

TO: Wingate Apartments
103 Blueberry Lane
Laconia, NH 03246
603-524-4363

CC: WinnResidential
One Washington Mall, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02108
617-742-4500

PETITION

We, the residents at Wingate Village located at 103 Blueberry Lane in Laconia, NH, strongly oppose the removal of our private, fenced-in yards. This petition is in direct response to the letter dated December 1st, 2022.

Each of the undersigned will explain in their own words why we feel our yards are invaluable amenities. However, for the integrity of the petition, I will briefly summarize the main points that need to be made.

Our yards, and therefore our responsibility to care for our yards, are written in our lease agreement. Many of us have been here for years and created beautiful gardens, patios, and play areas for our children. All of this was done at our own expense. We are a low-income community and tearing up everything we created with our hard-earned money is incomprehensible.

We use our yards as a place of rest, and a place of enjoyment. Many of us have grills and sitting areas where we can entertain our neighbors and family. We use our yards for our children's birthday parties, our pets, and to keep our outdoor belongings. We cherish this outdoor space. Many of us have small children, and having a safe, fenced-in area for them to play in is very important for a parent's peace of mind. Wingate is meant to be a safe, stable home for low-income families. Our yards contribute to that goal.

Without our yards, we will have no place for our outdoor belongings. It has been suggested that we would need to keep our things in our basement. However, many of our basements due to the age of the complexes have water issues, making the basements unsuitable for storage without the risk of mold and mildew. The basements also have two sets of stairs, making it impossible for many residents to carry things up and down every time they want to go outside.

This is an unreasonable and unrealistic solution. Like many cities, we also have a high rate of theft. The fences deter thieves; and losing them would mean any belongings outside would be jeopardized. Again, this situation is unreasonable.

The Wingate website states that units will have “private fenced-in yards”. We are only asking for what we were already given and promised. We understand the concern regarding the cost of maintenance. However, the current fences are very old and falling apart. It is no wonder maintenance spends so much time and money fixing them. The solution is not to take them away, but to replace them. We understand that the cost of solid wood fences is very high, and we implore you to look at other solutions, such as vinyl fencing. The letter received offered “alternative” amenities, such as a dog park, community garden, bike racks, and picnic areas. These alternatives would cost money and require maintenance, as well. Each of these alternatives would have its challenges. For example, a dog park is unreasonable, as we are not allowed to have dogs here. A bike rack would be a prime spot for thievery and vandalism. Picnic areas would need to be cleaned daily and potentially be a target for vandalism.

Finally, Winn Companies state that “It is our goal to ensure that each community is stable, connected, and empowered.” Please accept this petition as proof that we, the residents of Wingate, are connected and empowered. We are grateful for our lovely homes at Wingate Village, and we want others to experience the same joy and comfort we have in the years to come. Please do not take away our rights to a private yard.

Sincerely,

The Residents of Wingate Village

Dated December 7th, 2022