

Purpose Statements of the Single Dwelling Zones

(RF, R20, R10, R7, R5, R2.5)

The purpose statements below are provided to assist applicants in preparing adjustment review applications for sites in single dwelling zones.

An adjustment application must address the approval criteria of Zoning Code Section 33.805.040. Purpose statements are important for approval criterion A, which requires that the applicant demonstrate how the proposal continues to meet or better meet the purpose of the regulation to be adjusted. For example, an applicant's proposal to reduce the minimum side yard setback from 5 feet to 3 feet must describe how the reduced setback continues to meet the purpose statement for setbacks.

Following are a list of purpose statements associated with common development standards of the single dwelling zones. For adjustments to development standards not listed below, please refer to the Zoning Code for the relevant purpose statement.

Height (33.110.215)

The height standards serve several purposes:

- They promote a reasonable building scale and relationship of one residence to another;
- They promote options for privacy for neighboring properties; and
- They reflect the general building scale and placement of houses in the city's neighborhoods.

Setbacks (33.110.220)

The setback regulations for buildings and garage entrances serve several purposes:

- They maintain light, air, separation for fire protection, and access for fire fighting;
- They reflect the general building scale and placement of houses in the city's neighborhoods;
- They promote a reasonable physical relationship between residences;
- They promote options for privacy for neighboring properties;
- They require larger front setbacks than side and rear setbacks to promote open, visually pleasing front yards;
- They provide adequate flexibility to site a building so that it may be compatible with the neighborhood, fit the topography of the site, allow for required outdoor areas, and allow for architectural diversity; and
- They provide room for a car to park in front of a garage door without overhanging the street or sidewalk, and they enhance driver visibility when backing onto the street.

Building Coverage (33.110.225)

The building coverage standards, together with the height and setback standards control the overall bulk of structures. They are intended to assure that taller buildings will not have such a large footprint that their total bulk will overwhelm adjacent houses. Additionally, the standards help define the character of the different zones by limiting the amount of buildings allowed on a site.

Detached Accessory Structures (33.110.250)

This section regulates structures that are incidental to primary buildings to prevent them from becoming the predominant element of the site. The standards limit the height and bulk of the structures, promote compatibility of design for larger structures, provide for necessary access around larger structures, help maintain privacy to abutting lots, and maintain open front setbacks.

Garages (33.110.253)

These standards:

- Together with the window and main entrance standards, ensure that there is a physical and visual connection between the living area of the residence and the street;
- Ensure that the location and amount of the living area of the residence, as seen from the street, is more prominent than the garage;
- Prevent garages from obscuring the main entrance from the street and ensure that the main entrance for pedestrians, rather than automobiles, is the prominent entrance;
- Provide for a more pleasant pedestrian environment by preventing garages and vehicle areas from dominating the views of the neighborhood from the sidewalk; and
- Enhance public safety by preventing garages from blocking views of the street from inside the residence.

Fences (33.110.255)

The fence standards promote the positive benefits of fences without negatively impacting the community or endangering public or vehicle safety. Fences can create a sense of privacy, protect children and pets, provide separation from busy streets, and enhance the appearance of property by providing attractive landscape materials. The negative effects of fences can include the creation of street walls that inhibit police and community surveillance, decrease the sense of community, hinder emergency access, hinder the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles, and create an unattractive appearance. These standards are intended to promote the positive aspects of fences and to limit the negative ones.

Accessory Dwelling Units (33.205.010)

Accessory dwelling units are allowed in certain situations to:

- Create new housing units while respecting the look and scale of single-dwelling development;
- Increase the housing stock of existing neighborhoods in a manner that is less intense than alternatives;
- Allow more efficient use of existing housing stock and infrastructure;
- Provide a means for residents, particularly seniors, single parents, and families with grown children, to remain in their homes and neighborhoods, and obtain extra income, security, companionship and services; and
- Provide a broader range of accessible and more affordable housing.

Parking (33.266.120)

The size and placement of vehicle parking areas are regulated in order to enhance the appearance of neighborhoods.