

## Reasons for Variance Request

A permit (RMISC26-0329) for a 10' fence was denied because it exceeds the 8' 6" maximum height therefore we are requesting permission to replace a 10' chain link enclosure for our Per the sport court at 3124 Brookhollow Drive.

Reasons for variance to the Zoning Ordinance:

A. Without an adequate fence, the recreational purpose of the sport court would be frustrated. We would have to spend time chasing balls that go over a shorter fence and retrieving lost balls would require knocking on our neighbor's front door, or waiting till they get home, bother them for permission to enter private property, and inconveniencing everyone. To accommodate our adult son with Autism and his skill set, a 10' fence is appropriate. According to the USA Pickleball Standards:

- Fencing contains the ball within the confines of the court.
- Fencing should be rust-proof and free of protrusions that could injure players.
- Chain link fencing is a cost-effective option that allows for both maximum visibility and light to pass through the fence, but other options include orange construction fencing, or plastic garden fencing.
- The ball is about 65mm so any openings in the fence should be small enough to prevent the ball from leaving the court area. 45mm or 55mm links are recommended.
- Backstops: Minimum height of 10 feet, but taller if there are problems associated with the ball leaving the confines.

B. The 10' fence improves the quality of life for us and our neighbors without any negative consequences. Per City Ordinance No. 3787 Amending Chapter 22 of Code of Ordinance for fences, we are in agreement with the city's efforts in "promoting the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the City and its residents". According to the Cleveland Clinic there are eight health benefits to playing pickle ball: improves heart health, burns more calories, enhances muscle and bone strength, easy on joints, increases balance and coordination, boosts brain health, lengthens lifespan, and provides social activity. Please see complete article published by the Cleveland Clinic dated March 20, 2026.

C. There are no negative consequences whatsoever for any member of the public in the variance.

D. The variance does not enable any use of the property beyond the use intended by the sport court and the fence itself.

E. Clearly the neighbors are not harmed, either aesthetically or functionally in any manner, nor does a minor variance like this "alter the essential character" of the neighborhood. Please see enclosed letters of support from neighbors directly impacted.

F. The "unique circumstances" of the property necessitating the variance are the way the plat/lot is physically configured. The sport court and entire recreational area have always been and are now best located and there is no way to assure that errant balls would fall only on our own existing property; hence, the necessity for the enclosure.