

ORDINANCE NO. 25-\_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 910 (FENCES AND WALLS) OF PART 9 (LANDSCAPING AND GREEN SPACE) OF ARTICLE 4 (DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND INCENTIVES) OF CHAPTER 7 (UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS 2001, AS AMENDED, PERTAINING TO BATTERY-CHARGED ELECTRIC FENCING AND SECURITY DETECTION FENCING SYSTEMS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. Section 910 (Fences and Walls) of Part 9 (Landscape and Green Space) of Article 4 (Development Standards and Incentives) of Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code) of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

7.4.910: FENCES AND WALLS:

A. Purpose: The purpose of this Section 7.4.910 is to provide aesthetic and location standards for fences and walls to improve the beauty of the City and ensure that fences and walls are not located where they could be safety hazards.

B. Location and Maximum Height: Except in the HS-O district or otherwise stated in this Section 7.4.910, fences or walls less than seven (7) feet in height may be placed anywhere on a property, provided the fence complies with the following additional standards:

1. Fences shall not block access to electric or gas meters, fire hydrants, Fire Department connections, and other fire protection appurtenances.

2. Fences located between the front façade of a primary structure and any lot frontage adjacent to a public or private street may not exceed four (4) feet in height.

3. Opaque fences on corner lots shall not extend beyond the established front yard setback.

4. Fences over thirty (30) inches in height are prohibited in any Sight Distance Line.

5. Fences and walls may only be located within preservation areas in accordance with the terms of an approved Development Plan.

6. Fences taller than the maximum heights permitted in this Subsection 7.4.910B are considered to be accessory structures and shall meet the setback and height requirements for accessory structures in Part 7.4.2 (Dimensional Standards).

7. Fences may be located adjacent to or on top of retaining walls provided that the height of the fence material, excluding the retaining wall, does not exceed the maximum permitted height of a permitted fence in that location.

C. Measurement of Fence Height: Fence height shall be measured in accord with Subsection 7.6.204B (Fence Height).

D. Fence and Wall Materials:

1. Fences and walls may include masonry walls, solid wood fencing, chain-link fencing with permahedge inserts, or chain-link fencing with opaque slats. The specific type of screening materials shall be determined in conjunction with the

review of a Development Plan where one is required. Examples of acceptable fencing types are shown below.

2. Exterior use of tarps, plastic sheeting, polypropylene, or other similar materials as flexible or inflexible screening or fencing is prohibited when visible from beyond the property boundaries, except for City-installed or maintained snow fence or as part of active construction or remodeling project or as illustrated as part of a City-approved construction or grading and erosion control plan.

3. The use of barbed wire, razor wire, or electric shock fencing shall be prohibited except as discussed below

Commercial or Industrial Uses: Barbed wire or razor wire is permitted at a height six (6) feet or higher above existing grade. **Battery-charged electric fencing, which includes electrified fencing and electronic fence detection systems, are permitted. An electronic fence detection system interfaces with an alarm system in a manner that enables the fence to cause the connected alarm system to transmit a signal intended to summon law enforcement. An electrified fence has an energizer that is driven by a commercial storage battery that is not more than 12 volts of direct current.**

**a. Battery-Charged Electric Fencing Requirements:**

- i. Battery-charged electric fences are not authorized on residential property .**
- ii. A battery-charged electric fence that produces an electric charge on contact must not exceed energizer characteristics set for electric fence energizers by the International Electrotechnical Commission as published in the commission's standards on June 29, 2018;**

**iii. A battery-charged electric fence must be completely surrounded by a nonelectric perimeter fence or wall that is not less than five feet in height; cannot be more than the higher of:**

**(a) 10 feet in height; or**

**(b) two feet higher than the height of the nonelectric perimeter fence or wall; and**

**(c) must comply with the requirements set forth in the UDC. The nonelectric perimeter fence shall be separated from the battery-operated fence by at least four inches.**

**iv. Battery-charged electric fences must be marked with conspicuous warning signs that are located on the battery-charged electric fence at not less than 30-foot intervals and that read: "WARNING--ELECTRIC FENCE." Signs must be no less than 4 inches by 8 inches in dimension, yellow with black inscriptions, and lettering a minimum of one inch high.**

**b. Agricultural Uses:**

**(1) Electric shock fencing consisting of direct current shall be permitted in association with an agricultural use involving the control or containment of animals only.**

**(2) Barbed wire shall be allowed except in connection with a residential use of the property.**

**c. Residential Uses:**

**(1) Barbed wire and electric shock fencing may not be located along public rights-of-way, public sidewalks, or public open spaces. Where barbed wire or**

electric shock fencing are permitted, they may not extend into the required front yard setback.

(2) Razor wire is prohibited. (Ord. 23-03)

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final adoption and publication as provided by Charter.

Section 3. Council deems it appropriate that this ordinance be published by title and summary prepared by the City Clerk and that this ordinance be available for inspection and acquisition in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced, read, passed on first reading and ordered published this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**Finally passed:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Helms, Council President

**Mayor's Action:**

- ☐ Approved on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Disapproved on \_\_\_\_\_, based on the following objections:

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Blessing A. Mobolade, Mayor

**Council Action After Disapproval:**

- ☐ Council did not act to override the Mayor's veto.
- ☐ Finally adopted on a vote of \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Council action on \_\_\_\_\_ failed to override the Mayor's veto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Helms, Council President

ATTEST:

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Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk