

Dear Committee, Alderpersons, Neighbors, and community organizations,

My name is Everett Lancaster and I live in the Washington Park neighborhood (in the 15th district) and I'm a member of the community who wants to make our corner of the world the best corner of the world it can be, someone who believes in the rights of homeowners to build what they wish to the same standards of any other building on their land they may have worked very hard for. It is the right of all people to build what they wish on their land even if considered unsightly or inconvenient to others, it is also your right to build what you wish on your land regardless of my opinion as it is your land, not my land. Our neighbors have every right to choose to build accessory dwelling units on their property if they wish and historically many homes had and some still have what would be considered as an Accessory Dwelling Unit. Do you know someone who has a carriage house behind their home? Many parking slabs used to be the foundations of carriage houses which is where the short walls around them come from, these ADUs are not a foreign concept to our city. There is even a statue in our city of Fonzie from Happy Days who in the show lived in an apartment situated above a garage which would be considered an ADU today and nobody was outraged, in fact it was quite normal and at the time many young people rented spaces above garages all over the city yet they are illegal to build today despite housing being more unaffordable than ever due to non-person entities (like LLCs) being able to purchase single family homes and duplexes to control the market and rip us all off. Another thing to consider is that when people want something it becomes more valuable especially if there is less of it, copper is not less expensive than gold because copper is less useful, quite the contrary. Copper, despite being much more useful than gold, is only less expensive than gold because there is more of it, much more of it and the same applies to housing. Housing will become more expensive every year (which means higher property taxes) so long as more is not built as the less there is of anything out there which people want, the more expensive it will become as people compete for it. ADUs allow us and our neighbors to increase the housing supply by replacing our old garages that are already at or near the end of their physical lives with new garages that have an apartment on top or a dedicated ADU with no garage at all that will allow the homeowner to do many things including

Aging in place: ADUs allow seniors to downsize while remaining on the same property potentially without needing to worry about stairs and being able to pass the main home down to the next generation of the family and having access to care and companionship from the family. or generate rental income from the main home to provide retirement income.

Investing in our neighborhoods: Homeowners building ADUs already live in the neighborhood. By building an ADU homeowners can increase the supply of housing in their neighborhood and choose to rent it at an affordable rate to a neighbor, family member or someone else and earn supplemental income which could be used to beautify their property or even invest in their broader community some other way. This supplemental income also helps homeowners stay in their neighborhood and even encourages homeowners to stay in the neighborhood regardless of rising costs. Renters also benefit from an increased supply of units especially if some units are above someone's garage or in their backyard, homeowners with ADUs can not only rent units at below market rate, homeowners also have more of an investment in the ADU than a

faceless corporate landlord from florida would have in any property and are many times more likely to keep the space habitable, especially when that space is in the backyard and the tennant lives so close to the homeowner.

Flexible space: ADUs also allow homeowners with hobbies or who want to start their own businesses to have a space outside of the house to work in without having to move the family car every time the space is used. Imagine being able to walk up some stairs to or walk down a path into an ADU that you can use as a workshop or a studio or even just to unwind, the possibilities are really up to the homeowner.

Property rights: think to yourselves, do you want to gain more rights to choose what to do with your property? If so, you should support the ADU. What you do with your property is your right, not the mayor's right, not your aldermans right, not your constituents right, not your neighbors right, it is your right and yours alone. To oppose the ADU is not only trampling on the rights of others to use their property as they wish, it is also trampling on your own property rights as well. So support the ADU, Support property rights in your community, support investment in the community by the community, for the community.

Everett Lancaster