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From: DIANN RYAN [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 7:49 PM

To: Lesley Xavier <L.Xavier@santacruz.ca.gov>

Subject: Agenda Item PLN24-00514

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Attached please see comments and pictures, submitted for the Planning Commission hearing on "Request for a Variance" per Agenda Item PLN24-00514.
This is for the fence at 572 Woodhams Road.

Diann Ryan
Santa Cruz City Resident

PMM
PC Meeting 12/04/24
RTC 24-1203
Item 1

**Attention: Planning Commission Meeting Item PLN24-00514
Variance Request for Constructed Fence at 572 Woodhams Road**

I am a neighbor who walks and drives every day by this barricade-like 100 foot wrought iron fence, which exists along Forbes Avenue adjacent to the corner of Forbes and Woodhams Road. (Pictures below)

I am writing these comments after speaking with a dozen or so neighbors who have expressed concern regarding the appearance and traffic safety of this fence, built without permits but allowed to stand for 5 months.

This fence is clearly on the City of Santa Clara right of way and is in violation of the municipal zoning code per Chapter 18.34. It blatantly disregards all manner of required setbacks.

My husband and I noticed this non-compliant fence going up on June 13th of this year. My husband immediately sent an email to the Planning Department, alerting them of this situation. We received no reply. Another neighbor called and talked with a planning staff member about it but received no follow-up call. On June 18, 5 days later, we got an email from staff who said they would “look into it.” On June 21, 8 days later, we were asked to create a “service request” before inspectors could check out the violation! Of course, by this time the illegal fence was already completed, and we heard nothing more about it from the authorities. Now, here we are 5 months later with this review!

This unsightly and dangerous fence was built without permits. It is right on the edge of the sidewalk with about 5 feet between it and an existing wooden 6 foot fence, which already separates the owner’s backyard from the street. The space between the 2 parallel fences is roughly 5 feet and is now filled with refuse, unused building blocks, piles of dirt. In addition to the fence, the house already has a bush on the corner of Forbes and Woodhams which blocks the sight line for bikes, walkers, and cars trying to turn onto Woodhams.

We neighbors feel that there is absolutely NO reason for this fence nor any just or fair reason to give the owner a variance of a very clear and intentional violation of the codes for residential fences. It should come down!

December 3, 2024



