



Housing
Transportation
Community Spaces

To: Knoxville Knox County Planning

From: Drew Harper

Date: 08.09.2023

Subject: 8-B-23-0A

I am writing to support this proposed amendment on behalf of Yes! Knoxville. Below are some of the benefits of reducing mandatory building setbacks.

Encouraging Walkability: Smaller setbacks create more engaging streetscapes, encouraging pedestrian activity and contributing to the creation of vibrant, inviting neighborhoods. Reduced setbacks allow buildings to be closer to sidewalks, resulting in enhanced connectivity between buildings and public spaces.

Fostering Social Interaction: Buildings located closer to streets and sidewalks promote greater social interaction among residents, workers, and visitors. This human-scale environment facilitates spontaneous encounters, community engagement, and a stronger sense of place.

Climate Considerations: Buildings located closer to streets can offer shade and wind protection, enhancing pedestrian comfort and creating a more resilient urban environment in the face of changing weather patterns.

Increasing Human Safety - Though it may seem counterintuitive, buildings closer to the streetscape are safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Vehicle crashes that result in serious injury or death most often occur on wide roads with long sight lines, flanked by buildings with large setbacks. For example, Alcoa Highway, Chapman Highway, and Kingston Pike are the site of many serious crashes. The section of Central Ave. in Happy Holler, Cumberland Avenue, or Wall Ave, experience very few serious crashes and zero fatal crashes.

Again, these proposed changes would not prevent anyone from complying with the code exactly as it is today, without these proposed reforms. These simply allow more flexibility and freedom.

Saying Yes,

Drew Harper

Yes! Knoxville - Advocate

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