



March 7, 2018

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Members of City Council,

RE: Support for the Legalization of Secondary Suites

We advocate that, in the long term, the City designate secondary suites as a permitted use in all areas of the City. This will allow for the creation of more housing units across our community without increasing the costs of an expanded infrastructure.

In the meantime, we support the proposed land use amendment to permit the development of secondary suites as a discretionary use in those areas of our City that don't currently allow secondary units.

We have reviewed the proposed amendment and support the criteria that will be used to review applications for secondary suites.

We support the two-year amnesty period to allow homeowners who currently have secondary suites to align with the proposed criteria.

We feel that the proposed application fee of \$431 is reasonable.

We support the formation of a compulsory secondary suite registry. However, we would urge the City to waive the registry fee. We need to create an incentive for homeowners to register their secondary suites.

We recommend that the communication plan includes a tracking and reporting back to the community on the number of legal secondary suites that are developed.

As we have noted in our past communication on the legalizing of secondary suites, there continues to be a shortage of affordable housing in our city. With secondary suites, we can create additional units without changing land use or building size. Access to affordable housing is a major issue for all Calgarians, especially those who are low-income and is reflected in Enough for All. Secondary suites allow citizens from various economic levels and age groups to live in the same neighborhood, promoting social and economic diversity.

This proposal is a wonderful first step in simplifying the process in the creation of legal secondary suites.

Calgary is a great community. It has shown leadership in so many areas. It is high time that it proceeds to legalize secondary suites.

Sincerely,


Franco Savoia
Executive Director
c.c. Cathy Williams, Board Chair