

APPLICATION FOR PARTY STATUS IN OPPOSITION TO:
BZ Application # 19120

1. Witness: Allison Scuriatti representing herself

2. Summary of testimony:

I would like to oppose this request and ask them to instead build within the zoning regulations to the extent possible. The rear yard zoning is 25 feet requirement and their existing house is already closer to the fence than that because it is at the “end” of a block. They have little rear yard but large side yards and they knew this when they bought the house last year. So stick to the original house line and build out the sides where there is plenty of space.

One of the reasons I bought MY house is because it had extra space and light on the side that faces this house in question – precisely because it is on the end of the block. I believe I paid a premium for that extra space and light --- and I enjoy it that way.

Their application says this is a “de minimus” change but it is not. They are proposing to build an extension that will be about 45 feet wide and generally 5.6 feet from our fence, running most of the length of my house and then overlooking my back yard (with a bay window bump-out that will be 4 feet from the fence). This is to “replace” a small one-story bump-out of the kitchen that is there now and that must have required a variance at the time it was built, which is only about 15 feet wide and also 5.6 feet from our common fence, with a bay window that is 4 feet from the fence. That bump-out 4 already feels crowded as far as we are concerned because it obviously was not intended by the designers of these homes and it is closer than the similarly positioned house across the street on the south-west side of 47th and Yuma.

The main footprint of the original house is about 33 feet wide and it is set back about 13 feet from the fence, with a garage extending out one side and set back even further from our fence than the main house. The new addition plans will eliminate all set-back of the original house, including the additional set-back of the garage, making it all the same distance from the fence in one long structure. No more space at all. It will also add a second floor balcony over that new section that is 5.6 feet from my fence and directly overlooking my backyard and sunroom/TV room, which functions as our family room and is the place we use most in our house.

It will impact our privacy, our light and our sense of space. There is a reason for the zoning regulations and I would like to see them applied as they were meant to be. The house is already deviating from the regulation, so please don’t allow it to get worse when they have space for other options.

My neighbor did not notify me, even though I am the one neighbor most affected. He had plenty of time and opportunity to do so. If it were not for DC, I still would not know. I finally went over there yesterday to let him know that I am requesting they redo the plans to fit the zoning regulations. He did not apologize for avoiding to tell me and pretended that because he spoke to my housekeeper one day and he sent me an indirect email through a list serve (apparently, I rarely open those things) that he had made sufficient effort.

3. Time requested 15 minutes

Kind regards,

Allison Scuriatti
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