

FENCE BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services seeks direction from Council regarding side yard fences that protrude into front yards.

Purpose

This report highlights an interpretation problem under the Fence By-law, By-law Number 80-90.

Background - Analysis and Options

A problem has developed in some new residential areas with side-yard fences that extend well out into the front yards of homes. These side yard fences can be 6 ft. in height, can block the view of the street from the adjacent home, can reduce the light in the front yard and have other undesirable design impacts.

The City's Fence By-law attempts to limit the height of front yard fences to no more than 4 ft. and side yard fences to no more than 6 ft. However, difficulties of interpretation arise with newer home design styles that have garages protruding either fully or partially out beyond the main front entrance wall of the home. With the current definitions of a front yard and a side yard in the by-law, a side yard fence may actually extend all the way out into the front yard to the front wall of the garage and well beyond the main front entrance wall of the home. An illustration of the problem is attached to this report as Attachment No. 1.

The problem can be solved by appropriate amendments to the Fence By-law.

Council has the option to continue the current regulations under the Fence By-law regarding front and side yard fences or to amend the Fence By-law to address this problem.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Staff requires direction from Council whether it wishes a report to be brought back with a by-law to amend the Fence By-law and, if so, whether the proposed amendments will apply to existing fences or only those fences erected after the amendment of the Fence By-law.

Attachments

1. Illustration

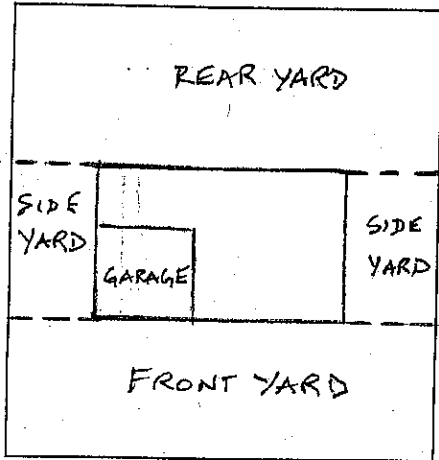
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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services

Traditional House Design



Newer House Design

