
Evan Roberts
49 Arthur Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
evanrobertsnz@gmail.com
612-636-4924

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Dear members of the Business, Housing and Zoning Committee

Because I am unable to make the 1:30 meeting of your committee, I would like to submit written comments on the proposed fence regulations ordinance.

Specifically, I would urge you to consider three sets of changes that allow *greater* maximum fence height. These changes would allow Minneapolis residents to enjoy their own property to a greater extent, improve public safety, while striking a reasonable balance with street views and aesthetic concerns

- Allow fences of up to 5' in height in required front yards, where the top 1' is less than 60% opaque.
- Allow 6' fences in required side yards beginning at the *front* of the principal structure instead of the rear
- Allow fences of up to 6' in required front yards if the top 2' are less than 60% opaque, and set back 3' or more from the property line

I believe that earlier drafts of these fence regulations considered allowing an increase in height in front yard fences to 5', and am curious why these changes have gone backwards.

Fence regulations need to be considered in the context of Minneapolis' large—inappropriate for an urban area seeking to encourage infill housing—setback requirements. Required front yards take up a significant portion of yard space. By not allowing residents to screen their yard to some extent, city regulations deny residents the ability to enjoy their yards with a modicum of privacy. Moreover for people with western facing views, the front yard may be the place they most enjoy spending time in the evening. The suggestions I have made above for front yards are consistent with balancing residents' right to privacy on their own property, and public safety from visibility.

The city's regulations on side yard fences step too far into resolving what are essentially private boundary matters between residents. It is just strange that the city denies residents the ability to screen their house from neighbors with a fence in an urban environment.

The front and side yard regulations also need to consider that many Minneapolis residents keep dogs in front and side yards. 4' fence requirements are not consistent with public safety, and allowing residents to have dogs in their front yards as well.

Yours sincerely



Evan Roberts