



Housing  
Transportation  
Community Spaces

**To:** Knoxville Knox County Planning

**From:** Drew Harper

**Date:** 08.09.2023

**Subject:** 8-E-23-OA

I am writing to support this proposed amendment on behalf of Yes! Knoxville.

Firstly, it appears that there is a mistake in the summary of the proposed changes. In Article 12.8, the proposal is *not* to “Increase required landscape for buffer yards between land uses and/or zoning districts from 30% to 70%.” But rather to allow a 70% reduction in the size of the barrier instead of a 30% reduction. This would result in a smaller required barrier overall, not a larger barrier.

I whole-heartedly support any reforms which would reduce the requirement for landscape barriers between buildings of a different use or zoning, particularly when between two residential structures. While we recognize and understand that this proposal is neither perfect nor comprehensive, Yes! Knoxville identifies mandatory buffer landscaping and fencing as one of the biggest structural impediments to creating walkable communities. Knoxville is littered with high-density developments that are geographically nearby to amenities such as schools, churches, shops, restaurants, and finally, neighboring homes. But sadly, codes such as this one (and more) functionally prevent residents of such neighborhoods from *walking to and from a destination* in any significant degree. Some local examples include Laurel Place, Spring Meadow Apartments, Raleigh Court Condominiums, and many others.

We have a long ways to go toward making Knoxville walkable, and this proposal is a small step in the right direction.

Saying Yes,

**Drew Harper**

Yes! Knoxville - Advocate

4318 Washington Pike #101

Knoxville, TN 37917

