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Regarding: **Ordinance Revisions (Legistar #17835)**

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Date: October 3, 2011  
Prepared By: Amy Scanlon

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**General Information:**

The Landmarks Commission has been reviewing the Landmarks Ordinance and discussing potential revisions as time allows. In addition to Ordinance revisions, it is necessary to discuss the intent of the Ordinance as it relates to recent cases and re-establish practicable interpretations.

In reviewing a number of recent requests for Certificates of Appropriateness, Staff and Commission members have requested that the Commission discuss a number of interpretation-related issues. The items below are provided for discussion purposes and may spur the discussion of other items:

1. How to interpret “materials that are compatible with historic finishes”? Should this be interpreted to mean that the materials be replicated in kind or in general appearance? For example, are metal shingles that replicate the general appearance of wood shingles appropriate?
2. According to the Ordinance, only two historic districts specifically allow the use of vinyl and aluminum. The recent practice of the Landmarks Commission has been to allow the use of these materials unless the Ordinance specifically prohibits it. Staff suggests that this practice be discussed.
3. Original wood window replacement requests are numerous. Staff suggests that the property owner demonstrate that every attempt has been made to repair the original window before replacement is approved.
4. Staff suggests that the Landmarks Commission request presentations by the State Historical Society staff on appropriate materials, windows and energy efficiency.