



April 4, 2021

To: Planning Department, City of Hamilton

RE: Secondary Dwelling Units (CI-20-E and CI-21-A) (PED20093(a))

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of our community volunteer group, I would like to offer support for flexible zoning for secondary suites.

Hamilton is home to over 700 alleys, the majority, over 400, are in the lower city. These alleys can be seen as auxiliary “streets” that provide potential for secondary dwelling units. The lower city, in particular Wards 2, 3 and 4 are occupied by a mixed demographic of elderly established residents and recent younger residents that are attracted to the education, services, parks and greenspaces of these areas to raise their families. Some were raised in the homes their parents now occupy but can no longer maintain. SDU’s could provide an alternative to relocating the parents and allow for the children to occupy the original home while they can stay in the neighbourhood they know and love. Another opportunity exists for the grown children to occupy the unit until they can get established in their career; a safer and more cost effective alternative to sub-standard housing and high rents. During the current precarious work opportunities and due to the pandemic influence on income, SDU’s provide an opportunity for additional income, allowing homeowners to meet their financial needs and staying in their home by renting the unit.

This is an area that is both blessed and cursed. We have the space to provide opportunity and we are desperate for housing and a solution to plummeting poverty. Secondary Dwelling Units are not the complete answer, but offer a solution that can build resilience and capacity that can benefit our city. Please consider how your decisions can impact the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Duke", is written in a cursive style.

Brenda Duke
Chair/Beautiful Alleys