

PJ MacLean

31 Ottawa Crescent, Guelph, ON [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Trista Di Lullo, ACST
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

Subject: Application Number A-8/21

Dear Ms. Di Lullo,

I am writing with reference to the subject application number proposing a variance to the By-law 4.20.9 of Zoning By-law (1995)-14864 whereby the applicant is requesting to maintain a fence on the front yard of their property that exceeds the existing 0.8 meters in height as permitted in the By-law.

I am opposed to the support of this variance out of great concern for the safety issues and have listed my concerns as follows:

1. The request is for more than double the height of the By-law, not a "minor variance" as noted on the application. (1.9 meters constructed, versus 0.8 meters permitted).
2. There are two public schools proximal to this residence. Ottawa Public School (an elementary school) that is approximately 270 meters away and John F. Ross Secondary school that is approximately 450 meters away.
3. There are many children using Ottawa Crescent and Calgary Avenue, many of whom are very young and vulnerable. Additionally, there are many school buses navigating this area.
4. The height from the submitted diagrams does not take into account the elevation of the property from the road or side walk, thus, the fence is obstructing far more than the 1.9 meters listed.
5. I approached the applicant when construction commenced advising him that this fence was a safety hazard and that there were By-laws concerning the permitted height. My concerns were laughed off and I was told that it wasn't a problem. Had the applicant consulted with the City prior to the construction of this fence, they would have been told that it was unacceptable and construction would never had taken place.
6. There has been considerable construction done on this home (inside and out) during the last 8 months and it is my understanding that building inspections

have not been conducted due to the current pandemic. Clearly, any renovations or new construction has not been approved.

7. As noted on the diagram attached to the Notice of Public Hearing, Ottawa Crescent is a sharply curved street. When a person is travelling south west on Ottawa Crescent approaching Calgary Avenue the visibility is obstructed by the fence. Additionally, when traveling south on Calgary Avenue toward Ottawa Crescent, the fence obstructs clear view of Ottawa Crescent.
8. My son has already witnessed an accident at this intersection and myself and my girlfriend have seen numerous close calls due to the fact that our house faces 1 Calgary Avenue (as noted in the diagram). Additionally, my mother, has had two near misses when coming to visit as a cyclist heading south on Calgary to enter my driveway. I have been living at 31 Ottawa Crescent for 12 years and have never seen any issues of this nature in the past.
9. I have consulted with my neighbour at 33 Ottawa Crescent and she concurs with my concerns and will be submitting a separate submission requesting that this variance be denied.
10. This problem is compounded in that people also park on the street and in snowy or slippery conditions this leaves no room for error.

My concern for public safety is grave based on the lack of visibility at this intersection. It is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when someone will be grievously injured. This is not a decorative fence. It is a fence that is trying to make a front yard into a backyard. It is dangerous and I feel that this request for variance should be denied.

Please contact me if you require further information or clarification.

Sincerely yours,



PJ MacLean