

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**02-174**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

APRIL 8, 2002

At their meeting of February 20, 2002, the Historic District Commission denied the application of Jane and Julian Archer for a certificate of appropriateness to construct a 50' section of fence along their property at 446 29th Street in the Owls Head Historic District as it exceeds the 6' height allowed by the zoning ordinance and the maximum 6' height referred to in the Fence Guidelines for Historic Districts. The Archers are appealing the decision of the Historic District Commission.

**SUBJECT:**

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

APPEAL OF DENIAL  
OF CERTIFICATE OF  
APPROPRIATENESS  
BY THE HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
COMMISSION

None.

**TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION -**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**To deny the Archer's appeal for the 8'-9' fence as it exceeds the allowable fence height of 6' as defined in section 134-1296 of the Des Moines City Code and as recommended in the Fence Guidelines for Historic Districts.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**BACKGROUND**

JIM GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

On May 16, 2001, the Historic District Commission approved an application for a certificate of appropriateness to construct a 50' segment of 6' high fence by Jane and Julian Archer to be built along their property at 446 29th St. in the Owls Head Historic District.

On February 20, 2002, the Historic District Commission denied an application by Jane and Julian Archer to grant a certificate of appropriateness for the same 50' segment of fence, currently constructed at an 8'-9' height.

The Historic District Commission's findings were as follows:

The existing 8' wood fence along the north property line was not constructed in conformance with the Certificate of Appropriateness obtained by the applicant on May 16, 2001 and must be removed or substantially reconstructed. If reconstructed, it must conform to the following standards now in effect.

All new fencing shall be built to a height of no more than 6' and shall adhere to the Fence Guidelines for Historic Districts. Pursuant to those guidelines, 4-inch posts shall be used, segments of pickets running from 4-14 feet shall be placed between the posts (no pickets running continuously), and the supporting rails shall be on the applicant's side of the pickets.

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