To the Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals,

I am the immediate neighbor directly across the alley from the homeowners requesting the variance for fence placement along their retaining wall. I am also the Manufacturer's Representative for AFCO, the company that produces the railing system they have chosen for their project. After hearing their vision for the yard, I introduced them to this specific product as a sturdier, more attractive, and significantly more see-through alternative to traditional fencing.

The proposed railing system uses 3/4" balusters spaced 4" apart, resulting in approximately 82% visibility. This is well above the 50% transparency standard in the ordinance and will actually provide greater sight lines than a standard picket fence installed at the required three-foot setback. The AFCO system is engineered for safety and is commonly used on the edges of buildings, decks, and elevated walls, with load force ratings far exceeding those of most fencing materials.

As neighbors, my wife and I regularly see the homeowners and their young daughter enjoying their backyard space. They often host other neighbors with small children, and the enclosed area is essential for providing a safe place to play—particularly given the property's location on a busy corner near Main Street and 22nd Street. Moving the fence two feet inward from the retaining wall would take away a meaningful portion of this limited yard space.

From both a safety and visibility standpoint, this railing solution is superior to the ordinance's baseline requirements. I can say with confidence, both as a neighbor who uses the alley daily and as a product expert, that this fence will not impair visibility for vehicles, cyclists, or pedestrians. It will, however, provide the homeowners with the safe, functional, and attractive yard space they need.

For these reasons, I fully support their request and encourage the Board to approve the variance.

Respectfully,

Pari & Kathy Sexauer

118 22nd St S

La Crosse, WI 54601

8/17/2025