

**LAND USE AMENDMENT  
SIGNAL HILL (WARD 6)  
SIERRA MORENA CLOSE SW AND SIERRA MORENA PLACE  
SW  
BYLAW 284D2017**

**MAP 2W**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This land use amendment application seeks to redesignate a single residential parcel from a Residential – Contextual One Dwelling (R-C1) District to a Residential – Contextual One Dwelling (R-C1s) District to allow for either a Secondary Suite or a Backyard Suite as an additional use. The site contains an existing single detached dwelling. To Administration's knowledge there is not an existing suite located on the parcel and the application was not submitted as a result of a complaint.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

On 2013 September 16, Council directed Administration to remove fees associated with land use amendment and development permit applications for secondary suites to encourage the development of legal and safe secondary suites throughout the city.

**ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2017 July 13

That Calgary Planning Commission recommends **APPROVAL** of the proposed Land Use Amendment.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) OF THE CALGARY PLANNING COMMISSION**

That Council hold a Public Hearing on Bylaw 284D2017; and

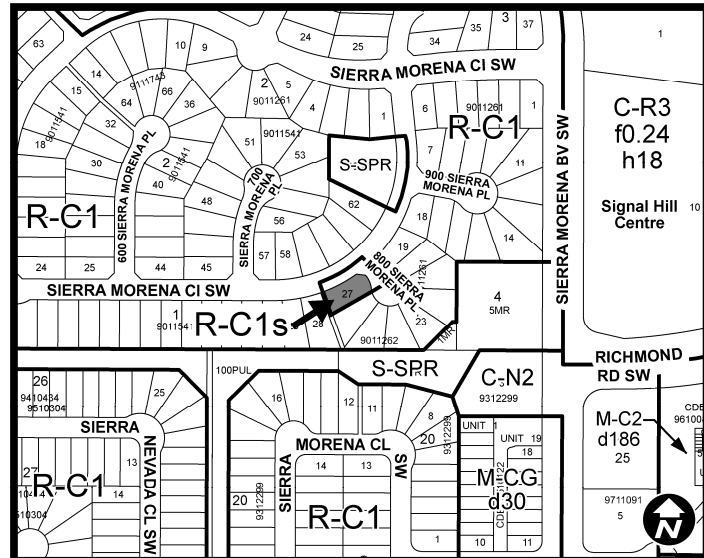
1. **ADOPT** the proposed redesignation of 0.05 hectares  $\pm$  (0.13 acres  $\pm$ ) located at 804 Sierra Morena Place SW (Plan 9011261, Block 1, Lot 27) from Residential – Contextual One Dwelling (R-C1) District to Residential – Contextual One Dwelling (R-C1s) District, in accordance with Administration's recommendation; and
2. Give three readings to the proposed Bylaw 284D2017.

**REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed R-C1s district, which allows for one of two forms of secondary suite uses (Secondary Suite or Backyard Suite), is compatible with and complementary to the established character of the community. The proposal conforms to relevant policies of the Municipal Development Plan and will allow for development that has the ability to meet the intent of Land Use Bylaw 1P2007.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Bylaw 284D2017
2. Public Submissions

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**ADMINISTRATIONS RECOMMENDATION TO CALGARY PLANNING COMMISSION**

Recommend that Council **ADOPT**, by bylaw, the proposed redesignation of 0.05 hectares  $\pm$  (0.13 acres  $\pm$ ) located at 804 Sierra Morena Place SW (Plan 9011261, Block 1, Lot 27) from Residential – Contextual One Dwelling (R-C1) District **to** Residential – Contextual One Dwelling (R-C1s) District.

**Moved by: R. Wright**

**Carried: 6 – 0**

Comments from Mr. Wright:

- I found the citizen comments are disturbing and appear to not be accurate. This may be an ideal opportunity to talk to the community in a form of tactical engagement and provide real information related to impacts of secondary suites.

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**Applicant:**

Somayyeh Ahanchi

**Landowner:**

Somayyeh Ahanchi  
Mehrzad Chashm Khavari

**SITE CONTEXT**

Located in a low density residential R-C1 setting in the community of Signal Hill, the site is approximately 17 metres by 33 metres in size and is developed with a two-storey single detached dwelling and an attached two-car garage that is accessed from 800 Sierra Morena Place SW. Single detached dwellings exist to the north, east, south, and west of the site.

According to data from The City of Calgary 2016 Census, the following table identifies Signal Hill peak population and year, current population and the population amount and percentage difference between the peak and current populations if any.

| <b>Signal Hill</b>                 |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Peak Population Year               | 2005   |
| Peak Population                    | 14,117 |
| 2016 Current Population            | 13,616 |
| Difference in Population (Number)  | -501   |
| Difference in Population (Percent) | -4%    |

**LAND USE DISTRICTS**

The proposed R-C1s district allows for an additional dwelling unit (either a permitted use Secondary Suite or a discretionary use Backyard Suite) on parcels that contain a single detached dwelling.

Approval of this land use application allows for an additional dwelling unit (either a Secondary Suite or Backyard Suite) to be considered via the development permit process. A development permit is not required if a Secondary Suite conforms to all Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 rules – only a building permit would be required.

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**LEGISLATION & POLICY**

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (2014)

The site is located within the “City, Town” area as identified on Schedule C: South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Map in the *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan* (SSRP). The SSRP makes no specific reference to this site. The land use proposal is consistent with the SSRP policies including the Land Use Patterns policies (subsection 8.14).

Municipal Development Plan (2009)

The site is located within a “Residential Developed – Established Area” on the Urban Structure Map (Map 1) in the *Municipal Development Plan* (MDP). While the MDP makes no specific reference to this site, this land use proposal is consistent with MDP policies including the Developed Residential Areas policies (subsection 3.5.1), the Neighbourhood Infill and Redevelopment policies (subsection 2.2.5), and the Housing Diversity and Choice policies (subsection 2.3.1).

**TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS**

Pedestrian and vehicular access to the site is available from 800 Sierra Morena Place SW and there is no rear lane. The area is served by Calgary Transit bus service with a bus stop location within approximately 300 metre walking distance of the site on Sierra Morena Boulevard SW. On-street parking adjacent to the site is unregulated.

**UTILITIES & SERVICING**

Water, sanitary, and sewer services are available and can accommodate the potential addition of a Secondary Suite without the need for off-site improvements at this time. Adjustments to on-site servicing may be required if a Backyard Suite is proposed at the development permit stage.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

An Environmental Site Assessment was not required.

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

This land use amendment proposal does not require additional capital infrastructure investment, and therefore no growth management concerns have been identified at this time. The proposal is in alignment with MDP references associated with growth management matters.

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**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

**Community Association Comments**

Administration did not receive a response from the Signal Hill Community Association.

**Citizen Comments**

Administration received twelve (12) letters in opposition to the application.

Reasons stated for opposition are summarized as follows:

- Potential negative impact on property values.
- Parking concerns in the cul-de-sac which is presently full.
- Secondary suite could be used as rental at some point and this single family neighbourhood would become transient and less safe.

**Public Meetings**

No public meetings were held by the Applicant or Administration.

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**APPENDIX I**

**APPLICANT'S SUBMISSION**

Reasons for making application for Land Use Redesignation:

My husband and I have plan to have a baby next year. I would like to complete my basement as a mother-in-law suite then I can ask my mom to be with me and feel comfortable which I believe she can support me effectively before and after pregnancy and will have a very positive impact on my emotional well-being.

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## APPENDIX II

### IMPORTANT TERMS

While there are specific Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 definitions and development rules for Secondary Suite and Backyard Suite uses, the following information is provided to simply and enhance general understanding of these two different uses (Secondary Suite or Backyard Suite).

### Important terms

**Secondary suite:** A self-contained dwelling unit within the main residence that has separate living, cooking, sleeping and bathroom facilities. These are commonly referred to as basement suites or in-law suites.



**Backyard suite:** A self-contained dwelling unit in a detached building that has separate living, cooking, sleeping and bathroom facilities. These are commonly referred to as garage suites, garden suites, or laneway homes.

