

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** JED Olson <ibjed@hotmail.com>  
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**Subject:** ADU input - Jed Olson - nonresident

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Council Members.

My wife and I got our start 20 years ago in a backyard ADU. We had moved to an area that had a housing shortage. We did not have rental histories and were coming from out of state. Although we were a young, energetic, educated, and driven couple we struggled to find housing and because we did not have an address we struggled with employment. I could not sub in local schools and lost out on several long term job opportunities in schools simply because of the stigma of applying without a local address (conveyed to me later by principals who got to know me and wished they had not overlooked me for the position in their school).

The answer to this issue came in the form of an individual landlord who was renting an ADU carved out of a garage stall in her back yard. Alice was an 84 year old widow who wanted to stay in her own home, but was being priced out because of rising taxes and the early 2000's West Coast real estate market. She became our first friend in McKinleyville, California. Her family lived 2 hours away and was thrilled to have us living so close, but still kept her privacy and independence of her own home. This solution was great for the owner, renter, and greater community as my wife and I quickly established ourselves as young community leaders in education and healthcare. Since that day, we have dreamed of retiring with an awesome young couple living in our back yard.

Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADU's) are a great way to make room for affordable housing, allow families flexibility in housing young or old adults, allow home owners the chance to diversify income sources, allow older adults to stay in their neighborhood while downsizing housing options, allow the little guys like you and me to participate in real estate investing on a human scale, and help our community thrive. If we want to solve the issues of our community, ADUs definitely have a place at the table.

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