



## **Zoning Resolution**

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor**

**CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Sideya Sherman, Chair**

# **81-261 - Definitions**

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## 81-261 - Definitions

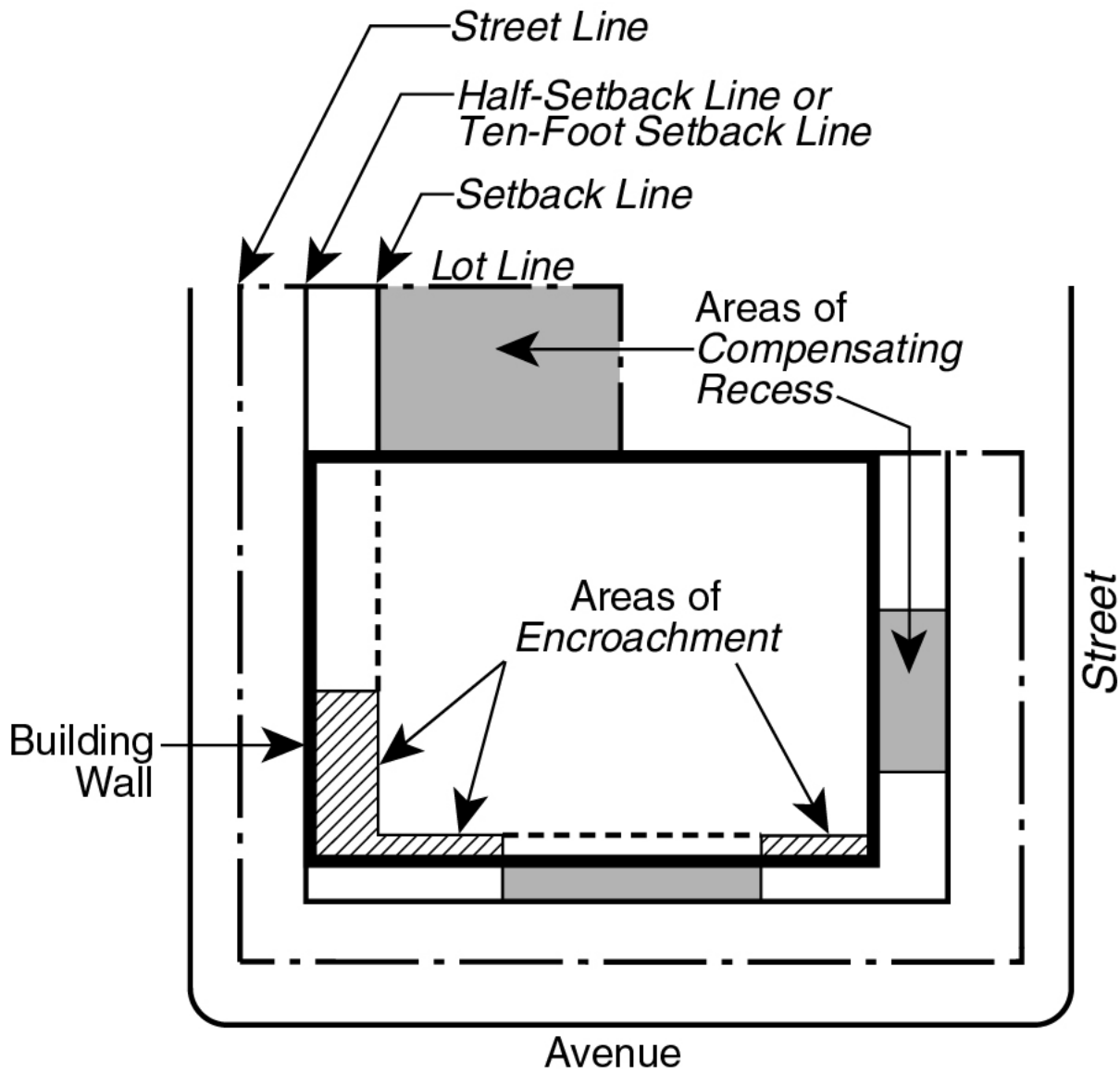
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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

### Compensating recess

A portion of a #zoning lot# which, at the #building# height selected for determining compliance with the provisions of Section [81-26](#) (Height and Setback Regulations--Daylight Compensation), lies in the #free zone# (Zone A on the #encroachment grid#), is not covered by any portion of a #building# and qualifies as compensating for #encroachments# beyond the #free zone# under the provisions of Section [81-264](#) (Encroachments and compensating recesses). (See illustration of #Compensating Recess# and #Encroachment#)



## COMPENSATING RECESS AND ENCROACHMENT

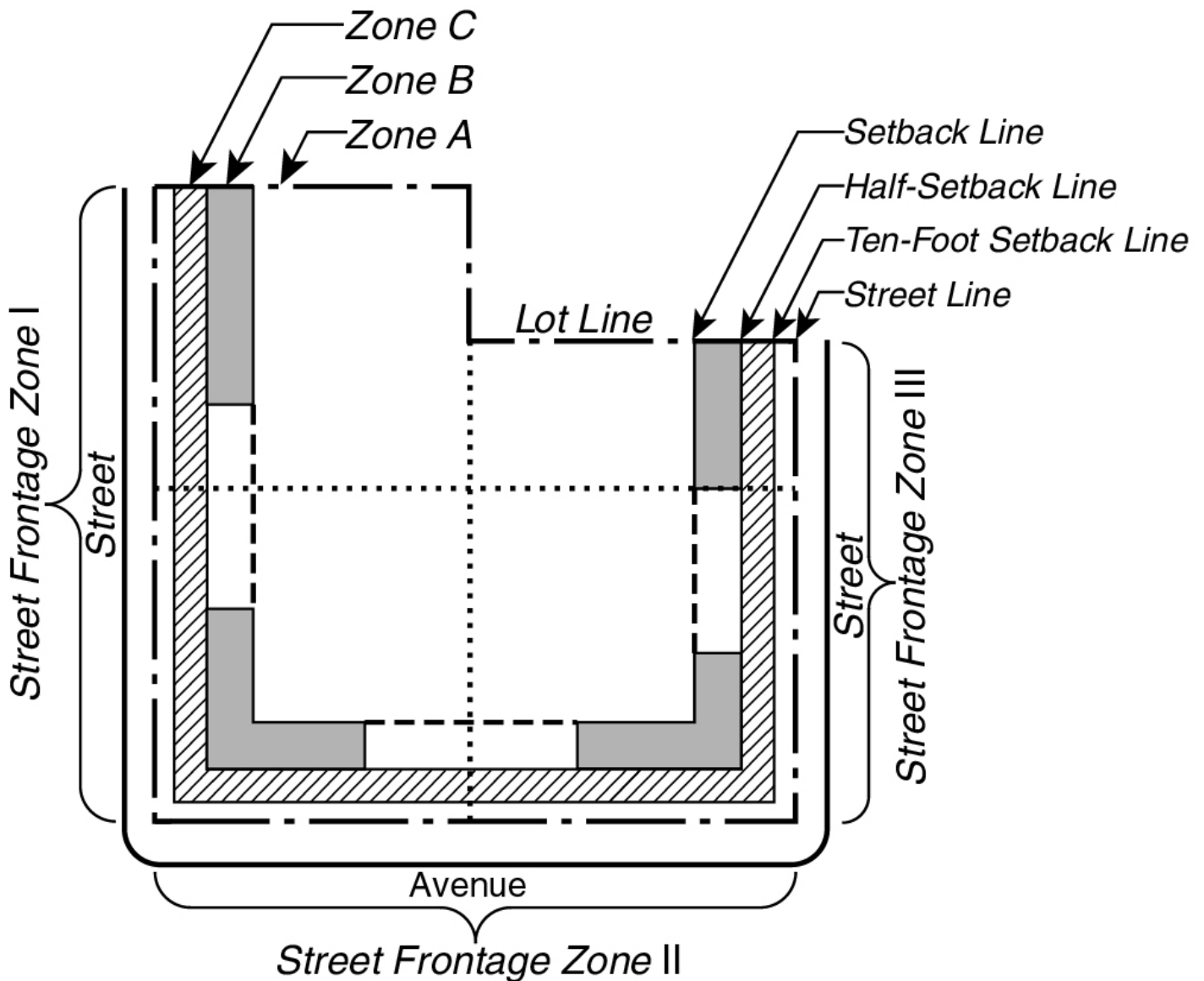
(81-261.1)

### Encroachment

A projection beyond the #setback line#, the #free zone# or the #half-setback line# by any portion of a #building# that exceeds the maximum height permitted at the #street line#. (See illustration of #Compensating Recess# and #Encroachment#)

## Encroachment grid

A plan drawing of the zoning lot at any given height above curb level selected to determine compliance with the provisions of Section [81-26](#) and showing, for that height, street lines, setback lines, half-setback lines, Zone A (the free zone), Zone B and Zone C (encroachment zones) and, where applicable, the ten-foot setback line. The encroachment grid serves as a device for measuring areas of encroachment beyond the free zone and areas of compensating recess within the free zone. (See illustration of Encroachment Grid)



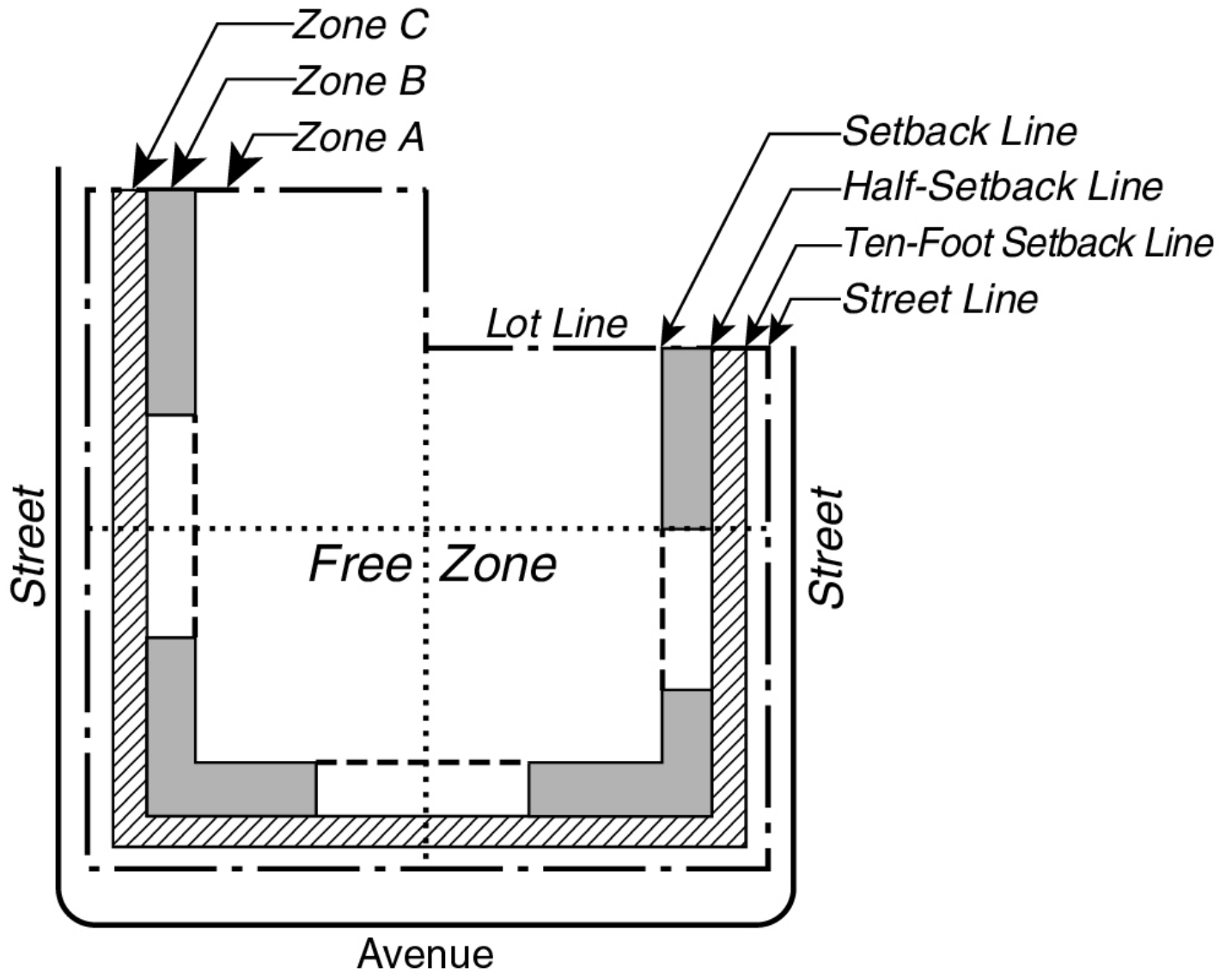
## ENCROACHMENT GRID

(81-261.2)

### Free zone

That portion of a #zoning lot#, at any given height, which may be covered by a #building# without coverage constituting an #encroachment# that requires daylight compensation.

In addition to the area that lies behind a #setback line# or #setback lines#, the #free zone# shall include areas between the #setback line# and either the #half-setback line# or the #ten-foot setback line#, whichever is further from the #street line#, and which qualify as #free zone# areas under the #middle one-third rule#. The #free zone# is referred to as #Zone A# on the #encroachment grid#.



## FREE ZONE

(81-261.3)

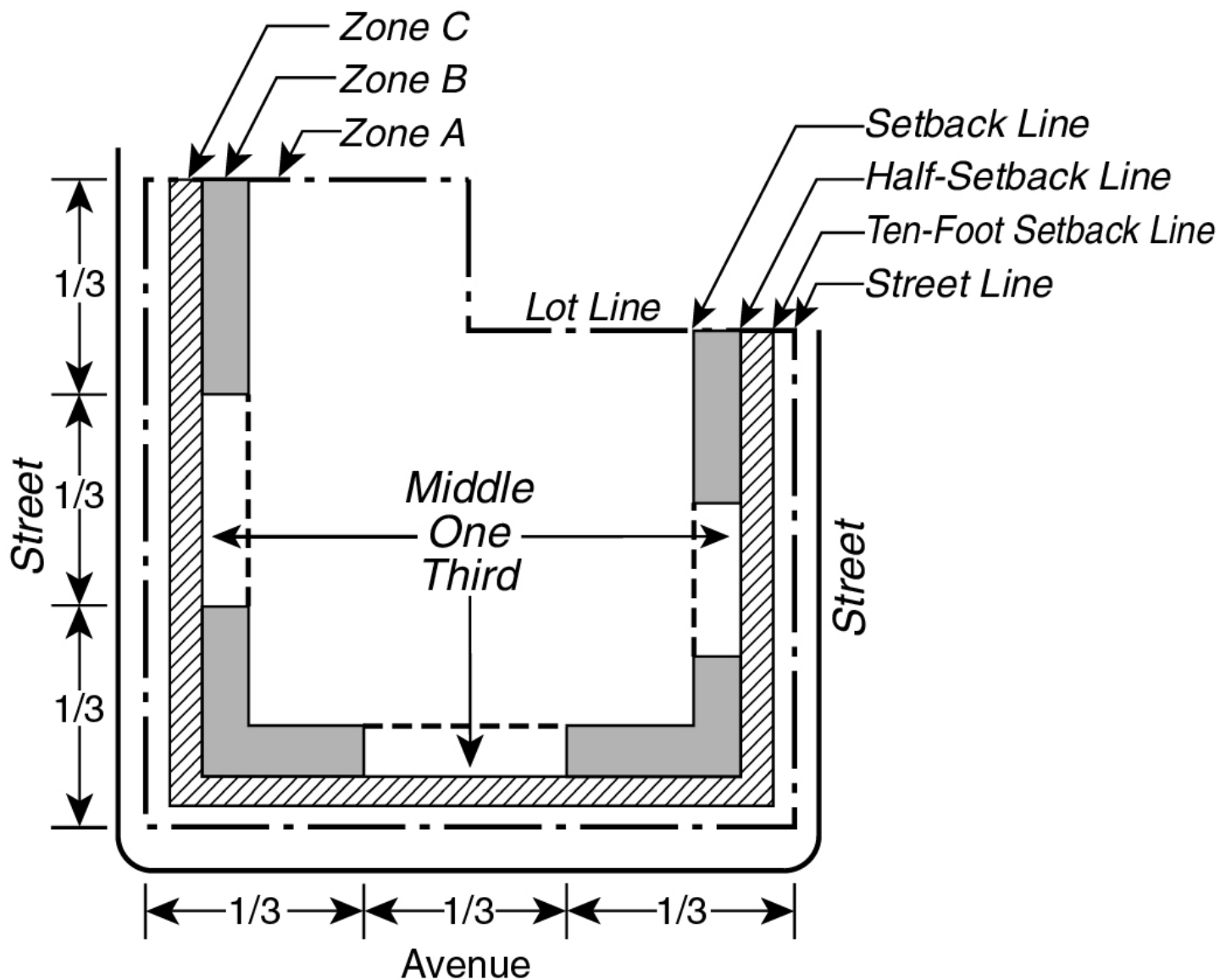
## Half-setback line

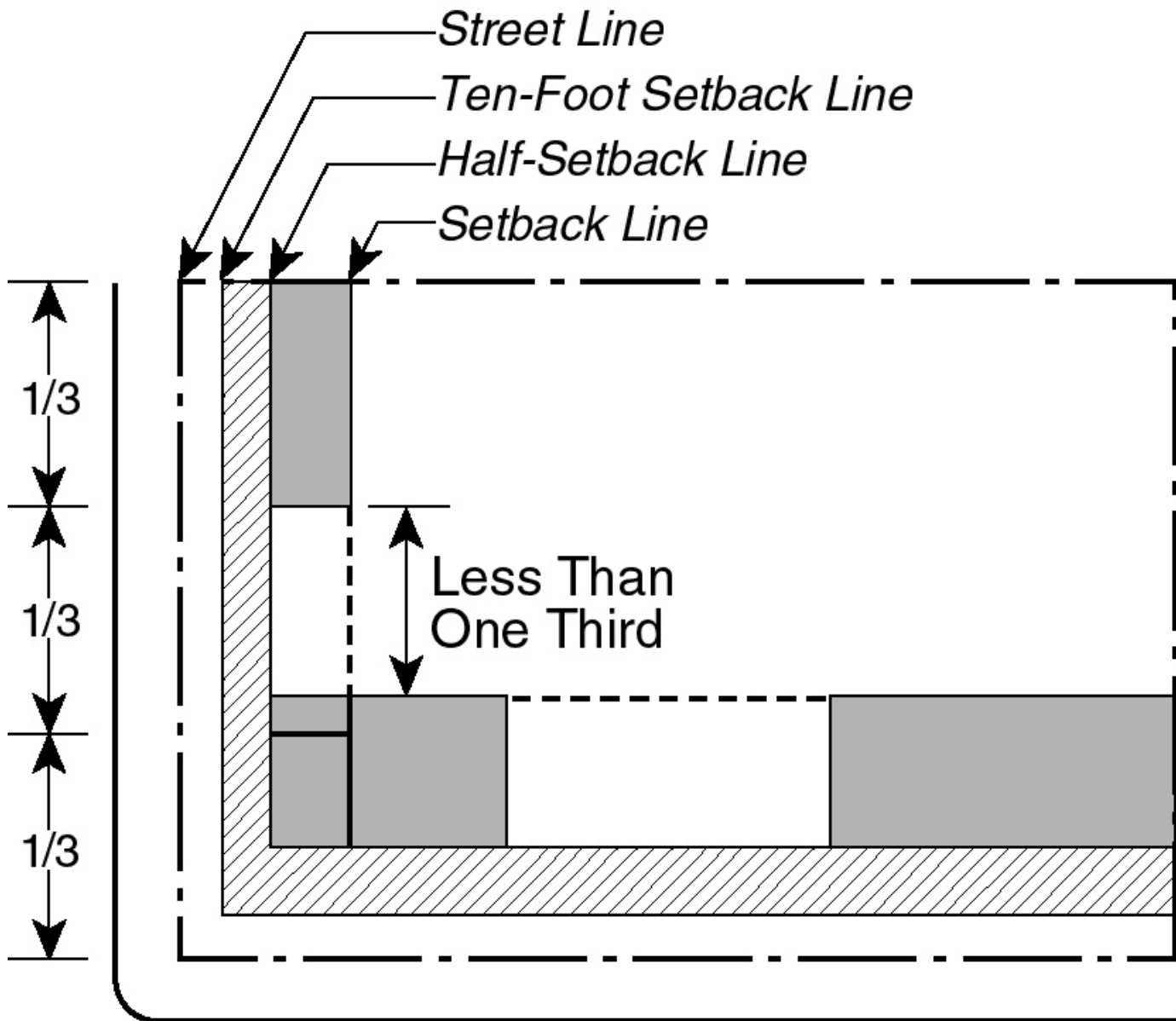
A line drawn parallel to a #street line# and halfway between the #street line# and the #setback line#.

(See illustration of #Setback Line# and #Half-Setback Line#)

## Middle one-third rule

The rule under which, for the middle one-third of the #front lot line# length, the #free zone# includes area between the #setback line# and either the #half-setback line# or the #ten-foot setback line#, whichever is further from the #street line#. However, on a #corner lot# the #free zone# does not extend beyond the #setback line# along an intersecting #street#. (See illustrations of #Middle One-Third Rule#)





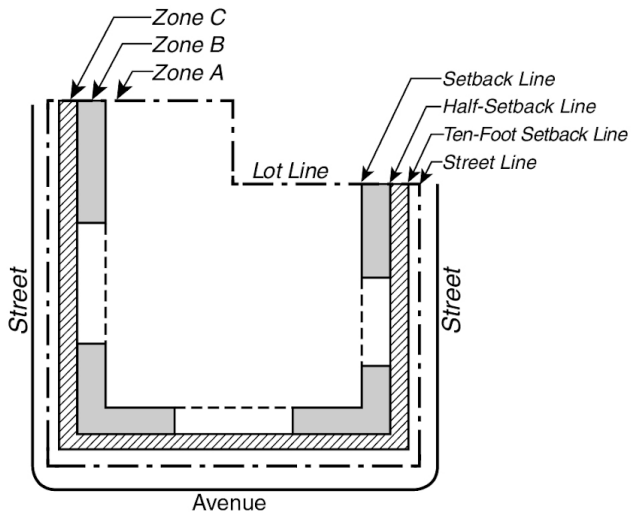
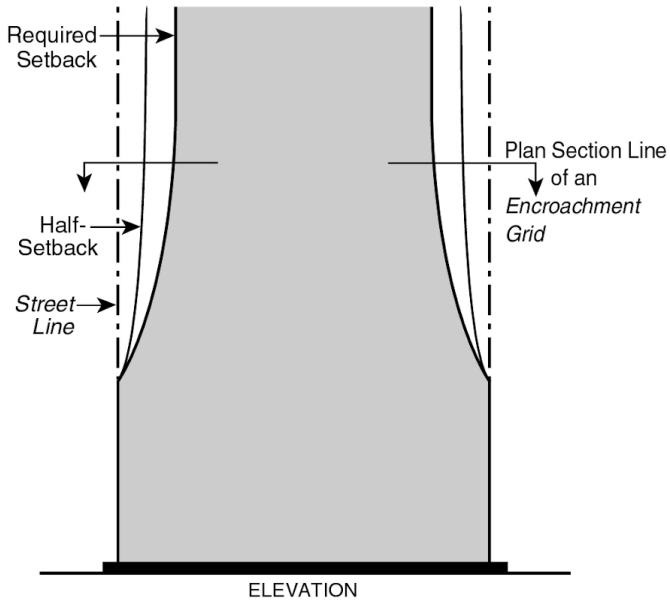
## MIDDLE ONE-THIRD RULE

(81-261.4)

### Setback line

A line drawn in plan parallel to a #street line# and showing for a given #building# height the minimum depth to which a #building# is required to be set back from the #street line# by the applicable depth to height chart in Section [81-263](#) (Standard setback requirements). Required

setbacks, established by the chart, increase with the building's height. (See illustration of Setback Line and Half-Setback Line)

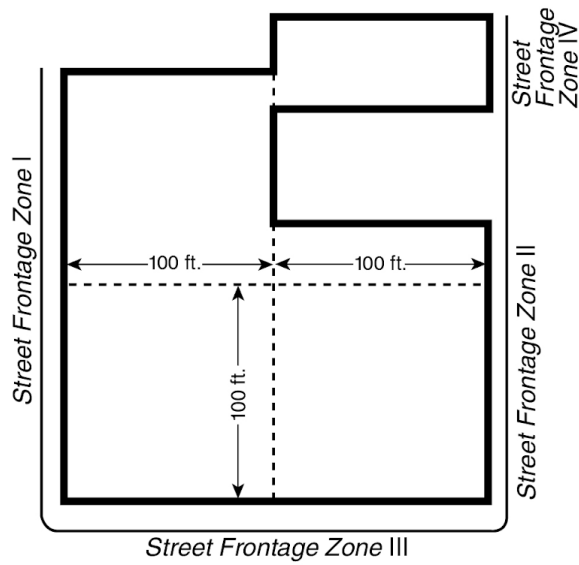
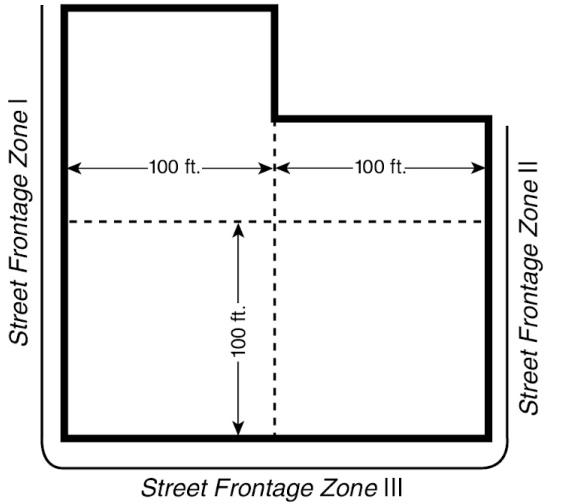


## SETBACK LINE AND HALF-SETBACK LINE

(81-261.5)

Street frontage zone

A portion of a #zoning lot# which lies within an area bounded by a continuous #front lot line# and either the center line of the #block# or a line 100 feet distant from and parallel to that #front lot line#, whichever is closer to that #front lot line#. There shall be a #street frontage zone# for each #zoning lot# #street# frontage. (See illustration of #Street Frontage Zones#)



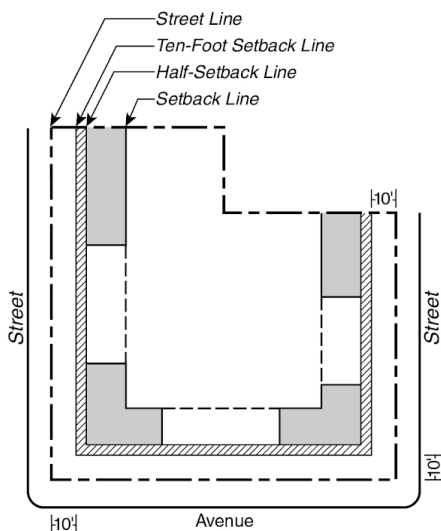
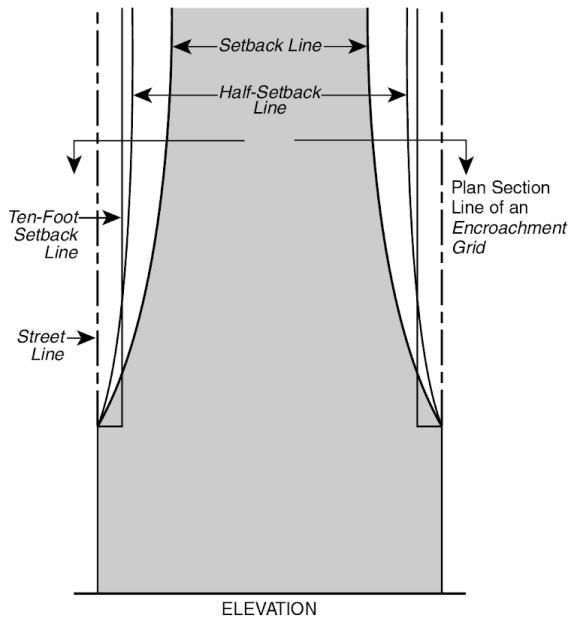
— Zoning Lot  
 - - - - Street Frontage Zone Boundary

## STREET FRONTAGE ZONES

(81-261.6)

## Ten-foot setback line

A line which is parallel to the #street line# at a depth of 10 feet and represents the minimum distance any portion of a #building# exceeding the maximum height at the #street line# is required to be set back from the #street line#. A greater setback distance may be required by a #setback line# or a #half-setback line# depending upon the #building# height for which such #setback line# or #half-setback line# is established.



## TEN-FOOT SETBACK LINE ON AN ENCROACHMENT GRID

(81-261.7)

Zone A, Zone B, Zone C

"Zone A," "Zone B" and "Zone C" are zones on an #encroachment grid# defined as follows:

- (a) #Zone A# is the #free zone#.
- (b) #Zone B#, an #encroachment# zone, is the zone, exclusive of any area in #Zone A# and any area closer to the #street line# than the #ten-foot setback line#, which lies between the #setback line# and either the #half-setback line# or the #ten-foot setback line#, whichever is further from the #street line#.
- (c) #Zone C#, an #encroachment# zone and penalty zone, is the zone, exclusive of any area closer to the #street line# than the #ten-foot setback line#, which lies between the #half-setback line# and the #ten-foot setback line#.