

From: Nicholas Delbanco
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2017 10:52 AM
To: Barrett, Jon <JBarrett@a2gov.org>
Subject: Appeal # ZBA-17-011

To the Zoning Board of Appeals:

The convivial nature and beauty of our neighborhood has always been enhanced by open views across property lines and the absence of fences. Where there are fences, they serve a very specific and limited purpose. We have enjoyed, over thirty-three years, this feeling of expanse. Those with large properties have shared the natural beauty and fence-lines like the one proposed have been nowhere in sight.

We made no complaint when our immediate neighbors, the Romanos, removed trees and foliage to raise an 8 foot, 100 percent opaque, black plastic fence on the property line between our two houses, though the fence was a mere eight feet from the back of our house. We understood that though it blocked our light and view, they were entitled to privacy. This fence conformed to city ordinances and ours was the only residence affected.

This proposed construction is, however, not the same. The purpose for which they are asking to extend this fence along the entire property line to the road, they explain, is to create a yard for their very small children. We feel that a fence that conforms to existing code (six feet and four feet with transparency) would serve this purpose without creating an opaque stockade that hinders the safety of the intersection and spoils the current loveliness of the surrounding area.

Both of us have now retired from the University of Michigan, and we are preparing to "downsize" and put our house on the market. We have asked the Romanos to reconsider the necessity of constructing a fence which requires an exception to present standard practice. We oppose the variance.

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