



Louise's West, Ltd.
1307 W. 7th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

City of Lawrence Planning Department

To Whom It May Concern:

Louise's West, Ltd. would like to request a revision to the current site plan on file with the City of Lawrence Planning Department. This request is prompted by the recent enactment of a ban on smoking in all places of employment. The existing ban requires patrons to leave the building to smoke.

The revision we request is to reflect the installation of a fence with the purpose of defining and confining the grassy area located directly to the east of our building to be utilized for a smoking area. The fence would be a wood, privacy fence, approximately 8 feet in height. It will separate a smoking area from an employee-only area, which contains stairs to the storage attic. We wish to include an emergency exit on the east side of the newly fenced area and, additionally, access to the employee-only area with a lockable gate.

This is not a request to sell, serve or allow alcohol in an outdoor area on our property.

EXPLANATION:

There are two ways for smokers to exit our business/building: through the north, front door (onto a narrow, short sidewalk directly in front of street parking), or through our east, side door (which opens onto a small grassy lawn on the property).

Since the enactment of the smoking ban, we have discovered several problems for our smoking patrons. We believe that erecting a fence, behind which our patrons can smoke, will solve the following dilemmas:

1. **We need to provide a safe outdoor area off of the street in which they can smoke.** At any given time, 30% to 50% of our patrons exit the building to smoke. During busy evenings, they must exit the front door and congregate on the sidewalk, quickly filling this area, which measures 4 by 20 feet. In order to find room to stand, many of them are stepping into the parking area and some even spill into the street. Needless to say, this is unsafe. Once the side yard is fenced, however, it will measure an area 25 by 26 feet and can handle this number of people quite satisfactory - and it would prevent any overflow into the street.

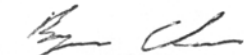
2. **It is our desire to remain a good neighbor.** We feel that having a large number of patrons smoking on the front sidewalk and in the street is not a desirable view for our neighborhood – nor are the discarded cigarettes they leave behind. Although our staff sweeps the sidewalk at close of business, discarded cigarettes begin accumulating during daylight hours causing an unsightly mess. Proper disposal canisters are currently located on the sidewalk and the side yard. The new fence would certainly provide an improved view for the surrounding neighbors while keeping the discarded cigarettes and smoking patrons in a contained area.
3. **We must keep patrons who have asked to leave the building to smoke separate from those people in line outside the building waiting to enter.** During our busy times, the sidewalk is filled with patrons waiting in line to enter. It is nearly impossible to keep our smoking patrons who exit out the front door to this sidewalk from mixing with the people waiting in line. We have a number of responsibilities that are growing increasingly difficult when these two groups of people mix: checking identification of new people being allowed in for the first time, preventing alcohol from leaving the building, keeping patrons from bothering neighbors, preventing theft, and lastly, the difficult task of correctly identifying those who wish to re-enter the building after smoking a cigarette from those who have yet to be allowed entrance. A fence surrounding the area, for smokers only, to the east of the building would allow us to maintain all of these responsibilities successfully.

It is with this in mind that we respectfully ask that the City Planning Department allow us to revise our site plan so that we can erect a fence, providing a safe, clean and separate outdoor smoking area for our patrons.

Respectfully,



Paula Mather,
Manager, Louise's West



Bryan Culver,
Manager, Louise's West