

From: Alison Witt
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2024 11:20 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Ward 2 <ward2@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Proposed Changes to ADU Development

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Mayor Horwath, Councillor Kroetsh, and all Hamilton City Council,

I am a resident in the North End and live next door to one of the ADU's that IMBY Homes (<https://www.imbyhomes.org/>) recently built. I also work with Open Homes Hamilton- a local program that supports newly arrived refugee claimants in our city. The building of the ADU next door has only brought positive change to our neighbourhood. I personally am happy to see this large plot of land that was not well-used, now include an ADU that provides secure, affordable housing for someone. I have only heard positive comments from others in the neighbourhood.

With respect to the anticipated notice of motion to restrict the development of ADUs in Hamilton, I believe this is extremely shortsighted and misguided.

The proposed changes would functionally limit new ADUs to a single storey - which would severely limit the ability of ADUs developed by homeowners across the city to provide critically needed boost to our housing supply. Limiting the height of ADUs goes against the intentions of provincial legislation supporting ADUs. And it makes it much harder to create affordable homes for families which is essential, especially right now.

The 2 storey IMBY build in the East End of Hamilton is on track to be finished this December. This Christmas a mom and her young daughter will be able to move out of their current overpriced, cramped, basement room and into a lovely 2 bedroom home in the backyard of a family who welcomed them to our city when they were refugee claimants. Now that this mom and little girl are permanent residents who hope to live in Hamilton long term they need a stable, affordable long-term option- as well as a healthy connection to the broader community. The H family is offering them exactly that. They have built a 2 story ADU that they plan to rent to this newcomer family at an affordable rate and they are eager to have an ongoing relationship with them as neighbours.

This would no longer be possible if these proposed changes are passed. I strongly believe that we need to make it easier for people to build densifying housing within the city boundaries. The housing crisis requires many different responses- and allowing 2 story ADU's is an obvious, easy one to implement. Let's keep moving forward in creating good solutions for our city's residents.

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