

## Previous Council Direction and Background

### Previous Council Direction

The Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Urban Development received the “Secondary Suites Amnesty Period Extension PUD2020-0407” report on 2020 April 1 and subsequently to the 2020 April 6 Combined Meeting of Council as Urgent Business. The recommendations were approved as follows:

1. Approve through to 2021 December 31 a continuation of the secondary suite amnesty program, and correspondingly adopt by resolution the 2020 fee changes in Attachment 1, and 2021 fee changes in Attachment 2; and
2. Include with Council’s 2022 budget considerations a recommendation regarding whether the secondary suite amnesty program, and waived fees to support the program, should continue after 2021.

### Background

#### Secondary Suite Registry

The Secondary Suite Registry is an online, searchable list identifying legal and safe secondary suites in Calgary. These suites have been registered and inspected to meet the Land Use Bylaw and Alberta’s safety code requirements. The registry aims to build awareness with Calgarians about the importance of public safety and the safety features of a legal secondary suite. Suites that have been inspected by The City and meet the safety code requirements provide the necessary measures to help protect lives. Registered secondary suites are listed on The City’s website and receive a numbered sticker that is posted at the main entrance of the suite to promote that their suite is legal and safe to current and future residents.

#### Amnesty

The Secondary Suite Amnesty Program was adopted by Council in March 2018 for a two-year period. This was to encourage the conversion of as many legal and safe suites as possible by making it easier for suite owners to comply with the Land Use Bylaw and the Alberta safety codes. The amnesty provided illegal suite owners with the incentive to voluntarily legalize by:

- waiving the development permit fees for all existing and proposed suites.
- waiving the Secondary Suite Registry fee as enforcing this newly created fee may discourage owners from legalizing and would unfairly add a fee to those who were already on the registry.
- not prosecuting a suite owner for not being registered.

In April 2020, Council approved the extension of the amnesty period until the end of December 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on suite owners, as they were facing challenges with completing the work required to make their suites safe.

Suite legalization process

