

April 13, 2023

Council  
City of Guelph  
1 Carden St  
Guelph ON  
N1H 3A1

RE: AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 4.15 HOME OCCUPATIONS

Council;

We are writing in support of the proposed amendment to Bylaw 4.15 Home Occupation, permitting additional dwellings/accessory buildings to be used for Home Occupations.

By way of context, we are only aware of this needed amendment due to the experience of our neighbour, Ms J. Imrie, [REDACTED], who proceeded to build and use her accessory building in a manner she was advised by the City to be within the provisions of the existing Bylaw 4.15. This proved to be mistaken advice, and she stopped her varied activities in the accessory building at the direction of the City.

In this specific instance, while the building was in use for Ms Imrie's business, etc. We did not notice any problems with traffic or parking and experienced no inconvenience because of her business activities. Nor have we heard from other neighbours anything to the contrary.

The amendment does not revolve around this once specific instance, but it does shine light on the need to update the bylaw so that Home Occupations be allowed in accessory building or additional dwellings as they are in the main homes. We support the amendment for three basic reasons:

1. The bylaw without this amendment is out of step with the focus coming to bear on urban sprawl and municipalities being mandated to increasing infilling and densities within city limits rather than expand limits;
2. It is inconsistent to permit in-home business but not accessory building businesses. It is inconsistent to permit nanny suites in homes, but not in additional dwellings. There are a significant number of in-home businesses in Guelph and some in our neighborhood. These have been around for decades and decades and are part of the fabric of any city. Updating and modernizing the bylaw in question is simply another step in the growth of a modern city like ours; and,
3. It is illogical to not amend the bylaw. Notwithstanding some difficulty from time-to-time, in-home businesses, apartments, etc. have presented no unresolvable issues for years and years in Guelph, given the bylaw that governs Home Occupation. There really seems no strong rationale nor logic-driven reason to believe that anything different should be expected with permitting business and other uses of accessory buildings and additional dwellings.

Boyd  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

It is interesting to us that this one example brought to light an easily-made error in interpretation by the city officials. And thankfully it did just that. Updating Bylaw 4.15 Home Occupation is a consistent step in the path the City of Guelph is carving out for itself and the future of its residents. In plain terms, the updating of the bylaw, in our view, for the reasons above, should proceed to be approved at your meeting of April 18, 2023. We anticipate and look forward to the passing of the proposed amendment, as proposed by City staff.

Respectfully submitted;



Phil and Marian Boyd

cc: Mayor Guthrie  
Counselor Goller  
Counselor Klassen

Boyd

