

STAFF REPORT  
June 15, 2004

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**No. 04FV012 - Fence Height Exception to allow a seven foot six inch fence in a Low Density Residential District**

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

PETITIONER	Dennis Rogers
REQUEST	<b>No. 04FV012 - Fence Height Exception to allow a seven foot six inch fence in a Low Density Residential District</b>
EXISTING LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lot 13, Block 16, South Robbinsdale Subdivision, Section 7, T1N, R8E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota
PARCEL ACREAGE	Approximately 0.18 acres
LOCATION	801 East Indiana Street
EXISTING ZONING	Low Density Residential District
SURROUNDING ZONING	
North:	Low Density Residential District
South:	Low Density Residential District
East:	Low Density Residential District
West:	Low Density Residential District
PUBLIC UTILITIES	City water and sewer
DATE OF APPLICATION	05/17/2004
REVIEWED BY	Todd Tucker / Sig Zvejnieks

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Fence Height Exception to allow a seven foot six inch fence in a Low Density Residential District be continued to the July 27, 2004 Public Works Committee meeting to allow the applicant to obtain a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to allow a swimming pool within the required side yard.

GENERAL COMMENTS: The applicant is seeking approval for a seven foot six inch high privacy fence located in a Low Density Residential Zoning District. The subject property is located at the northeast corner of Hawthorne Avenue and East Indiana Street. The existing fence was constructed in violation of the fence height provisions of Section 15.40 of the Rapid City Municipal Code in 2003. A complaint was received by Rapid City Code Enforcement about the fence. A Code Enforcement Officer notified the applicant that the fence was in violation of City Code and explained that a fence height exception is required for a fence located within the required front yard setback which exceeds the permitted four feet.

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There is approximately 75 linear feet of existing six foot high wood privacy fence located on an 18 inches high retaining wall within the required 25 foot front yard setback along Hawthorne Avenue.

STAFF REVIEW: Section 15.40.040 of the Rapid City Municipal Code states that, a variance to the fence height requirements can be granted by the City Council if the exception is not contrary to the public interest and the exception will not be injurious to the surrounding neighborhood. Staff has reviewed the proposed Fence Height Exception as it relates to the applicable provisions of the Rapid City Municipal Code and has noted the following issues:

Swimming Pool: The applicant has indicated that the existing fence was installed to meet the fencing requirements for swimming pools. Section 17.50.320 (A)(3) of the Rapid City Municipal Code requires that the swimming pool area shall be so walled or fenced so as to prevent uncontrolled access by children from the street or from adjacent properties. The fence or wall shall be not less than five feet in height and maintained in good condition. However, the swimming pool is located in the required side yard setback which is in violation of Section 17.50.320 (A)(2) which requires that no swimming pool or part thereof, excluding aprons, walls and equipment rooms, shall protrude into any required front or side yard. The applicant has indicated that the existing fence was constructed in 1967 or 1968. The requirement that swimming pools not be allowed within the required front or side yard has not changed since 1962.

Staff also noted that the City has no record of a Building Permit ever being obtained for the existing swimming pool. Staff also noted that the requirement to obtain a Building Permit for the construction of swimming pools was in effect in 1967. As such staff recommends that this request for a fence height exception be continued to the July 27, 2004 Public Works Committee meeting to allow the applicant to obtain a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to allow a swimming pool within the required side yard. Staff also noted that a Building Permit shall also be obtained for the existing fence.