



Ordinance variance letter

To whom it concerns,

We are seeking a variance on the city ordinance regarding our fence and arbor vitae height on our home at 730 South Boulevard West, Rochester Hills.

The current regulations require that the fence and trees be no more than 3 feet in height. Our current fence is 5 feet high, and the arbor vitae is 6-8 feet in height.

The fence height is necessary for the safety of our dog, who is large enough to clear a 3' fence, as well as protect passerby on the sidewalk, and drivers on the road immediately in front of our property. A taller fence and trees helps reduce agitation and risk of him being startled into jumping out and bolting away, causing a hazard to others. Our location on a main road where the only sidewalk is on our side means that the footpath and road in front of our home has extremely high traffic. The proximity of the sidewalk to the front of our house means that without the arbor vitae especially, we are not able to keep a separation from the public.

The trees go a long way towards providing noise reduction, improving air quality by reducing direct exposure to particulates and airborne pollution from traffic, and granting privacy. Additionally, the flatness of the land means that mature trees have a major impact on water absorption and reducing issues with flooding. Beyond regards to privacy and quality of life, the arbor vitae are a protective measure; the high degree of road traffic means there have been multiple motor vehicle accidents where the driver ended up steering directly onto our, or neighboring, properties, and the trees and fences played a vital role in preventing direct collision with structures. As we have had 3 such incidents in the past year alone, we are concerned that reducing the trees may impact our safety in the future.

Our neighbors have never expressed concern or distaste for our current landscaping, and at least one has attested to feeling safer with things as they are, and a preference for them remaining as is.

It is our belief that keeping the fences and trees at their current height is better not just for us, but our immediate neighbors and community in terms of appearances and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Daniel Bennett

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