

From: fastdogz

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 3:44 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>

Subject: May 31 Planning Committee meeting item

To Whom it may concern,

In regard to the May 31 Planning Committee meeting, specifically regarding the Modifications and Updates to existing Secondary Dwelling Unit and Secondary Dwelling Unit – Detached Regulations (PED20093(c)) I think it's imperative that Hamiltonians are heard.

Considering the following:

- we are facing a serious housing supply crisis
- we are facing a serious housing affordability crisis
- we are facing a serious environmental crisis that demands we use current urban lands better rather than expand into the Green Belt
- we are facing a serious crisis of infra-structure building and maintenance
- we are facing a serious crisis in elder-care and long-term care placements that demands alternatives to long-term care placements be found
- we know most seniors would prefer to age in place - in their homes - with adequate support and that housing situations where multi-generational needs can be met on one property offer very good elder support

We know secondary dwellings address each of these issues.

As a mobility-challenged homeowner, I have no doubt that in order to be able to stay in my home as I age, I will need to alter my home to accommodate my mobility challenges. The best solution for doing that is building a fully accessible secondary dwelling unit rather than trying to retrofit my 100+ year old home. Building such a unit would not only enable me to gain some modest income in my retirement (and at least partially fund

the cost of building the secondary unit), but it will enable me to provide a modest rental opportunity for someone willing to do building and grounds maintenance when I can no longer do it. In doing this, I will be not only providing an opportunity for a new family to move into my neighbourhood, but I will be able to continue to enjoy living in the wonderful Strathcona neighbourhood with the supportive neighbours I've come to love in my almost 20 years of home ownership here.

We are living in a different social and environmental reality than we were when many Hamilton homes were built - when the expectation for lot and housing size in the city in many neighbourhoods was really quite equal to suburban lots now. We need to do better. Secondary dwelling units help us do better in so many ways.

As a citizen of Hamilton, a senior who is trying to do best for myself, best for my city, and best for the environment, I implore you to do everything you can to facilitate the streamlined building of secondary dwelling units, including removing barriers to building and finding funding, perhaps in the form of forgivable loans, to allow more secondary units to be quickly built. Let's truly make Hamilton the best place to raise a child AND age in place!

Sincerely,
Dawn Vanson, Homeowner, Ward 1, Hamilton