Background and Previous Council Direction

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2018 March 12	C2018-0128	Secondary Suite Process Reform Council approved the mandatory registration of a secondary suite as per the Suite Registry Bylaw 11M2018. At that same Council meeting, Administration was directed to draft amendments to the Registry Bylaw which included the removal of a suite from the Registry after a period of five years or when property title changes, unless the suite is reregistered.
2018 June 25	PUD2018-0782	Secondary Suite Registry Bylaw Amendments Council gave three readings to Bylaw 32M2018 to amend Bylaw 11M2018 to require a registration renewal every five years.

Background

The Secondary Suite Registry was created in 2015 as a voluntary Registry. June 2018 Council voted to make the registry mandatory for all operational suites in Calgary. Registered suites are listed on The City's website which is an online searchable tool 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. These suites have been permitted, inspected and registered to meet the Registry Bylaw, 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. It also provides a resource where Calgarians can verify if a suite has been inspected by The City and meets the safety requirements before signing a lease. An operational suite which is not on the registry is an illegal and likely unsafe suite. Unregistered suites are subject to enforcement through the Suite Registry Bylaw.

The Secondary Suite Program has successfully legalized and registered over 6500 pre-existing suites to date, with over 8400 suites currently on the registry. 8000 suites have been registered in the last four years since the registry became mandatory. The Suite Registry has played a major part in the success of the Secondary Suite Program, creating more safe and affordable housing options for Calgarians.

Suite legalization process

Development Permit

When required as per the Land Use Bylaw



Building Permit

All secondary suites require a building permit



Secondary Suite Registry

Once all building, trades, and development inspections are completed, the suite is listed on the Registry, and the identification sticker issued.

Process

- Submit application for review.
- If the suite meets the bylaw requirements and falls within the allowable discretion for relaxation, the permit will be approved.
- Once construction is complete a development inspection will take place to confirm compliance with the Land Use Bylaw.

Process

- Submit application for review.
- The permit is reviewed and issued with conditions of meeting the minimum life safety code requirements.
- Inspections performed and building permit completed if the suite is acceptable.
- Trade permits (eg. electrical, plumbing, gas, mechanical) and inspections may also be required.