



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Building Appeals (BOBA) Members

FROM: William J. Heniff, AICP, Community Development Director *WJH*

MEETING DATE: May 3, 2023

SUBJECT: **Text Amendments to Chapter 150.141(A) of the Village Code – Residential Accessible Ramp Permit Fees**

The Village has had a history in assisting residents which have sought to address accessibility issues. Such past actions included amending code provisions pertaining to ramps and other accessible accommodations to meet the provisions of the Illinois Accessibility Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Village also adopted incentive programs to allow for additional commercial accessibility into older structures in the downtown area. In response to continuing trends to further encourage accessibility options, staff is proceeding with amending the Zoning Ordinance to provide for clarity and flexibility for accessibility ramps to existing residential structures. This amendment will be considered by the Plan Commission on May 15, 2023.

Supplementing the pending Plan Commission action, staff also recognizes that ramp installation activities can occur at inopportune time for individuals, as they are often sought at a time in which a resident finds that existing access no longer provides a safe or practical means of access into a residence. For reference, the Village issues about six residential ramp permits in a given year - some are temporary in nature, while others are more permanent and require proper footings.

Requiring a permit for ramps into existing residences is necessary and appropriate to ensure that they are installed in a safe manner. However, to advance accessible accommodation, elimination of the actual building permit fee could be supported for ramps which provide access into an existing residential dwelling unit.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff recommends that the Board of Building Appeals recommend adoption of a text amendment to the table in Section 150.141(A) of Village Code to establish a \$0.00 fee for Accessible Ramps, which provide access into an existing residential dwelling unit.