

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

In the spring of 2018, The City of Calgary initiated a 'Secondary Suites Amnesty Program'. Rather than The City searching for illegal suites and enforcing requirements, a program was developed that encouraged property owners to approach The City voluntarily to legalize their suites. The amnesty program centered on an education-first approach, waiving development permit and registration fees and providing a Building Code interpretation.

An Advisory Bulletin on the Building Code interpretation for existing secondary suites was developed in spring 2018 and communicated to the public. Suites built prior to 2018 March must comply with the Building Code but, since they are considered existing, they are only required to meet four minimum life safety requirements:

- Proper egress window from bedrooms
- Interconnected, hard-wired smoke alarms
- Proper smoke separations between suites and common areas
- Proper egress to the exterior (stairwells with smoke separation, protection of exterior exit stairs, etc.)

Previous Council Direction

Amnesty Period timeline

