



Re: Ridgefield Building / Code Violation Clark County WA

1 message

Sat, Nov 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM

To: Steve Stuart <Steve.Stuart@ridgefieldwa.us>

By the way, there never was a retaining wall. All retaining walls are new construction.

On Fri, Nov 21, 2025 at 7:59 PM

> wrote:

Steve,

I put my drone in the air today, and what I saw makes this situation even more alarming. I genuinely cannot understand how the City could have permitted this structure in the first place—or how, after my complaint, the City looked at this mess and decided to do nothing. For over four months, the City has allowed blatant violations of City code, State statutes, and basic safety and habitat rules to continue right in front of you.

The City's response so far has been unacceptable. Your engineers and planners were on-site for roughly 17 minutes, took a quick glance, and declared everything "fine," despite the fact that multiple issues are clearly visible, obvious, and well outside what any reasonable review should have approved. This was not an inspection; it was a box-checking exercise.

I am left wondering how the City expects residents to feel protected when this is the level of oversight that's being provided. Let me be extremely clear: I do not care what kind of structure my neighbor wants to build. They can build a shed, a workshop, or a backyard palace—that is their right. What I care about is when the way they build it puts my property, my family, and the surrounding community at risk. The haphazard retaining walls, the unstable framing, and the work being done directly above a steep drop are obvious hazards. Anyone can see it.

What makes this even more frustrating is the City telling me this is "civil" or "not their responsibility" to inspect. That is simply not true and does not align with the codes passed by the City Council. The City came out, spent less time than it takes to drink a cup of coffee, and claimed everything was acceptable—even though the dangers are visible from 50 feet in the air. This level of dismissal is hard to understand and even harder to justify.

As someone who has lived here for years, pays taxes and fees to this City, and has children who grew up here, I expect—and frankly deserve—more than this. If anyone on my staff showed this level of inattention, lack of thoroughness, or lack of candor, I would take immediate corrective action. I have no idea why the City finds this level of performance acceptable.

All I am asking is simple: follow your own laws. Apply the same standards to this property that you apply to everyone else. Take these safety hazards seriously before something collapses, someone is injured, or property is damaged. This situation should never have been allowed to reach this point, and it is long past time for the City to act.

I await your response and adequate action.

On Thu, Nov 20, 2025 at 4:02 PM Steve Stuart <Steve.Stuart@ridgefieldwa.us> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thanks for reaching out to us. Our City Councilors forwarded me your email and asked me to have our team look into it. Our Building Official had one of his team follow up, including trying to reach you directly with what he found, but was unsuccessful. What he was going to convey is that the property owners of 3311 S 2nd Way recently constructed a retaining wall at the back of the property which was permitted and has gotten final approval. They now are in the process of constructing a shed, which is under 120 square feet and not over the property line, so no permit is required. While there does seem to be an original retaining wall that seems to have been taken apart, that would be a civil matter between you and the neighbor. Regarding the GIS system not showing our permits, unfortunately none of the City's permits show up in the County's GIS system. We'll follow up with the County to see if that's possible to add in the future.

Again, thank you for reaching out to us, and please do let me know if there are other questions that I/we can help answer.

Best,

Steve



Steve Stuart

City Manager | City Hall

(360) 857-5020

www.ridgefieldwa.us

230 Pioneer Street | PO BOX 608 | Ridgefield, 98642

NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE: This e-mail account is public domain. Any correspondence from or to this e-mail account may be a public record. Accordingly, this email, in whole or in part may be subject to disclosure pursuant to RCW 42.56, regardless of any claim of confidentiality or privilege asserted by an external party.

