Coalition for
LIVABLE LEXINGTON

Dear Councilmembers,

The Coalition for a Livable Lexington is a coalition of organizations and community members uniting to make Lexington a sustainable, equitable city that houses all of our neighbors close to where they work and play. Organizations and people from various fields have aligned to support our shared goals, advocate for policy solutions, and educate our community on the benefits of building a more livable, accessible, and affordable Lexington.

As we work to meet the growing housing needs of our community while simultaneously building a more livable city, Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are one of the many tools we should add to Lexington's housing arsenal. In addition to creating more diverse and affordable housing options for all near existing infrastructure, services, jobs, and amenities, they provide necessary housing opportunities for our aging population close to existing friends and family.

Lexington is a city often found high on lists such as "Best Places to Retire," "Top Mid-Size Cities to Live," and "Best Cities for New Grads," and because of this positive recognition for it's high quality of life, Lexington continues to grow in population. Although this growth can be economically beneficial, rapid population increase without corresponding housing supply increases can intensify housing shortages, much like we are seeing in Lexington and other growing cities across the country. To accommodate growth, we have to change the way we think about housing options in our community, and create opportunities that increase liveability, accessibility, and affordability for all.

ADUs, while not the only solution to our housing challenges, are a small, low impact measure that our city can take to help add desperately needed housing. ADUs add housing options to existing neighborhoods while not requiring significant increases in services and without a significant change to the neighborhood's character. This allows people to downsize but still stay in their neighborhood, allows young adults or the elderly to live near family but still independently, and gives people a housing choice that is affordable, accessible, and one that isn't a single family detached house or an apartment in a massive complex. Additionally, allowing ADUs can provide supplemental income to afford homeowners the opportunity to live in a neighborhood that they would otherwise be priced out of or stay in a neighborhood that they may be priced out of due to increasing property values.

ADUs also help us work toward a more livable and thriving Age Friendly Community. Allowing ADUs will assist in providing housing alternatives for those who wish to age-in-place by staying in their current homes and neighborhoods. They provide the option for family members or

caregivers to better assist their aging loved ones by living in close proximity. Now more than ever, the pandemic has emphasized the importance of having the option to keep aging loved ones living close by, which helps battle feelings of isolation, loneliness, depression, and anxiety. ADUs would also allow a person needing to quarantine the ability to stay close to home and family without putting others at risk.

ADUs are not a threat to homeowners, neighborhoods, or our city as a whole and portraying them that way does a disservice to all those who would benefit from having this option. Instead, we view ADUs as an opportunity for our city to provide homeowners with a choice. To meet our housing needs, our community members need more housing choices, at more price points, near where they already live, work, and play. ADUs are just one tool, but an important one, for our city to provide for a more liveable community for all. Based on the above, we ask for this Committee's support in approving the ADU ZOTA and sending it to the full Urban County Council.

Sincerely,
The Coalition for a Livable Lexington

Age Friendly Lexington
Fayette Alliance
Lexington Community Land Trust
Lexington Fair Housing Council
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission
Lexington United for Livability
REACH