

NARRATIVE LETTER

In December, 2019, a contractor named Errol Koekemoer (870-243-2999) was present at the property at 906 Sycamore Cv and stated to me that he was going to tear down the 6 foot fence (which hid the shop building) and was going to repurpose the shop building into a Mother-in-law quarters. At this point in time, I did not know the fence along our property line was actually on our property.

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He also stated that if I wanted the fence put back up, I needed to contact the city for a permit and then construct the fence after he completed the Mother-in-law project.

I, physically, went to the Jonesboro Planning Dept and let them know that the building was too close to our property line, so the planning personnel pulled a 2012 building permit of when the shop building was built. They agreed that the shop building was too close to the property and also discussed that it was built over a sewer and in the electrical easement. Planning Dept personnel stated to me not to worry about a fence permit because they did not see how Mr. Prater (906 Sycamore Cv) could get a Conditional Use Permit, and I should call them if construction began.

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Around December 30th, 2019, a construction trailer with Errol Koekemoer's name and information was placed and parked in front of the shop building. I called the Jonesboro Planning Dept to inform them that they were going ahead with construction. They said "he got a permit". When I asked how he got the permit, they would only state "he got the permit".

Over the next few months, I talked to several people in the Planning Dept, trying to get to the source of the permit and to find out why the Conditional Use Process and BZA were not used. Two well-respected Planning Officials said BZA was for commercial property ONLY, another said if Condition Use Process was not used, it was an illegal permit. Another said BZA was for all properties, and I needed to wait until the new Mayor had hired a new Chief of Staff before I could straighten things out.

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As the project was underway (February 2020), the contractor had crossed over onto my property and was preparing my property for use as a driveway for the Mother-in-law dwelling. I confronted him and he explained that they did this

because the building was too close to the property line and more room was needed to back out of the Mother-in-law garage. I, immediately, contacted a Property Survey company and had the property surveyed (2/24/2020). I then asked the contractor to keep the driveway on Mr. Prater's side of the property.

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In response to the survey, the driveway was changed and angled to where all of the water on the east side of Mr. Prater's house would flow onto our property and would cause flooding into our basement after a heavy rain.

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I called Planning for a fence permit and asked how I could fix the flooding problem. They had me contact the Engineering Dept who told me how to legally divert the water, and that I could construct a 4 foot fence without a permit. I constructed a 3 foot fence as a 4 foot fence would not make a difference with privacy. I completely followed Engineering Dept's instruction on height and length limits.

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The fence successfully diverted excess rain water and kept my property line in check. It worked out well preventing excess, loose trash and fish remains from washing onto my property, however it did nothing to hide the excess, unsightly hauling trailers, propane tank, food service trailer, coolers, small smoker, and outdoor 28 foot mobile smoker and etc. from view.

P9-P18

On June 18, 2020, I received a Notice of Immediate Action letter regarding my fence. I called Planning immediately, and they told me a woman had complained, and again they passed me to Engineering Dept. The same Official that told me how to construct the fence said that his boss wants me to take 25 feet off the fence, and that I needed to get a permit.

At this point, one of the city employees went to the City Attorney concerning how I was being treated. He was told by the Attorney that Mr. Prater should be treated just as strictly on the codes as I was being treated.

Because of the complete frustration and aggravation, I called an attorney that specializes in property disputes. He searched the codes and studied the property lines. He mentioned how the Mother-in-law's building was too close to the property line and was over the sewer and in the electrical easement. He also observed that Mr. Prater's house was also on the city road easement. He instructed me to get a permit and gave me a code to write on the bottom of the

permit that allowed me to keep the fence where it was. The Attorney stated that someone with influence must be involved based on the aggressiveness about my fence, and that he would be willing to represent me on everything we discussed. I did what the Attorney said, but Planning was not finished with me yet. They made me remove every other board off the fence for 25 feet.

Even more infuriating, I was told by the Planning Dept that if Mr. Prater was the one putting up the fence in the same location I'm referring to, he would be allowed to put up a 6 foot, complete fence (no missing boards) because of the position of his house.

I contacted the new City Manager, Mr. Tony Thomas, and he is trying to resolve this issue.

As a former fire-fighter and Fire Marshal for the City of Jonesboro, I am well aware of the importance of codes and ordinances, and have had to enforce them myself. I had to work alongside the City Planning Dept to successfully fulfill my job duties, so I value their positions.

I appreciate the City Employees, especially Mr. Tony Thomas, and the BZA for considering my request. I, purposely, elected to omit names of City Employees because my intention is not to cast blame but to resolve this issue.

Thank you all,

Bill Clark

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clark", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.