

We have been so thankful so many times that we chose to raise our family in Historic Downtown Lee's Summit. I am the daughter of a U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant, and I attended so many grade schools I cannot remember all of their names. I was bound and determined to allow my children to attend one school district and really know and feel at home in their childhood surroundings. Living in the Historic District of Lee's Summit helped us do that. We walked to and from elementary and high school, attended all the school events and games, and were so thrilled the school and other parades travel right past our front door. Over the 17 years that we have lived at 601 SE Douglas Street I have run my business from my home and our home has become the family home, where nearly every holiday, special occasions and gatherings for my three sisters and the rest of the family has occurred. My husband's family is a bit smaller. Our family home has also been the home base for him and his brother Jason, and his mom Judy, and occasionally distant cousins.

No one could have guessed that In 2018 our tall, handsome brother, eldest of Judy's two son's, Jason would die suddenly while on duty at his fire station in Kansas City, Kansas. No words are adequate to express our shock and loss. Jason spoke regularly about how he would be the one to care for Judy in her later years. It was a point of pride for him that he would do that as he had no spouse or children of his own.

It is now our point of pride that Adam and I will have the privilege of caring for his mom in her later years. Many times in the past few years we have looked for housing for her in the neighborhood. We have even gone so far as to knock on doors to ask neighbors if they would let us know if they ever decide to sell, explaining that we would really love to have our mom live nearby.

This spring, standing at my kitchen sink I noticed just how large my backyard is. I asked my husband, "Why can't we build mom a house right here?"

Once again, my darling town of Lee's Summit, did not disappoint. The staff at City Hall has been so friendly and so helpful in helping us discover what the rules are and what the possibilities could be.

We have learned there are only 2 modifications needed for us to move forward with building a tidy little bungalow for our Grandma Sunshine and ensuring that we are nearby for the rest of her life:

- Front yard setback – Section 6.040 Minimum Principal building setbacks states that the required setback is 30 feet for R-1 zoning and we are requesting to reduce it to 10 feet to match the other structures facing 6th street on our block including our neighbors homes at 109 SE 6th Street and 600 SE Green Street

- Garage size – the maximum size of garage for the proposed lot size is roughly 492 square feet (250 square feet per 5000 square feet of lot area). Ours is 785 square feet but keeping the current garage on this lot also satisfies the requirement for an enclosed parking space

In 2009 we built an exterior garage on our property to match our 1920's home. We never had the intention of building anything else on our property and so the garage size requirements in relation to a new lot for grandma, did not inform our decision about sizing the garage, but our garage setback was informed by the existing structures already along 6th street. Grandma's house will be equal to the setback of those structures. Here is a bird's eye view. Additionally, the garage size is relative to the garages that are within eyesight of our homes, noted here.

We humbly request that these two modifications be granted as they are in keeping with the characteristics and styling of the surrounding neighbors and the general character of the historic district as well as adding one more property and one more neighbor to our beloved neighborhood.

The Garrett Family

Adam, Tina and Judy