

ARTICLE 13

ADMINISTRATION, APPEAL, AND VIOLATIONS

13.1 ADMINISTRATION

13.1.1 These Development Regulations shall be administered, interpreted, and enforced by the Planning Director of the City of Buford, Georgia. All other ordinances or regulations referenced herein, such as the fire prevention and life safety codes, building and other technical codes, health, water, and sewer regulations, shall be administered by the appropriate City, County or State Departments responsible for such regulations.

13.1.2 In any case in which activities are undertaken in violation of these Regulations, not in compliance with the provisions of a permit issued under the authorization of these Regulations, or without authorization of a permit which would otherwise be required, the director is hereby authorized to suspend or invalidate such permits, order that all unauthorized or improper work be stopped, direct correction of deficiencies, issue summonses to any court of competent jurisdiction, or take any other legal or administrative action appropriate to the severity of the violation and degree of threat to the public health, safety, and welfare.

13.2 REGULATIONS TO BE PUBLISHED

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Planning Director to maintain an accurate and up-to-date compilation of these Development Regulations and all amendments and pertinent attachments thereto, and to publish said compilation and make it available to the public at a cost as established by the City Commission.

13.3 MODIFICATIONS

Modification of the design standards set forth in these Development Regulations may be authorized by the City in specific cases when, in the City's opinion, undue hardship may result from strict compliance; provided any such determination shall be based fundamentally on the fact that unusual topographical or other exceptional conditions require such modification, or that the granting of the modification will not adversely affect the general public. Such modification granted by the City shall be made in writing to the developer and also made a part of the City's records. Application for any modifications shall be filed in writing, on a form provided by the City, with necessary supporting documents with the City by the developer and shall explain in detail the reasons and facts supporting the application.

13.4 APPEAL AND WAIVER OF THE REGULATIONS

13.4.1 Appeals:

Appeals of the interpretation by the City of the requirements of these Regulations shall first be submitted in writing (on a form provided by the City) to the City Manager who shall review the request in a timely manner and receive comments from other affected departments. The appeal thereupon shall be forwarded to the City Commission for final action in their normal course of business.

13.4.2 Waivers:

Waiver requests of the requirements of these Regulations shall be submitted on an application form as prescribed by the director, along with such fees as shall be established by the City Commission. The Planning Director shall coordinate the review of each waiver request with all other affected City and County departments, summarize such comments and/or recommendations as may be received and forward the waiver request to the City Commission for final action in their normal course of business. The City Commission shall have the authority to approve or deny the request with or without conditions.

13.5 VIOLATION AND PENALTY

Any action or inaction that violates the provisions of these Regulations or the requirements of an approved plan or permit shall be subject to the enforcement actions or penalties outlined herein. Any such action or inaction that is continuous with respect to time is deemed to be a public nuisance and also may be abated by injunctive or other equitable relief. The imposition of any of the enforcement actions or penalties described herein shall not prevent such equitable relief.

13.5.1 Enforcement Procedures

The following are the enforcement procedures authorized by these Regulations:

- a. Notices of Violation
Enforcement shall begin with the issuance of a written Notice of Violation to the owner or responsible person by the City. The notice may be delivered personally or sent by first class mail. The Notice of Violation shall contain at least the following information:

Buford Development Regulations

1. The name and address of the owner or responsible person;
2. The location or address of the site upon which the violation is occurring;
3. A description of the nature of the violation;
4. A description of the remedial actions or measures necessary to bring an action or inaction into compliance with a permit, approved plan or these Regulations;
5. The deadline or completion date of any such remedial actions or measures;
6. A statement of the penalty or penalties that may be assessed against the owner or responsible person to whom the Notice of Violation is directed.

In the event the owner or responsible person fails to correct the violations after the deadline contained in the Notice of Violation, the City Manager is authorized to take or impose any one or more of the additional actions contained herein.

- b. **Stop Work Orders.**
The City Manager is authorized to issue Stop Work Orders to an owner or responsible person. Stop Work Orders are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the necessary corrective actions or remedial measures as set forth in the Notice of Violation have occurred. Stop Work Orders may be withdrawn or modified by the City in order to enable an owner or responsible person to take necessary remedial actions or measures to correct the violations.
- c. **Refusal to Issue Certificates of Occupancy or Completion.**
The City Manager is authorized to refuse to issue Certificates of Occupancy or Completion for the building or other improvements constructed or being constructed on a site until the owner or responsible person has taken the remedial actions or measures as set forth in the Notice of Violation or has otherwise corrected the violations described therein.
- d. **Suspension, Revocation, or Modification of Permit.**
The City Manager is authorized to suspend, revoke or modify a permit that was issued authorizing land disturbing activities or development. The City Manager is authorized to reinstate a suspended, revoked or modified permit after the owner or responsible person has taken the remedial actions or measures stated in the Notice of Violation or has otherwise corrected the violations described therein. The City Manager is also authorized to reinstate such permit,

which may include conditions as the City Manager may deem necessary, to enable the owner or responsible person to take the necessary remedial actions or measures to correct the violations.

- e. Refusal to Approve Final Subdivision Plats.
The City Manager is authorized to refuse to approve Final Plats until the owner or responsible person has taken the remedial actions or measures set forth in the Notice of Violation or has otherwise corrected the violations described therein.
- f. Issuance of Citations or Summons to Court.
The City Manager is authorized to issue a citation or summons to the owner or responsible person requiring such person to appear in a court of competent jurisdiction to answer charges for violations of these Regulations.

13.5.2 Legal Penalties and/or Remedies

- a. Fine and/or Sentence.
Any person convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of violating any provision of these Regulations shall be guilty of violating a duly adopted ordinance of the City and shall be punished either by a fine not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) per day and not greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day, or by a sentence of imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) days in jail, or both a fine and jail or work alternate. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.
- b. Other Legal Remedies.
In any case in which a violation of these Regulations has occurred, the City, in addition to other remedies provided by law, may petition for a restraining order, injunction, abatement, or take any other appropriate legal action or proceeding through a court of competent jurisdiction to prevent, restrain, or abate such unlawful use or activity.

13.5.3 In any case in which any land is, or is proposed to be, used or activities are undertaken in violation of these Regulations or any amendment thereto adopted by the City Commission, the City, in addition to other remedies provided by law, may petition for a restraining order, injunction, abatement, or take any other appropriate legal action or proceeding through a court of competent jurisdiction to prevent restrain, or abate such unlawful use or activity.