

Request for a Fence Exemption to the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 447 - 689 Morrish Road

Date: May 19, 2026

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Acting District Manager, Municipal Licensing and Standards, East District

Wards: 25 - Scarborough Rouge Park

SUMMARY

The owner of 689 Morrish Road has applied to Scarborough Community Council for a site-specific exemption from the requirements of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 447-1.2B(1) respecting fence height and Chapter 447-1.2C(1) respecting open-fence construction requirements.

The property owner is seeking Council's permission to maintain an existing front yard aluminum metal picket fence and mechanical access gates enclosing the front yard and driveway. The fence, including the gates, is approximately 2.0 metres in height and is located within 2.4 metres of the driveway entrance on both the north and south sides, exceeding the maximum permitted height of 1.2 metres under Chapter 447.

The existing mechanical access gates do not comply with the open-fence construction requirements of Chapter 447, as fences located within 2.4 metres of a driveway must be constructed as open mesh chain-link or equivalent open-fence construction so as not to obstruct visibility of the boulevard or highway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting District Manager, Municipal Licensing and Standards, East District recommends that Scarborough Community Council:

1. Refuse to grant the application for exemption by the owner of 689 Morrish Road because the fence fails to comply with the provisions of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 447 Fences.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto.

DECISION HISTORY

There are no previous Fence Exemption decisions for this property

COMMENTS

The Municipal Licensing and Standards Division inspected the subject property on May 30, 2024, at which time a Notice of Violation was issued. The owner of 689 Morrish Road submitted the Fence Exemption application on May 8, 2025. In support of this report, a current inspection was conducted on May 4, 2026, to confirm the existing conditions.

The existing fence, including the gates and pillars, violates the requirements of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 447-1.2B(1) respecting fence height, as well as Chapter 447-1.2C(1) respecting open-fence construction requirements.

Open-fence construction required:

Any fence within 2.4 metres of any driveway shall be an open mesh chain-link fence or of an equivalent open-fence construction for at least 2.4 metres from the lot line at which the driveway begins so as not to obstruct the view of the boulevard or highway.

Construction Standards:

1. Fence height.

B(1) No fence described in the following Table shall, when measured at any point along its length from the average grade level measured perpendicular to and one metre away on either side of the fence, exceed the height set out in the Table for the fence.

Fence in a front yard; and within 2.4 metres of a lot line abutting a public highway (public highway does not include a public lane) must not exceed 1.2 metres.

GENERAL LOCATION	SPECIFIC LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION and DEFICIENCY	BY-LAW SECTION and REQUIREMENT
Front Yard	Front	Maintain height of fence (including gates)	Chapter 447-1.2C.(1) Any fence within 2.4 metres of any driveway shall be an open mesh chain-link fence or of an equivalent open-fence construction for at least 2.4 metres from the lot line at which the driveway begins so as not to obstruct the view of the boulevard or highway
Front Yard	Front	Maintain fence (including gates) as construction	Chapter 447-1.2B(1) No fence described in the following Table shall, when measured at any point along its length from the average grade level measured perpendicular to and one metre away on either side of the fence, exceed the height set out in the Table for the fence. Fence in a front yard; and within 2.4 metres of a lot line abutting a public highway (public highway does not include a public lane) shall not exceed 1.2 metres in height.

CONTACT

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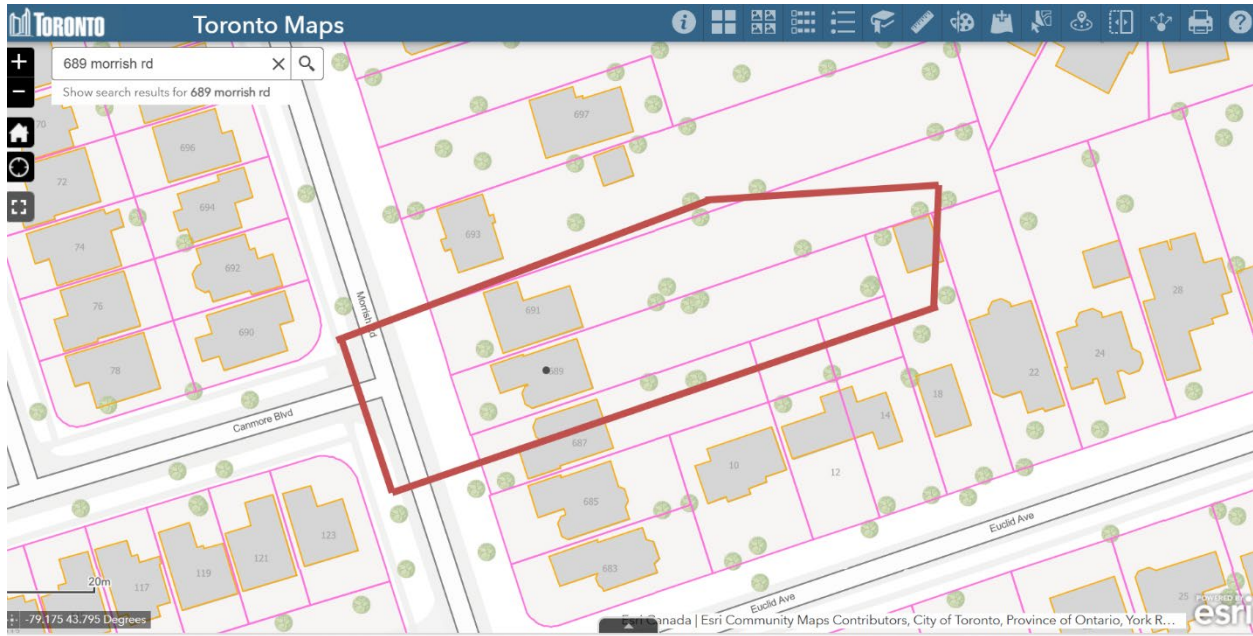
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: iView Map of Property – 689 Morrish Road, City of Toronto
Attachment B: Front of Property and fence.
Attachment C: Front of property taken on angle to include north gate.
Attachment D: Front of property taken on angle to include south gate.

Attachment A: iView Map of Property – 689 Morrish Road, City of Toronto



Attachment B: Front of Property and fence (including gates). Taken by Municipal standards staff.



Attachment C: Front of property taken on angle to include north gate. Taken by Municipal standards staff.



Attachment D: Front of property taken on angle to include south gate. Taken by Municipal standards staff.

