

From: [David Ackos](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Comments for 1-4 Housing Study - Public Hearing 1-12
Date: Monday, January 10, 2022 11:50:33 AM

Greetings, Council:

My name is David Ackos, and I am a homeowner and organizer in Saint Paul. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendments stemming from Phase One of the 1-4 unit infill study. I believe that they will be a step in the right direction towards housing justice because they will help make housing more affordable, make it easier for normal people to participate in the development process, and help me live a more environmentally friendly and walkable urban life. Personally, I hope to build an ADU and create a Mother-in-Law apartment for my parents and brother. Unfortunately, under the current laws I could not fit an ADU on my plot with setback requirements, and if I were to invest in building a beautiful small home or second unit as a MIL apartment, I would need to tear them down before selling them, losing all the effort I would put in to make our city more beautiful and house more people.

I also want to urge you to go much further in Phase Two of the 1-4 unit infill study later this year, by legalizing duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhomes, cluster developments, and other Missing Middle Housing options in all residential areas of the city, removing barriers that prevent regular people from participating in development and building community wealth. Amending zoning rules to allow people to convert existing homes into multiple dwellings will help me, and many of the homeowners I know, to share their housing with family and friends in a way that's comfortable. St Paul is full of huge houses that individuals can't afford to maintain. I believe that making it easier to build more housing, subdivide housing, and build on smaller plots is one of many policy solutions we will need to achieve more racial and economic justice. Finally, I urge the council to put funds in place to support low income renters and homeowners, especially people of color, and especially on the disinvested North End and East Side. The city must support low income residents and residents of color to make the most of more affordable building options and to finance multigenerational housing and small home development to build equity and start to undo decades of housing discrimination and a massive racial wealth gap.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
David Ackos, resident and community organizer

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