

File Number**96-2217**

Last Changed Date

02/06/2003

Title

FENCES AND WALLS / RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS**Initiated by****Goldberg Mover 1996 / Bernson**

Subject

Motion - Fences and walls in residential neighborhoods serve several purpose. They provide enclosure for private space, definition of property borders and privacy to the front and rear yards. They also establish physical barriers for security purposes by preventing unauthorized entry onto private property. The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) currently restricts the height of fences and walls in Residential Zones within the front yard to 3 feet and 6 inches.

However, there is widespread confusion regarding the zoning rules which regulate fence height because a building permit is not required to construct a fence or wall. Seeking security protection, owners of property in areas characterized by high population densities have installed front yard fences or have allowed shrubs and plants to grow tall and dense within the front yard. In many cases, these barriers exceed the current height limit, causing conflict between neighbors and enforcement difficulties for the Building and Safety Department. The City should preserve the option for private owners to establish enhanced security protection. At the same time, the City should recognize that walls and fences often contribute to the character of the public street and general neighborhood. The encroachment of incompatible walls and fences into expanses of front yard open space should be avoided or mitigated.

THEREFORE MOVE that City Planning Department, in consultation with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and City Attorney, prepare and present an amend to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to include the following provision: The height of a wall or fence in the front yard in a Residential Zone shall be permitted to exceed three feet six inches if it is substantially open or allows a significant amt of visibility.

FURTHER MOVE that a report on this matter be presented to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee within 60 days.

Date Received

10-29-98

File History

11-19-96 - This days Council session

11-19-96 - Ref to Planning and Land Use Management Committee - Set for Planning and Land Use Management Committee on December 17, 1996.

11-19-96 - File to Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk

11-19-96 - File to Bernson per Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk request.

12-13-96 - File to Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk for report

12-17-96 - Planning and Land Use Management Committee disposition - Referred to Planning staff.

12-18-96 - File to Planning Department - Attention: Con Howe per Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk letter

4-14-98 - File and City Attorney Report R98-01171 re: Draft ordinances amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to permit open fences up to six feet in height by right in the required front yard in the R Zones and adding to Los Angeles Municipal Code to allow for the creation of a supplemental use district - to Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk.

5-8-98 - Set for Planning and Land Use Management Committee on May 19, 1998

5-19-98 - Planning and Land Use Management Committee Disposition - OK "A" ordinance with Building and Safety Department modifications.

5-21-98 - File to Planning Department - Attention: Con Howe per Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk letter.

7-22-98 - File to Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk

11-10-98 - CONTINUED TO November 17, 1998

11-17-98 - Entire Matter CONTINUED TO December 15, 1998

10-29-98 - City Attorney R98-0335 report re: An ordinance amending Sections 12.04 D and 13.00, renumbering Section 13.10 and adding a new Section 13.15 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to allow for the creation of a new supplemental use district to permit *open* fences up to six feet in height in the required front yards of properties in the R Zones - to Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk.

12-15-98 - Entire Matter CONTINUED TO January 29, 1999

1-29-99 - **Planning and Land Use Management Committee report ADOPTED TO PRESENT and ADOPT accompanying Ordinance, amending Sections 12.04D and 13.00, renumbering Section 13.19 and adding a new Section 13.15 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to allow for the creation of a new supplemental use district to permit open fences up to six feet in height in the required front yard of properties in the R Zones** - General Exempt ADOPTED - Findings ADOPTED - Ordinance OVER ONE WEEK TO February 5, 1999.

2-5-99 - Ordinance ADOPTED

2-9-99 - File to Mayor for signature

2-24-99 - File to Planning and Land Use Management Committee Clerk OK

2-25-99 - File in files

Ordinance

172460 (Effective: 03/22/1999)