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August 21, 2023

San Rafael City Council  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**RE: Response to Grand Jury - Build More ADUs (item 6.a)**

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,  
While we recognize that the City supports and facilitates Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs), we urge you to take to heart the spirit of the recent Grand Jury report and redouble efforts to ease and speed the process of building this important additional housing. These efforts include:

**Assisting homeowners wishing to construct ADUs.**

Continue work with Marin and adjacent counties to provide the information and resources needed (R1 & R3).

**Simplifying and streamlining ADU approvals**, and assuring that actual approvals occur within State timelines (R5).

**Creating additional incentives for ADUs** by quickly implementing the City's new Housing Element, with particular emphasis on incentives for affordable ADUs (R6).

ADUs provide a truly grassroots housing solution, with multiple co-benefits:

- Second units are affordable by design and size.
- They often can be built within the footprint and envelop of an existing structure, saving costs and reducing environmental impacts.
- The additional rent that ADUs provide owners often enables existing residents to remain in their homes and new families to afford to buy in San Rafael.
- ADUs may also provide housing for children who grew up in our community but cannot afford housing here.
- As owners age, the occupants of a second unit may help monitor the health and wellbeing of owners, allowing them to remain longer in their homes.

Thank you for recognizing the urgency of providing more affordable housing in San Rafael and the important role of ADUs in sustaining an economically diverse city.

Sincerely,

Linda Jackson,  
Vice President