



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	January 26, 2023
Originating Department	Planning
Contact Person	Steve Bennett, Planning Director and Kim Adams Pratt, City Attorney
Title	Draft Ordinance 23-1263 creating Chapter 12.50 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code, Retaining Walls

Legislative History

- First Presentation - January 26, 2023
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Attachments:

1. Draft Ordinance 23-1263 creating Chapter 12.50 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code, Retaining Walls
 2. Draft Retaining Wall Design Guidelines
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Executive Summary

This ordinance (Attachment 1) would establish criteria regulating the method of construction and the appearance of retaining walls that are built within or adjacent to publicly-owned right-of-way that support or protect public transportation infrastructure.

Background

Large scale, retaining walls in or adjacent to publicly owned rights-of-way become de facto landmarks identifying the community they are located in. It is imperative that such significant, recognizable features integrate with and support the community identity. This ordinance would adopt by reference a proposed set of design guidelines (Attachment 2) that would provide visual examples of the types of architectural treatments that would be acceptable along with an alternative allowing use of vegetation to mitigate the visual impact of retaining walls. As currently drafted, the Public Works Director would make the decision on compliance with the regulations and design guidelines.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

Adoption of this ordinance would add review criteria and additional staff review time for a limited number of right-of-way permit applications involving public transportation improvements.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
• Adopt ordinance	City has more control over the appearance of large retaining walls being built in the right-of-way
• No action	City does not increase regulatory control over the appearance of large retaining wall projects being built in the right-of-way

Staff Recommendation

Review draft ordinance and design guidelines, provide guidance to the Administration on desired changes to either document, and consider setting a date for a public hearing on the ordinance at a future Council meeting.