Resolution 2021-17

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT OF GIRDWOOD CODE REGARDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUS)

WHEREAS, over several years many individuals and business owners have discussed the issue of lack of achieveable housing at Girdwood public meetings as well as in less formal public settings, and have requested action on the part of local government to help solve this problem; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Housing Working Group was established in 2018 to review the housing situation and seek solutions to make more achieveable housing options available in Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, one of the successful efforts in other resort towns and in the Municipality of Anchorage has been changing code to loosen restrictions to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUS); and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to AMC 21.09.050C.2 have been discussed for months at the Housing Working Group, have been vetted with the Sightline Institute, experts in the field who have worked on similar projects throughout the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Working Group has reviewed and discarded or modified some suggestions based on circumstances specific to Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, adjustment to Girdwood ADU code is expected to bring about approximately 10 new dwellings per year on to the rental market, while also making existing ADUs legal under municipal code; and

WHEREAS, the community has discussed the changes in population density and the impact of more people housed in the community and generally believes that the negative impacts are outweighed by the need to expand housing opportunities to those who live and raise families here and are integral to our community’s future; and

WHEREAS, after reconsideration and discussion, the Girdwood Land Use Committee supported this request by a vote of 16 in favor, 2 opposed and 4 abstaining.

THEREFORE, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors resolves support for amendment of AMC 21.09.050C.2 regarding Accessory Dwelling Units.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 3 to 2 this 19th day of July 2021.

Mike Edgington, Girdwood Land Use Committee Chair

Date 7/20/21

Attest