

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
May 27, 2013, Meeting**

14. **CAR No. 14-45** (S. Pomajambo)

**511 1/2 N. Adams Street
Jackson Ward Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

Paint mural on the side of the building

Staff Contact:

W. Palmquist

The applicant requests permission to paint a mural on the side of a previously-painted residential building located in the Jackson Ward Old and Historic District. The applicant proposes utilizing the entire southern façade for the mural, and has included examples of styles of proposed work. This side of the building faces a large parking lot which affords this façade a prominent view along this block.

Staff recommends denial of the project. The adopted mural guidelines note that murals may be permitted on commercial buildings, provided that certain guidelines are met. The applicant has proposed a mural at a residential building, which does not meet the guidelines. The majority of this block of N. Adams Street is residential with some commercial, office, and institutional land uses which includes a large church. Even with some other land uses present, this block retains the feel and character of a residential street. It is the assessment of staff that the application is not consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 114-930.7(b) of the City Code, nor is it consistent with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the mural guidelines, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.