



**City of Columbus  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
City Code Amendment to Chapter 7A Fence Regulations  
Interactive Technology Format  
(Statutes Section 13D.02)**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Columbus Planning Commission on November 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as parties may be heard, the hearing will be conducted in person and by Interactive Technology at the Columbus City Hall located at 16319 Kettle River Blvd., Minnesota to consider a City Code amendment to Chapter 7A regulating fences. A full copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review during regular business hours in the City Administrator's Office at the address listed above or viewed on the City Website. Members of the public interested in attending in person, monitoring the meetings or want more information, should contact the City Offices at 651-464-3120 or visit the City Website at ColumbusMN.us. The hearing shall continue until all evidence and testimony has been received.

*Jack Davis*

Jack Davis, Zoning Administrator

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**ORDINANCE NO. 25 - \_\_**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING**  
**CHAPTER 7A – GENERAL FENCING**  
**REGULATIONS**

The City Council of the City of Columbus ordains the following amendments to the City Code:

**SECTION I.** The following sections of Chapter 7A – Zoning Regulations of the Columbus City Code are amended as illustrated with omitted provisions shown as ~~deletions~~ and new provisions shown underlined. Gaps in ordinance sections affected by revisions are noted in the margin [\*\*\*].

**SECTION 7A-201. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.** Definitions. The definitions contained in this Section shall apply to all land use, zoning and subdivision regulations in the City Code.

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“**Fence**” - A structure, including entrance and exit gates, designed and constructed for enclosure or screening. ~~Fences six (6) feet in height or less are permitted in each zoning district, except where specifically restricted.~~

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**SECTION 7A-800. GENERAL PROVISIONS.** The regulation set by this Ordinance shall be minimum regulations and shall apply uniformly to each class or kind of structure or land, except as hereinafter provided.

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- ~~I. **Fences, Walls, and Hedges.** Notwithstanding other provisions of this Ordinance, fences, walls, and hedges may be permitted in any required yard or along the edge of any yard providing that driveway entrances are not shielded by fences, walls, and hedges in such a way so as to obstruct the view of a driver entering a public road from the driveway. The finished side of any fence located in a yard area shall face the neighboring property or public right of way. Corrugated metal or plastic fencing is prohibited.~~

**SECTION 7A-806. RESERVED. FENCES**

- A. **Permit Required.** No person shall construct, install, or substantially alter any fence within the City without first obtaining a Zoning Permit. A Zoning Permit Application shall include the following information:

- a. A site plan depicting the location of the proposed fence in relation to property lines, building, and easements.
- b. The proposed fence material, height, and type of construction.
- A-c. Any additional information deemed necessary by the Zoning Administrator to ensure compliance with this section.
- B. **Property Verification.** As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant shall execute a written statement acknowledging that the proposed fence will be located entirely upon property owned by the applicant and that the responsibility for verifying property boundaries rests solely with the property owner. The City shall bear no responsibility or liability for disputes arising from fence placement upon or near a property line.
- C. **Materials.** All fences shall be constructed of materials capable of providing a finished appearance on the outward side visible to the public. Fences shall be maintained in a condition of reasonable repair and shall not be allowed to become and remain in a condition of disrepair or danger or constitute a nuisance. Corrugated metal, sheet plastic, plywood, pallets, or other makeshift fencing materials are prohibited.
- D. **Location.** Notwithstanding other provisions of this Ordinance, fences may be permitted anywhere on a lot provided that driveway entrances are not shielded to obstruct the view of a driver entering a road, and that fences do not impede visibility at intersections.
  - a. Fences may be placed along property lines provided no physical damage of any kind results to the abutting property.
  - b. Fences constructed on riparian lots shall meet structure setbacks from the ordinary high-water mark (OHW).
- E. **Height.**
  - a. Residential Districts. Fences shall be a maximum of six (6) feet in height from the finished grade.
  - b. Commercial, Industrial, and Mixed-Use Districts. Fences may exceed six (6) feet when necessary to meet screening, safety, or security requirements, subject to City approval.
  - c. Public and Institutional Uses. In public parks, schools, or other educational facilities, public or private; fences for playgrounds, athletic fields outdoor swimming facilities, and other similar uses are exempt from any height restrictions.
  - d. Masonry and Stone Walls. In Residential Districts, masonry, stone, or concrete walls shall not exceed four (4) feet in height and shall be set back at least three (3) feet from all property lines, unless serving as a retaining wall or as otherwise approved by the City.a-e. The finished side of any fence shall face the neighboring property or the public right of way.
- F. Barbed wire and electrical fences are prohibited, except for the use of keeping and confining of animals, livestock, or for crop protection.
- G. Fences shall not restrict drainage. Solid fences, such as wood or composite panel types, shall be installed with a minimum clearance of four (4) inches above grade to allow for surface water passage.

**SECTION II. Effective Date.** Ordinance Number 25-\_\_ was adopted this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 and shall become effective after its summary publication.

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Ron Hanegraaf, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Davis, City Administrator

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