

Greetings,

My name is Adriana Lopez, and I am the President of Valverde Neighborhood Association. I am writing with written comments to show my support of Councilmember Clark's proposed rezoning to allow for the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Athmar Park and Valverde neighborhoods in Council District 7.

The rezonings to allow ADUs are the results of over a two-year community-led effort to increase housing options, while preserving the integrity and character of the neighborhood. One of the big ideas that came from the community in the West Area Plan was to explore the option to allow ADUs in Valverde. The West Area Plan did extensive outreach with the community to develop a long-term plan to guide future development. Additionally, both Athmar and Valverde RNOs shared a community survey through newsletters and social media that were shared broadly, and launched a committee to explore the possibility of ADUs in the neighborhoods. Survey results showed overwhelming (over 80%) support for allowing ADUs in the neighborhood. Some of the reasons behind the support included:

- Having the option to construct an ADU would add light density, without dramatically changing the look and feel of the area.
- The desire to add more housing options for all ages.
- As with many parts of Denver, both Athmar and Valverde are increasingly vulnerable to gentrification, and would like to keep families that have lived in these areas for generations another feasible way to stay in their home.
- As a separate living space, ADUs provide more independence for the person living in them, such as seniors who want to downsize or a college student who desires more affordable rent.
- ADUs can provide extra income to stabilize the community and help homeowners stay in place.
- The primary home of an ADU is owner-occupied, which would protect against any potential disturbances like loud parties as the owner would be invested and nearby to address issues immediately.
- The West Denver Renaissance Program, which provides affordable options to construct ADUs in Valverde and Athmar, is already operating, has done extensive outreach and education in the community on ADUs, and provides financial assistance and a support team to help all income levels build ADUs.

I believe allowing ADUs in Valverde and Athmar will allow the neighborhoods to change and grow while expanding affordable housing options in our city and allow more people to live in our wonderful neighborhood. Please vote in favor of the rezoning to allow ADUs in Valverde and Athmar.

Thank you so much,

Adriana Lopez
Valverde Neighborhood Association President