

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
April 26, 2016 Meeting**

5. **CAR No. 16-045** (G. & L. Green) **2700 West Grace Street
West Grace Street Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Replace front door.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to replace the front door to a multifamily structure in the West Grace Street Old and Historic District. This application is the result of enforcement activity as the front door was replaced without a Certificate of Appropriateness. The new door replaces a wooden door with a single lite above a single panel. The applicant has stated that the previous door was deteriorated. The replacement door is a painted fiberglass door with a decorative beveled and faux leaded glass window.

Staff recommends denial of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* note that original doors should not be removed and that replacement doors with leaded, beveled or etched glass are strongly discouraged and rarely permitted (pg. 67, #14). The applicant has provided several examples of similar doors installed in the surrounding neighborhood, but staff has determined that none of these doors are located within City Old and Historic Districts. As the installed front door does not meet the *Guidelines* as the beveled and faux leaded glass element is specifically discouraged by the *Guidelines*, staff cannot recommend approval of the installation of this new front door.

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.