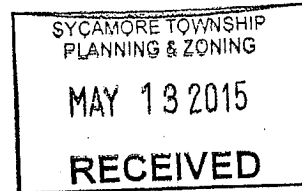


April 17, 2015

Sycamore Township Board of Zoning Appeals  
8540 Kenwood Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45236



RE: Sherry Robinson  
9018 Eldora Dr  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
Zoning Permit Application SYZ-14-368

Please accept this as a letter of intent for a variance for the Privacy Fence in what is considered my side yard at the above mentioned address. I purchased and moved into this home at the end of October 2014. There was a rusted and old chain link fence that had been mended and was in need of replacement. Although I thought it would be fine for awhile, the next door neighbors have three dogs, two of which are larger breeds (one is a pit bull) and they truly scared me. Each time I was in my back yard or on my driveway they would charge the fence and bark insistently. I have small dogs and was afraid they would come through or over the fence and get into my yard. I did ask the neighbor if their dogs could jump the fence and she replied that she didn't know, but they do have a "Beware of Dog" sign posted.

I did not check to see if I needed a permit (I have since learned that I should have) and hired a company to install a privacy fence and to replace the rusted chain link fence. The fence company also helped design a fence and gate that would allow me to let my dogs out the side door safely. I do not have a back door on my home, just the one on the side that comes out onto the driveway. The current fence and gate allow me to open the side door and let me dogs out into our yard where they are secure and safe. The fence is 6ft tall and is 12ft out from my back yard. The gate crosses my single driveway and is also 6ft tall.

I understand that any fence that exceeds the back of the house is considered in the "side yard" and needs to be a maximum of 4ft and 75% open. I would assume the only fences/gates that meet this expectation would be either a chain link fence or possibly something that would not contain dogs or keep other dogs out. I am surprised that this is the code as there are multiple homes on my street alone that have privacy fences in their side or front yards. I would never have purposely violated the zoning codes.

I would like to request that I be able to keep my fence and gate that are considered in my side yard as they are. Putting in the new fence was an unexpected expense that I was not prepared for, but felt it was necessary, it would certainly be a financial hardship to have to replace a section of this fence. I also think that connecting a chain link fence with the existing wooden fence would be unsightly. I have had multiple compliments from neighbors about the fence and even a comment that the neighborhood is much quieter because the dogs next door do not bark as much.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,  
Sherry Robinson