; and a new Certificate of Appropriateness was issued on January 26, 2016 when the approved plans were revised to meet zoning requirements for parking which required reducing the number of single family homes to three.

The structure was approved to be clad predominantly in red brick (Continental Brick Company Style 594 – Autumn Blend) with a darker grey brick (Continental Brick Company Style 489 – Black Sand Finish Colonial) in the recessed bays of the southern elevation. The applicant is proposing to replace the red brick with a beige (Metrobrick 107 Parkway) or a grey (Metrobrick 507 Empire) brick and the darker brick color with a similar dark grey brick (Metrobrick 710 Charcoal).

Staff recommends approval of the project with a condition. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that for new construction, materials should be visually compatible with original materials used throughout the surrounding neighborhood and colors should be similar to the historically appropriate colors already found in the immediate neighborhood and the district (pg. 51, Materials & Colors #2 & #3). In the subject and surrounding blocks, there are several homes constructed of beige bricks. As beige is a brick color found in the immediate neighborhood, staff supports the replacement of the red brick with the proposed beige brick rather than the proposed grey brick. Staff finds the proposed dark grey brick is in substantial compliance with the previously approved dark brick color.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the above noted conditions, is consistent with the Standards for New Construction in Sections 30-930.7(c) 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.