

## Article 3.17 — Fencing Requirements Ordinance

### **3.17.001 Purpose**

The city council declares that a fence ordinance is hereby necessary to provide regulations over the construction of fences, so as to insure adequate vehicular visibility and compatibility with use and appearance of businesses and neighborhoods. (Ordinance 17.04.10A, sec. 1, adopted 4/10/17)

### **3.17.002 Permit Required**

Any person constructing a fence within the city shall make application for a fence permit with the building official. A fee as set forth in the fee schedule in appendix A of this code shall be charged for the permit. (Ordinance 17.04.10A, sec. 2, adopted 4/10/17)

## Section 3.17.003 Construction Requirements

### a) Materials:

Fences shall be built from materials commonly intended for residential or commercial use, including wood, vinyl, chain link, brick, or other materials deemed acceptable by the building official. If located within the Historic Preservation Overlay, the fencing material must be approved by Preservation Commission.

### b) Residential Fences in Front Yard (in front of setback line):

- Solid material: Maximum height 30 inches.
- Chain link or solid spaced material covering  $\leq 50\%$  of the fenced area: Maximum height 48 inches.
- Wrought iron: Maximum height 60 inches; pillars/posts spaced at a minimum of 8 feet on center.
- Chain link and wrought iron fences may include solid material for the lower 30 inches.
- No fence may encroach into any right-of-way.

### c) Corner Lot Visibility:

- Corner lot fences may be up to 72 inches high on the side street side, from the front building setback line to the rear property line, so long as the fence does not impede vision above 30 inches within 30 feet of the intersection (front/side street or neighbor's driveway/side street).
- A drawing clarifying the required line of sight is included as Exhibit A to Ordinance 2019.10.14B and is incorporated herein.

### d) Commercial and Industrial Fencing:

- Fences required for privacy, screening, or protection must submit a site plan and detailed fence plans for approval by the building official.

## Section 3.17.004 Penalties

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this article shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$2,000. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. Penalties are in addition to abatement and restitution.

## Section 3.17.005 Definitions and Standards

### Commercial Privacy Fence:

A barrier constructed for security, restricted visibility, and boundary delineation for commercial or industrial properties. Approved materials: treated pine, cedar, redwood, concrete/masonry, or composite materials consistent with surrounding areas. Minimum height: 6 feet (additional height per site plan as approved).

### Structural Standards — Wooden Fences (30 inches to 8 feet):

- |   |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • | Posts for 5 to 6.5 ft fence:  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|   |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4x4 inch wood post or 1 7/8-inch diameter steel pipe (.120-inch wall); or 1 7/8-inch square steel pipe (.120-inch wall)</li> </ul>                                                                        |
| • | Posts for >6.5 to 8 ft fence: |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|   |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4x4 or 4x6 inch wood post, or 2 3/8-inch diameter steel pipe (.130-inch wall); or 2 3/8-inch square steel pipe (.130-inch wall)</li> </ul>                                                                |
| • | Spacing:                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|   |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 5–6.5 ft fences: Posts at 8 ft max on center</li> <li>• For &gt;6.5–8 ft fences: If 4x6 wood post, 8 ft on center; if 4x4 wood post, 6 ft on center; 2 3/8-inch steel pipe: 8 ft on center</li> </ul> |
| • | Footings:                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|   |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4x4 wood: 10-inch diameter pier, 2 ft deep</li> <li>• Metal: 8-inch diameter pier, 2 ft deep</li> <li>• 4x6 wood: 12-inch diameter pier, 2 ft deep</li> </ul>                                             |
| • | Rails:                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|   |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5–6.5 ft nontransparent: Minimum three 2x4 inch rails</li> <li>• 6.5–8 ft nontransparent: <i>Minimum four 2x4 inch rails</i></li> </ul>                                                                   |
| • | Pickets:                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|   |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum one-inch thickness</li> <li>• Spacing so a 4-inch sphere cannot pass through</li> </ul>                                                                                                           |

**General Materials:**

All wood is construction grade 2 or better, treated or naturally resistant. Metal is hot-dip galvanized steel. Plastic must meet manufacturer standards/specifications and city building code approval.