



August 6, 2025

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals,

I am writing to express concern regarding the potential approval of gravel driveways that directly abut the public sidewalks within the City of Rocky River. While I recognize the need to accommodate a range of residential preferences and property features, I believe that the use of gravel in such close proximity to the public right-of-way raises important issues of public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and aesthetic consistency within our community.

From a safety perspective, loose gravel poses a hazard for pedestrians, joggers, and those using mobility devices. Gravel can easily be displaced onto sidewalks, creating uneven and unstable walking surfaces. This is especially problematic during inclement weather, when visibility and traction are reduced. The potential for slips, trips, or falls is a serious concern that should not be overlooked.

Additionally, gravel erosion and displacement has the potential to result in ongoing maintenance issues for the City. City crews are often tasked with clearing gravel that washes into gutters or storm drains, contributing to unnecessary wear on public infrastructure and diverting resources from other essential services. Over time, this can also lead to sedimentation issues in our stormwater systems, undermining the City's broader environmental and sustainability efforts.

Finally, from a planning and zoning standpoint, permitting gravel driveways abutting sidewalks runs counter to the uniform standards that help maintain Rocky River's character and curb appeal.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to uphold limitations on gravel driveways that extend to or terminate at the sidewalk, and to require suitable paved transitions where private driveways intersect with public walkways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rich Snyder".

Rich Snyder
Director of Public Safety-Service