



City of Phoenix

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Staff Report Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment Z-TA-4-16

Application No Z-TA-4-16: Amend Section 202 (Definitions), Section 507.TAB.A.II.E (Guidelines for Design Review, Specialized Areas) and Section 703.A (Landscaping, Fencing and Walls, Height of Fences and Retaining Walls) of the Phoenix Zoning Ordinance regarding fence and freestanding wall height to protect critical infrastructure.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends approval of Z-TA-4-16 as shown in the recommended text in Attachment A.

Purpose

The intent of this text amendment is to create standards for fence and freestanding wall height for instances where a greater level of security is necessary for the protection of critical infrastructure. The United States Department of Homeland Security has identified specific types of infrastructure which are vital to national security, national economic security, and national public health or safety. An attack on a facility supporting this type infrastructure could be detrimental to the welfare of Phoenix residents and visitors, and therefore a greater level of security is necessary. The standards do not extend to facilities or properties which are not considered critical infrastructure, including federal buildings or other facilities which do not directly support the nation's critical assets, systems and networks.

Description of the Proposed Text

The proposed text includes three parts: a definition, design guidelines, and standards for fences and walls. The first part creates a definition for *critical infrastructure* which includes criteria to meet the definition and allows for limited flexibility as technology changes. The second part includes design guidelines to mitigate potential negative visual impacts. These guidelines include design presumptions in order to blend with the surrounding area, have a finished exterior, and incorporate articulation. Finally, the standards allow for a maximum 10-foot-high fence or freestanding wall. Razor, concertina or barbed wire may be used for additional protection; however, cannot be visible from a public street or an adjacent property.

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Conclusion

The proposed text amendment will create fence and freestanding wall standards to improve the protection of the city's critical infrastructure as recommended by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Staff recommends approval of the change to the Zoning Ordinance as proposed in Attachment A.

Writer

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Attachments

A. Proposed Language

ATTACHMENT A
Text Amendment Z-TA-4-16 – Critical Infrastructure

Proposed Language

Amend Chapter 2, Section 202 (Definitions) by adding a definition as follows:

Covered Pedestrian Ways: The provision of pedestrian ways protected from the weather by arcades, pergolas, arbors, or similar permanent structures. Such covered pedestrian ways may be along the perimeter of a building or across open spaces.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: PHYSICAL SYSTEMS AND ASSETS VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY, NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY, NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY, OR ANY OTHER COMBINATION OF THOSE MATTERS, AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAN INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO FACILITIES SUCH AS WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, PUMP STATIONS, LIFT STATIONS, WATER RESERVOIRS, POWER GENERATING PLANTS AND POWER SUBSTATIONS.

Cul-de-Sac: The turn-around at the end of a dead end street.

Amend Chapter 5, Section 507.TAB A.II.E (Guidelines for Design Review, Specialized Areas) by adding new subsection “5” to read as follows:

5. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- 5.1 FENCES OR FREESTANDING WALLS BUILT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD BE DESIGNED WITH ENHANCEMENTS TO BLEND WITH THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT. (P)

RATIONALE: DESIGN FEATURES THAT BLEND THE STRUCTURE WITH THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT WILL MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS.

- 5.2 WALLS SHOULD HAVE A FINISHED APPEARANCE. UNTEXTURED, UNFINISHED BLOCK AND REINFORCED, MORTAR-FREE CONCRETE WALLS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. (P)

- 5.3 WALL LENGTHS EXCEEDING 50 FEET SHOULD BE ARTICULATED

OR CONTAIN SUBSTANTIAL LANDSCAPING TO BREAK THE CONTINUOUS WALL SURFACE AND CREATE VARYING SHADING PATTERNS. (P)

RATIONALE (5.2-5.3): PERIMETER WALL TREATMENT SHOULD PROVIDE DECORATIVE ELEMENTS FOR VISUAL INTEREST AND CONTRIBUTE AN ENHANCED IMAGE TO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. FINISHED WALL TREATMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE DECORATIVE ELEMENTS, VARIATION IN WALL MATERIALS, AND TEXTURED OR STUCCO SURFACES COMPATIBLE WITH PRIMARY STRUCTURES.

Amend Chapter 7, Section 703.A (Landscaping, Fencing and Walls, Height of Fences and Retaining Walls) by adding new subsection "5" to read as follows:

5. IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS, WHEN NOT PROHIBITED BY SECTION 31-13 OF THE CITY CODE, FENCES OR FREESTANDING WALLS UP TO TEN (10) FEET MAY BE BUILT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.
 - A. RAZOR, CONCERTINA, OR BARBED WIRE TO PROTECT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SHALL NOT BE USED WHERE VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC STREETS OR ADJACENT PROPERTY.
