

5 January 2022

To:  
City Clerk  
Planning and Housing Committee  
Item 2022.PH30.2  
For Agenda on 12 January 2022

## **SUPPORT FOR EXPANDING HOUSING OPTIONS IN NEIGHBOURHOODS - GARDEN SUITES**

Dear Committee Members,

We are enthusiastically supportive of the EHON initiative of Garden Suites, and strongly recommend its expeditious approval and implementation.

Our office was founded on the principle that Toronto is experiencing a housing crisis, and that the most sustainable way to address that crisis is to empower everyday homeowners to unlock the potential of our lowrise neighbourhoods and create sensitive infill housing opportunities.

We have spent the last 6 years focused on laneway suites. In that time, we have advocated for its creation and evolution, and we have completed 16 laneway suites with a further 27 under construction and 40 seeking approvals. That is enough housing for 200 people – children leaving the nest, grandparents returning to the nest, new Canadians, and new Torontonians. And our office is only one of many.

We have witnessed first-hand, how homeowner-driven housing typologies can; contribute to mortgage payments, accommodate loved ones, and create work-from-home opportunities. They are improving housing flexibility in an increasingly constrained housing landscape.

The proposed garden suite policy is a logical next step for this proven model of sustainable, secondary housing. Your constituents will benefit from its virtues, and its limitations will protect the aspects of our neighbourhood we all love.

For the good of our neighbourhoods and city, we recommend support of this policy immediately.

Sincerely,



Craig Race



Alex Sharpe



Andrew Sorbara