

Community Voice
Director of Development Services Mary Grace Pawson
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If building an in-law unit is on your holiday to-do list, you're in luck. We recently made it easier for residents to develop accessory dwelling units (ADUs)! We made some changes to the rules surrounding ADUs, and I would like to update you on what these changes mean for you.

An ADU is a small unit serving as an independent living space for one or more individuals on the property of a single-family residence. Homeowners can create ADUs by adding space to an existing home or creating a separate living space on their property. An ADU can be an apartment over a garage or a detached living space in your backyard. You can make some extra money by renting them out but cannot sell them as individual property.

A Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit (JADUs) is a converted living space that is part of a single family home. A JADU can be a converted garage that connects to your home and shares a bathroom with the main house. These units are perfect for your holiday guests!

ADUs and JADUs are becoming a popular solution for the affordable housing crisis in California. We have been working to address the new state laws that went into effect in January 2020. On Dec. 13, the City Council adopted changes to the Municipal Code to make the ADU development process easier and more cost-effective.

We are hoping this change is encouraging for residents. This gives our homeowners an opportunity to provide comfortable living spaces for family, guests, and tenants. You can even extend the holiday cheer into the new year by lending a helping hand to those looking for affordable housing options. ADUs give us all the chance to expand our neighborhood network and strengthen our sense of community.

You can learn more about ADUs and the permitting process by visiting our website at rpcity.org/ADU. Or contact the Development Services Department at (707) 588-2231.