



2 December 2020

Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen St W, Toronto ON M5H 2N2

To the Planning and Housing Committee,

The Laneway Project is a non-profit social enterprise focused on the transformation of Toronto's laneways into complete public spaces fully integrated into our larger public space network. Over the past six years, we've worked with local stakeholders to revitalize laneways in more than 30 neighbourhoods throughout the city. We do this because neighbourhoods with a range of tools and options, which can be used to tailor growth to their particular context, are more able to grow as unique, liveable communities – which is something that we all want for our city. A liveable community is one that has, along with a diversity of high-quality housing options, a diversity of high-quality public spaces available near to where people live.

As was the case with Laneway Suites, Garden Suites can be a new tool in Toronto's housing toolkit. They can provide additional housing to meet the needs of our growing and changing city, add gentle density in keeping with existing neighbourhood character, provide a range of housing options in residential neighbourhoods, and provide additional homes close to existing social infrastructure such as libraries, schools, and community centres.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend that the Planning and Housing Committee directs the Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning to prepare a report with necessary recommendations to permit Garden Suites in the second quarter of 2021.

Sincerely,

Michelle Senayah
Co-Founder and Executive Director
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