

From: Sanders, Georgiana (Gigi)
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2017 7:44 PM
To: Barrett, Jon <JBarrett@a2gov.org>
Subject: Appeal ZBA 17-011

Re: 432 Highland Road
Appeal #: ZBA 17-011
Parcel ID: 09-09-27-302-001

To the members of the zoning board:

We are writing to let you know that we, as property owners within 300 ft, are opposed to granting a variance to allow construction of an 8 foot opaque fence up to the property line at 431 Highland Rd. We are concerned both about safety hazards and the lack of an indication for this fence.

The location of the proposed fence is such that it would obscure the view of traffic moving south on Highland Road into the intersection of Highland and Lafayette from drivers approaching the intersection on Lafayette; and likewise it would obscure the view of Lafayette Street from Highland Road. There are many children who walk and ride bikes in this area, and even more concerning is the danger this might pose to them, as they might more easily be missed by a motorist approaching this intersection.

We also do not see an indication for this kind of barrier between the residence and the surrounding neighborhood. There is no heavy traffic noise for which such a barrier could be helpful. Also, there is not excessive pedestrian traffic. This is not an area of high crime, which might also justify such a structure.

Further, such a fence would not fit in with the current design of the neighborhood, which lacks any similar fences and would detract from the neighborhood's appearance (in contrast, for example, there is liberal use of hedges and other plantings for privacy). We are concerned that granting this variance without a compelling reason would set a precedent for allowing more such fences to be built in this area, totally changing the character of a neighborhood that has existed for more than 80 years.

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