

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
July 24, 2018 Meeting**

3. **COA-037934-2018** (Carova Development LLC) **523 North 29th Street
Church Hill North Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Replace two doors and remove a door opening on a side porch.**

Staff Contact: **C. Jeffries**

The applicant requests approval to replace two doors and remove a door opening on a side porch of a frame single family attached structure in the Church Hill North Old and Historic District. The applicant is proposing to replace two doors with salvaged wood doors and in-fill a door opening by removing the door and frame and covering the opening with siding.

Staff recommends partial approval of the project. *The Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that original doors and door surrounds should not be removed (pg. 71, #14). Due to the visibility of the door, staff recommends denial of the proposed removal of the door and that the opening instead be closed only on the interior, maintaining the exterior appearance of the opening.

The *Guidelines* state that original doors should be retained (pg 71, #14). In communications with staff, the applicant has indicated that the first-floor door is missing and the second-floor door has been altered with plywood. The *Guidelines* further note that it is acceptable to use salvaged materials as in-kind replacement (pg. 59, #10). Staff recommends approval of the proposed door replacements with the condition that the applicant submit additional photographs that demonstrate the existing door is beyond repair.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is partially consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Sections 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 page cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.