



**MORE NEIGHBOURS
TORONTO**

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

RE: PH14.13 - Expanding Permitted Uses in Laneway and Garden Suites

About More Neighbours Toronto

[More Neighbours Toronto](#) is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, and cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Position

More Neighbours Toronto supports the recommendations from Deputy Mayor Malik to review the feasibility of allowing additional residential uses in laneway houses and garden suites. This would expand and improve upon the studies of the Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods (EHON) initiative.

As we noted in our communication on item [PH10.4 - Garden Suites Monitoring Program - Update](#), we have been disappointed in the slow uptake of garden suites. One reason for the small number of applications is the limited number of residential uses permitted. So we are pleased to see Deputy Mayor Malik recommending additional flexibility in residential uses for garden suites and laneway houses.

Adding permission for uses such as multi-tenant homes, group homes, and residential care homes in garden homes and laneway houses would give more people more opportunity to live in residential neighbourhoods. It would allow more people who require living assistance to live near family. It would make it easier for siblings and friends to live in the neighbourhoods they grew up in.

We encourage the members of the committee to approve the proposed recommendations and to continue to work to refine the regulations and By-laws for laneway houses and garden suites to make them easier and faster to build.

Regards,

Damien Moule,
More Neighbours Toronto