

April 22, 2024

To: Planning and Zoning Subcommittee concerning proposed regulation changes regarding ADUs and multi-family housing.

Thank you for your time and effort spent addressing Columbia's zoning regulations. Your recommendations thus far seem reasonable but, more importantly, doable.

As a twelve-year member of the Columbia Commission on Aging, I am thrilled to see that the Planning and Zoning Commission is addressing the housing needs of adults and seniors who wish to age in place, in the town that has been called "my hometown" for most of their lives.

Affordable senior housing was recognized as an important need by the Commission on Aging at least 20 years ago. Concerns were brought to the attention of the Town on numerous occasions. At last, progress is being made. Over the years, strides have been made on floorplans for ADA accessible housing units, particularly ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units.)

Residents wishing to "age in place" or live in their hometown as adults may be single, two unrelated adults needing to share a housing option, a disabled adult with a caregiver, or a married couple. Unexpected medical conditions (ie broken bones or replacements) could require a short term live in assistant. A living arrangement that provides adequate square footage for a two-bedroom ADU often is a necessity.

I reviewed several floor plans for ADA 2-bedroom apartments and the magic number seems to be **800 sq. ft.** I respectfully request that you consider increasing your proposed sq. footage to 800 square feet.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your service to all residents of Columbia.

--Millie K. Ramsey