

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving God's People Since 1942

Project Name: St James the Apostle Catholic Church Fencing

Property: 1920 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89106

City of Las Vegas Planning and Permit

This is in regards to St. James the Apostles Catholic Church's permit submitted initially to the Zoning Committee for approval for six foot high fencing around property. We were advised by our contractor, Angel Touching, that the permit had a couple items to be easily remedied but also that it approved for only a five foot high fencing instead of the six feet high that was originally requested. While we understand that the five foot high fencing is standard we would like to request that the committee readdress this issue and approve a variance for St James the Apostle due to health and safety concerns of our community.

While St James understands the need to stay within compliance of the regulations, we feel there is a need to go beyond this to protect our parishioners, children, volunteers and employees given the location and today's environment.

Our concerns are based on the following activities that St James deals with on a daily basis. These issues also add to St. James operational costs.

Health Concerns:

The area has a large homeless and transient population that use the church property by urinating and defecating on the church and block walls, which is unsanitary and creates a health issue for us and those cleaning up after them. They also sleep on the property and will not move or tend to be argumentative when approached.

Drug use on church property by people coming into the church parking lot.
Illegal soliciting in one corner of the church property.

Unnecessary dumping in the church dumpster, including disposal of a dead cat.

Safety Concerns:

St James the Apostle has a large community of senior parishioners, and as such, many have chosen not to attend evening masses and events due to safety concerns.

Police are contacted regularly to remove people from the property. This is a concern for the employees and volunteers because they directly encounter these situations coming and going from the property. We've also encountered a police standoff on the property with an individual brandishing a gun.

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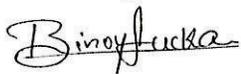
St James the Apostle has religious education classes for children and we want to ensure their safety at all times.

While a five foot high fence will provide a certain level of security for the church, it does not deter those that will jump the fence or try to get around it. We believe a six foot high fence will provide a better deterrent against those that want to get onto the property.

Again, we are requesting that the committee reconsider our original proposal for a six foot high fence and grant St James an exception due to health and safety concerns of the church community.

Anything we can do to possibly expedite this prior to the December Zoning Committee meeting would be greatly appreciated. However, consideration for this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Fr. Binoy Akkalayil Lucka
Pastor

Cc: Jonathan Batista
Assistant Director of Risk Management
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Las Vegas

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