

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

06 June 2018

Anchorage Assembly, Chair Forrest Dunbar
via Municipal Clerk
PO Box 196650
Anchorage AK 99519-6650

RE: **AO No. 2018-43** - DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS. (Planning and Zoning Commission Case No. 2017-0095)

Dear Mr. Dunbar and Anchorage Assembly Members,

Our council has identified walkability, improved transit opportunities, safe streets and increased small business density (including retail amenities such as small grocery stores, cafes, daycare facilities and local services) as important community values. Many residents are drawn to Spenard for its parks, entertainment options, restaurants and trails in close proximity to downtown and midtown areas of Anchorage. In order to facilitate the growth of walkable amenities, we recognize that our neighborhood must promote increased residential density. We are reluctant, however, to give up aspects of our neighborhood character (open spaces, trees, gardens, sheds and workspaces, backyard studios, etc.) which allow for Spenard to be the home of creative residents and sustainable, traditional lifestyles.

Spenard Community Council hereby offers its support for AO 2018-43 because we believe the proposed changes to the Municipal Code will provide more opportunities for our residents to create affordable living spaces without altering the character of our neighborhoods.

We are concerned, however, with the City's ability to provide adequate code compliance given its current budget for code enforcement. Many residences and commercial properties in Spenard have compliance issues which are not addressed in a timely and satisfactory manner in our neighborhood. What improvements in code enforcement might accompany this resolution in order to enforce parking requirements? How will the Municipality ensure there is adequate staffing in the permitting department to successfully facilitate these code changes? What impacts to utility infrastructure might occur in areas such as Census Tract 20 (Arctic to Minnesota, 36th to 40th Avenues) where many homes get drinking water from wells?

We look forward to working with the Assembly to address these issues to create a more densely urban, but still profoundly Spenardian neighborhood.

Thank you,

Jay Stange, Chair
Spenard Community Council

