

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
May 24, 2016 Meeting**

2. **CAR No. 16-075** (M. Roberts-Gabay) **2615 West Grace Street
West Grace Street Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Install a wooden privacy fence.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to install a wooden privacy fence at the rear of a mid-block home in the West Grace Street Old and Historic District. The proposed fence will be 7 feet in height and be constructed of wooden boards 6 feet in height and 12 inches of lattice above. As Section 30-630.9 (b) of the Zoning Ordinance limits the height of fences in the R-48 District to 6 ½ feet, the applicant has been informed that an administrative variance would be required for the proposed fence. The applicant has stated she desires this added height to provide additional privacy from the recently constructed 2-story garage on the adjacent property.

Staff recommends approval of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that new fences should be constructed using materials and designs appropriate to the Old and Historic District and that rear-yard privacy fences should mimic traditional fence designs (pg. 74, #4, #7). The proposed fence is constructed of wood which is a material found throughout the District in the construction of privacy fences. The applicant is proposing a similar design as found on the privacy fence at 2516 Monument Avenue which includes lattice work on top of a traditional privacy fence.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is 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.