



# Planning & Development

**Zoning Division**  
One Exchange Plaza, Suite 300  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601  
Phone 919-996-2626

## City of Raleigh Official Zoning Code Interpretation

Requested Interpretation		Case Number
It is our understanding that when the lowest level of a building meets the definition of "basement" as defined in the UDO (Sec. 1.5.7.A.6) that this building level does not count as a "story", even if this level daylights and is visible from a public right-of-way.		UI-12-2014
Site Address/PIN: N/A		
Date Submitted: July 31, 2014	Date Issued: August 8, 2014	Code Sections Affected: UDO Sec. 1.5.7

### STAFF ANALYSIS

Section 1.5.7 of the Unified Development Ordinance includes the regulations for determination of building height. A number of different scenarios are contemplated in this section in recognition that the ground is not always flat. Subsection 6 states that "a basement with 50% or more of its perimeter wall area (measured from finished floor elevation) surrounded by finished grade is not considered a story."

### STAFF INTERPRETATION

If a basement meets the regulations contained in section 1.5.7.A.6, it is not considered a story. The language does not qualify any line of sight from public right-of-way; it merely specifies a maximum percentage of perimeter wall area that may be exposed above finished grade.

### SIGNATORY

Travis R. Crane, Planning and Zoning Administrator