From:	Sandler & Seppanen <Laurel.Lodge@Comcast.Net>
Sent:	Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:49 AM
To:	Cari Hornbein
Subject:	Comment on AMAROK, LLC proposing a text amendment to Chapter 18.40 of the Olympia Municipal Code.

Cari Hornbein,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in opposition to a proposed amendment to Chapter 18.40 of the Olympia Municipal Code to allow electric security fences in commercial and industrial zoning districts as proposed by a seller of such electrical security fencing systems.

The company proposing this system presents the case that all commercial and industrial areas in Olympia are subject to rising crime rates and need the additional protection of fencing that not only provides warnings of intrusions but gives a shock to intruders. The evidence given for the code change is: "crime has been spiraling out of control across the country" and thus must also be a concern in Olympia, Washington. I don't buy it for one second.

I allow that there could be circumstances when individual commercial and industrial businesses have need for higher level security protection than offered by traditional warning security systems. Those specific cases can be addressed by a variance to the code. There is no evidence of a generic need for such security in our commercial and industrial zone. It is, therefore, not appropriate to change to more permissive code language.

The issue reminds me of the often-quoted Mending Walls poem by Robert Frost. The stone fence mender of the poem asks his neighbor why they need a property line fence. They have no animals to keep in or out. The neighbor offers "Good fences make good neighbors" without further explanation. The stone fence mender then considers to himself:

> Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
> What I was walling in or walling out,
> And to whom I was like to give offense.

I argue that it is appropriate before putting in an electronic security fencing system that the community ask who is being walled in or out and why. That asking happens when we require a request for a variance to the code rather than having a permissive code that requires no community consideration. I recommend the current code remain unchanged.

Loretta Seppanen
Olympia resident