

Online Form Submittal: Planning Department

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To: Ronald Wolanski <rwolanski@middletownri.com>; Anita Guo <aguo@middletownri.com>

Planning Department

Who would you like your message to go to? Ronald M. Wolanski

Full Name Donna Levesque

Email Address

Phone Number

Message

I recently read in Newport This Week that the Planning Board will be discussing a change in zoning to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). I wanted to offer you my thoughts on the subject before your 11 January meeting.

I am a proponent of this potential change in residential zoning for several reasons. My primary reason being the necessity of creating affordable housing for our younger generation. It is undisputable that real estate prices for purchasing, or even renting, a home on Aquidneck Island has reached proportions that make it very difficult, if not impossible for our multi-generational residents to continue to live here in the future. ADUs create an opportunity for our younger generation and our long-term residents to continue to live here. I personally fear the influx of summer residents buying property on our island with little interest in our community other than its location and wonderful amenities. I believe that it is important that we make decisions that support our current residents' ability to continue to live here. I personally know several families that have been forced to move because of the growing cost of rentals.

Some benefits that result from permitting ADUs are

- Increased tax revenue
- Income for homeowners on fixed incomes (retirees) to help mitigate inflationary pricing
- Job opportunities and continued work for established contractors
- Establishes an incremental approach to adding affordable housing rather than other options, such as multi-story apartment buildings
- Supports sustainment of public education enrollments and employment (summer residents do not send their children to our schools)

And I need to ask, how are ADUs any different from building apartments above a detached garage? I believe that little debate is needed to come to a decision to approve ADUs in a

timely manner. I can think of no disadvantage especially with zoning restrictions ensuring that ADUs will not contribute to over-developing our town.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and opinions when making your decision about ADUs.

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