

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DIRECTIVE 23-1959

To: Borough Superintendents

Date: November 16, 1959

From: Commissioner Peter J. Reidy

Subject: Requirements of C26-563.0
for Retaining Walls.

Pending a written interpretation from the Corporation Counsel, Section C26-563.0 of the Administrative Code shall be interpreted as follows:

- (1) Where the difference in grade between adjoining lots does not exceed two (2') feet and the land is gradually sloped or terraced on each lot so that the level of the ground at the lot line is approximately at the average grade, a retaining wall need not be provided.
- (2) Where the difference in grade between adjoining lots exceeds two (2') feet, but does not exceed three (3'6") feet six inches, a retaining wall may be omitted provided the adjoining individual owners agree, and make a request in writing for the Department of Buildings to approve this condition in order to maintain the rustic appearance of the landscape.
- (3) In all cases where the difference in elevation exceeds three (3'6") feet six inches, retaining walls shall be provided for the full difference in grade.

(Signed) Peter J. Reidy
Commissioner

JF:HM

CC: D. Commr. Birns
Actg. D. Commr. Ferro
Director & Asst. Dir. of Operations
Bureau of Records

A-3