

2607 Camille Drive

Since very early in 2017 (late winter/early spring) I have been trying to navigate the governmental systems in getting an addition to my house started. My wife and I were expecting a baby that arrived in October of that year. Since the day we got this joyous news I've been trying to coordinate with the city of Brookhaven and DeKalb County about adding to my home.

Unfortunately, in navigating 'Brookhaven' while living as a long time resident here I get to see builders with plenty of money speed through the process while my pregnant wife watches the slow grind of my process – a simple homeowner - unable to accomplish the same. I started off the process meeting with the City of Brookhaven and was directed to DeKalb County watershed.

The catalyst for the problems is I have a storm drain that runs through my property on the diagonal rather than along the lot line which has been which has been a tremendous burden I could never have anticipated.

With this storm drain I was told I could not build within "some unknown distance" or "on top of" this pipe. Back in 2017, I was also informed that DeKalb County owns this infrastructure and Brookhaven took it over as a new city; therefore, I would have to check with DeKalb County to make sure what I wanted to do was possible and that they would allow it. In short I needed their "blessing" to even start the process, much less continue. So my 2017 and 2018 unfolding this way.

It was fortunate for me that I finally found a very professional gentleman at DeKalb County who has been unbelievably helpful but also has his hands tied by the city of Brookhaven. Not only did DeKalb offer to "TV" the pipe and share the video with Brookhaven but he also shared it with me along with a report I brought straight over to the City of Brookhaven.

What we found was a structurally unsafe pipe system that needs to be replaced. If there was only DeKalb County today I would have been able to navigate this more rapidly. He made the statement openly to Brookhaven and myself that DeKalb County would be happy to repair or replace this and in addition move this to the lot line which is where it should be running as opposed to through my lot making some of my land useless (un-buildable)

I did not and still do not have the budget (money) to be able to do add moving this damaged storm drain and also correct the issues with the pipe running through my property. My path was to get this declared unsound and while repairs/replacement was needed could we start by doing so move it to the lot line.

Bottom Line for all of this was I just gave up.

I couldn't get this accomplished.

I couldn't proceed.

I was defeated on this one so I regrouped with our newborn and tried to find a new way.

I scrapped the building plans we had (thousands of dollars) and decided to build behind my house rather than to the side where we wanted it due to this storm drain hardship.

So here we are in 2020 and we already have another baby who is a year and our oldest will have his 3rd birthday this October... I have a building permit and we have a foundation and the framing done including the roof.

I am requesting a variance from the 35% lot coverage to 39.1% so we can add the driveway all the way around back to get to our detached building. I would not have had to apply for this IF we did not have that storm drain and could have built with our original plans but again....here we are. Years Later and another addition to our growing family we just need to get this project completed and the last step is a small change in the lot coverage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Jenness

A simple homeowner and tax payer in the city of Brookhaven
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