



August 7, 2008

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RE: Landscape Buffer Zones: Request to Protect/Maintain buffers along all scenic interstates/highways

Dear Planning Commissioners and Board of Adjustment Members:

One of the duties of the Little Rock City Beautiful Commission (CBC) is to promote a greater public interest in the improvement of the appearance of the city of Little Rock. To this end, CBC has been involved in beautification projects around the city such as the Bicentennial Carillon/Bell Tower by the Zoo (1977), the Belvedere Pavilion, Riverfront Park (1986), and the City Hall North Entrance Beautification Project (2007-08). CBC has also taken the lead as an anti-litter advocate to promote the City's Adopt-a-street program to other groups as well as adopting a street.

In addition, another duty of our commission is the responsibility for reviewing all commercial development plans requesting variances to the required Landscape Ordinance in an effort to maintain a beautiful landscape for our city. The Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments have a similar responsibility to review landscape buffer variances.

The other two charter duties of our commission are to provide environmental policy directions & guidance to the Board of Directors and to provide aesthetic improvement guidelines to the Board of Directors. To this end, CBC feels obligated to contact your commission and board and express our concern and our position on the landscape buffer variance matter as well as to let the Mayor and Board of Directors know our position and recommendation. CBC is concerned about a possible trend for increased variance requests for landscape buffers along scenic interstate/highways in our city that would be under your commission's review authority.

At our June 2008 meeting, CBC voted and passed a motion stating that CBC is opposed to removing, reducing, or altering of the landscape buffer zones along the scenic interstates/highway such as the I-430. We ask that the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments not approve any such variance

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**Little Rock City Beautiful Commission**

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requests especially since it might establish a precedent for any future development along that interstates/highway corridor. CBC feels any such approvals in variances of the landscape buffer zone would significantly change the quality of life for the city with increased noise levels and decreased visual appearance of major transportation entrance routes into our city. This landscape buffer zone was established by the city to maintain the beautiful and scenic qualities of the area and CBC feels that it needs to be preserved and protected.

After a review of this letter by our commissioners, CBC voted and passed a motion today to email this letter to your commissions to communicate our position. In addition to the distribution to those noted within, our position on the opposition to the approval of any landscape buffer variances is on record with our June Meeting Minutes and this position letter which will be published on our website ([www.lrcitybeautifulcommission.org](http://www.lrcitybeautifulcommission.org)) on the meeting page.

On behalf of the Little Rock City Beautiful Commission, thank you for your time and consideration of this request. We hope that your commission and board will join us in our efforts to promote and demonstrate a higher level of aesthetics for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn".

Lynn Warren, 2008 Chair  
Little Rock City Beautiful Commission

eCc. Mayor Stodola and Board of Directors; Little Rock City Beautiful Commission; Planning and Development Department - Tony Bozynski, Dana Carney, Christy Marvel; Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney; Scott Carter, Public Relations