

## **Testimony in favor of the Zoning Ordinance Text for ADUs**

My name is Elias Estabrook and I live at 106 Newhall Street in New Haven.

I am submitting this testimony in support of the proposed ADU ordinance. I think it makes sense for the City to make it more feasible for ADUs to be created in residential neighborhoods. When I read about the advantages of ADUs in other cities and towns, I think these advantages would help to address our affordable housing challenges in New Haven.

According to the AARP, ADUs often represent the only affordable rental choices in single-family neighborhoods, which typically contain no studio or one- bedroom housing options at all. We have several New Haven neighborhoods that are predominantly single-family and we have certain blocks that are primarily single-family in neighborhoods with mixed housing stock.

I have benefitted from the affordability of a small dwelling unit. I lived alone in a New Haven apartment that was about 400 square feet, and the space served all of my needs. It gave me the privacy of my own space while I did not have the income to afford most of the larger one- and two-bedroom apartments on the market without being cost-burdened by my rent.

I know a few young adults in New Haven who could also benefit from a basement ADU or other type of ADU. I also know middle-aged and elderly adults who now have a lot of space, might want to downsize, and could use additional income to make ends meet while remaining tied to their New Haven community.

I think our City should pass this proposed ordinance amendment so people of all ages can see more opportunities to live in ADUs in New Haven. ADUs are one among many tools our City can implement to develop more affordable housing options wherever we can.