

This is regarding case file number: **PL2016-56**.

We live in 9635 Wyoming Circle which is directly across the street from Amanda and Geoff Elfstrom in 9617 Wyoming Circle. We moved in to our house almost 4 years ago and to this day their tree house and play apparatus has never been a nuisance to us. They're also not visible even though it is in the front yard, it is quite conveniently hidden by a tree. We believe that they should be allowed to keep their play apparatus and tree house. It's a source of joy for many children in our neighborhood, it is a place where they can all congregate and enjoy themselves in the warm months. A perk to that is that they stay off the streets and sidewalks and are less prone to being hit by vehicles. We hope that Amanda and Geoff get to keep their play apparatus and tree house, I know the kids in our neighborhood would really appreciate it. Thank you.

Kishan Patel & Family  
9635 Wyoming Circle

9615 Wyoming Circle  
Bloomington, MN 55438

June 16, 2015

Dear Bloomington City Council,

We are writing in regards to the treehouse at 9617 Wyoming Circle at the Elfstrum family residence. We live next door to the Elfstrums on the side of the treehouse. We moved here about 2 years ago and the treehouse is one of the things that attracted us to this house. We had heard it was a destination for all the kids in the neighborhood and we were excited that it would be right next door to us. We absolutely love having this treehouse available to our family. The treehouse is definitely a neighborhood destination. The neighborhood kids know that they can hang out at the treehouse and it is just a matter of time before another kid will show up and they can start playing together in a safe place. In one week alone, we noticed 4 different occasions where numerous kids were playing in the treehouse without any of the Elfstrums. In today's day of so much structure as well as the availability of electronics, it is wonderful to have an outdoor area for the kids to meet at and use their imaginations. We particularly enjoy that it is at the side of our house and can peek out our front window to check on our kids while not having to have to always be outside with them. The visibility and placement of this treehouse has really helped the kids in the neighborhood get to know each other and play with those they may not normally. If it was hidden away behind the houses, it would not be as accessible or as much of a destination to the kids without more of a formal invite. It has also helped the neighborhood adults create a larger sense of community since we will get together and socialize as the kids play.

We are very supportive of keeping the treehouse where it is, and would like you to keep this safe place for kids to play in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Dan, Jill, Norah, Joshua, & Hannah  
Bickett

Dan, Jill, Norah, Joshua and Hannah Bickett

May 1, 2015

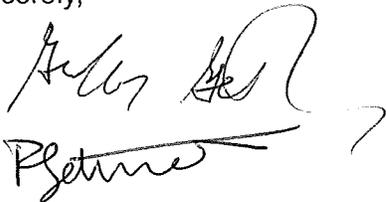
To Whom It May Concern:

We have lived at 9637 Wyoming Circle since November of 2009. We live across the street from Geoffrey and Amanda Elfstrum (9617 Wyoming Circle). It has come to our attention that the City of Bloomington has voiced concerns over the Elfstrum's tree house.

We were shocked to hear this news because the tree house is well-concealed, inconspicuous, attractive and meticulously maintained. But more importantly, the Elfstrum's tree house has become a fixture for the children and families of Wyoming Circle. It serves as a central gathering place and activity center for the many young children who live on our street and on the surrounding streets. On any given day, you will find anywhere from 1-12 children congregated around the tree house, engaging in healthy, outdoor play. We live in an era where our children have become overexposed to electronic devices and indoor passive entertainment, but the tree house serves to engage our children in exactly the opposite- climbing, swinging, imaginative and cooperative play. It allows them to be physical in a safe, outdoor space that is protected from the street. Beneath the shade of the tree house, we have watched our children form friendships and bonds that will last their entire lifetimes. Similarly, the treehouse fosters community amongst our adult neighbors, creating a comfortable space for adults to congregate while our children are happily entertained. Because our street is a pedestrian thoroughfare to access West Bush Lake Park, we see a steady stream of people who are out for walks, and it is a daily occurrence that we receive a smile and a comment about how refreshing it is to see children playing outside, completely unplugged.

These interactions between children, adults and neighbors are ones that create a community. The Elfstrum's treehouse represents the essence of why we love our neighborhood, and why we have chosen to reside in the City of Bloomington. We respectfully request that you allow the treehouse to remain standing, and we would gladly speak with you to further voice our support.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a cursive signature that appears to be 'Geoffrey Getnick'. The bottom signature is another cursive signature that appears to be 'Regina Getnick'. Both signatures are written in a fluid, connected style.

Geoffrey and Regina Getnick  
Noah (9), Abigail (7) and Jonah (5) Getnick  
9637 Wyoming Circle  
Bloomington, MN 55438  
(952) 835-6035

To Whom It May Concern,

I was recently notified by my neighbors, Amanda and Geoff Elfstrum, that they received a letter from the City of Bloomington requesting they take down their tree house/play area. It was referenced in the letter that the treehouse is located in their front yard, which is not permitted by the city. My kids absolutely love the treehouse, and it would be a disservice to our neighborhood—and the kids residing here—to do away with it.

We live on Wyoming Terrace, which is just houses from Wyoming Circle. Whenever we walk up to the cul de sac to play, my kids immediately run to the treehouse. At any time during the day, there are kids outside at the treehouse, and it's a fun place for them to meet and get to be better friends.

Also, our backyard is a giant hill, which prevents us from having a swing set/treehouse and so my daughter, who is 5, loves having the opportunity to swing close to home. The Elfstrums have made the treehouse available to the neighborhood kids in this capacity, which is so generous.

Throughout the summer and fall, the neighborhood has bbqs, block parties, etc, and the cul de sac is a great place for everyone to congregate—the treehouse being the impetus behind the location most of the time. The neighbors can spend time together while keeping an eye on the kids in a central location such as the Elfstrum's back yard.

Neighborhoods are about comradery, and the treehouse helps create that for many houses. Don't order them to take it down.

Thank you,

Jen Sandbo

9604 Wyoming Terrace S.

Dear City Council members:

I am writing this letter in support of the tree house located at 9617 Wyoming Circle in Bloomington. I understand that this tree house has been cited as a violation of the city code because it is allegedly in the front yard. I disagree with the inspector's assessment that the area in which the tree house is located would be considered the front yard. It is clearly located towards the back side of the property lot, and the front yard is clearly located in an area in the front of the house in an area of the property not associated with the tree house.

Even if the tree house were considered to be in the front yard, it is separated from the street by a sufficient distance and by trees and shrubbery so that it is not the type of visual nuisance that the city code was designed to address. The tree house is visually pleasing and is kept in good repair and should not be a concern to the city. The tree house is located in a quiet cul-de-sac where very few people even see it.

Finally, the tree house is much loved by the children of the neighborhood. It is the type of structure that brings people together as the children are drawn to it and the parents follow. It is the type of thing around which a community can thrive. It is a positive presence and should be allowed to continue to benefit the many members of the community who appreciate what it brings to the neighborhood. I ask that the City Council make the reasonable decision to allow this backyard treehouse to stay in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vanessa Johnson  
7811 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bloomington, MN 55438