Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed laneway suites policy known as Changing Lanes. I agree with the advice of City Staff and support this common sense approach to city building.

In recent years, residential property prices in Toronto have increased significantly beyond the rate of inflation the result of more demand than supply. An incredible city like Toronto is in very high demand, for good reason. The reality is, supply has not been able to keep up, despite a record building boom over the past decade. It is now more difficult than ever for people to afford to own property and this has resulted in especially high demand for residential rental units.

Housing (both ownership and rental) will only improve if demand goes down (asking people to leave the City) or supply goes up. Accordingly policy makers should be doing all they can to encourage thoughtful, sustainable, innovative solutions targeted at increasing the increased supply of all forms of housing. Laneway suites are a perfect example of this.

The Changing Lanes report has been thoughtfully formulated with input from dozens of professionals and literally thousands of constituents. The proposed as of right framework will expand the accessibility of this form of intensification for homeowners who aren’t developers or architects. It will allow the private market to use its creativity to generate much needed new supply.

I am urging the Toronto and East York Community Council to approve the Changing Lanes initiative as is, without amendments or further delays.

Your truly,

Jon Love
Chief Executive Officer