

We are writing this letter to ask the city of Bloomington to allow us to keep our fence .We are new first time homeowners to Bloomington. We bought our home on January 17th 2014, it was a short sale / foreclosure. The home needed many updates and clean ups ,trees and yard work that needed to be cleaned up, exterior and interior. It was winter so we started with some of the inside work. Soon spring arrived and we found out that Xerxes was a much busier street than we saw in the winter . We have a son Levi who is 6 years old and a yellow lab, Remington and decided we needed a fence to keep them safe and out of harms way .

I went to the city building to apply for a fence permit , I showed the woman at the desk a Google map picture of our property, gave her my address and we looked and spoke about it . She then explained to me that Bloomington does not require a permit for building a fence at your home , she explained to me that I could remove the pine trees on the north side of our lot and install a 6 foot wood fence with a gate, in case I wanted to park a camper in our yard at a later point in time .

So we worked very hard to clean up all the pine trees and half died lilac bushes that covered our property line. We then started the process to build this 6 foot cedar fence, it took us weeks to set all the post around the small back yard that we have. After months we finally finished and we felt that we now have a safe place for Levi and Remington to play .

The fence had been installed for a few months and we were feeling safe and secure, around November we received a letter in the mail stating the fence was not up to code.

I talked with Josh Aul from the city about this and showed him pictures of homes in our neighborhood with the same style of fence, some of these fences had even been installed at the same time as ours .

One of them on our own street Xerxes even built a 6 foot fence around the front of their home , I inquired about these other homes to Josh Aul and I was informed that fence had gotten a variance permit to "Protect Their Child", from getting into the street, because Xerxes has semi trailer traffic, heavy private traffic, a Fire Station, and it could be unsafe for children.

I explained to them that was why we built our fence to keep our Child and family pet Safe .

He explained I could apply for a permit also, but I would have to have our home surveyed, I called many places and was told I would have to wait until spring to have this done . This cost us \$1000 to have our home surveyed and a drawing done to make sure we were within our lot. Then there was an additional charge of \$320 for the permit application.

I also spoke with my neighbors about it to make sure they were ok with the fence. Some of my new neighbors had even helped build the fence. We have been told by many of our neighbors that we had done such a good job at making the place look better and that it was a night and day difference since we bought the home.

So now over a year later we our fighting to keep our fence to keep our family safe.

I ask you to allow the permit so that we can keep our family safe and out of harms way on such a busy road .

Thank you

Keith Freemark