

Department of Community and Economic Development
Planning Division
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/CODE INTERPRETATION

**ADMINISTRATIVE
POLICY/CODE**

INTERPRETATION #: CI-70

**MUNICIPAL
CODE SECTIONS:**

4-2-110.D.4.b

REFERENCE:

N/A

SUBJECT:

Allowed Projections into Setbacks: Fences/Retaining Walls

BACKGROUND:

RMC 4-2-110.D.4.b provides for allowed projections into setbacks by stating the following as a footnote: Fences, Rockeries, and Retaining Walls: Fences, rockeries, and retaining walls with a height of forty eight inches (48") or less may be constructed within any required setback; provided, that they are located outside of the twenty-foot (20') clear vision area specified in RMC 4-11-030, definition of "clear vision area."

JUSTIFICATION:

While this footnote is accurate, it implies that any fence/retaining wall greater than 48" tall is not permissible in setbacks, which is untrue. RMC 4-4-040, Fences, Hedges and Retaining Walls, specifies allowed fence, hedge and retaining wall heights within and outside setbacks; the Section explicitly allows 6' tall fences/hedges/retaining walls within side and rear setbacks.

DECISION:

This footnote should be amended to refer to Section 4-4-040 and the exceptions/standards provided therein.

**ADMINISTRATOR
APPROVAL:**

C. E. "Chip" Vincent

DATE:

March 19, 2015

**APPEAL
PROCESS:**

To appeal this determination, a written appeal--accompanied by the required filing fee--must be filed with the City's Hearing Examiner (1055 South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057, 425-430-6515) no more than 14 days from the date of this decision. Your submittal should explain the

basis for the appeal. Section 4-8-110 of the Renton Municipal Code provides further information on the appeal process.

**CODE
AMENDMENTS
NEEDED TO
IMPLEMENT**

DETERMINATIONS: RMC 4-2-110.D.4.b should be amended as follows:

Fences, ~~Rockeries~~Hedges, and Retaining Walls: Exceptions for Fences, rockeries, hedges, and retaining walls within required yard setbacks are provided in RMC 4-4-040, Fences, Hedges, and Retaining Walls. a height of forty eight inches (48") or less may be constructed within any required setback; provided, that they are located outside of the twenty foot (20') clear vision area specified in RMC 4-11-030, definition of "clear vision area."

STAFF CONTACT: Paul Hintz