**ADUs (Accessary Dwelling Units) for 2020 and Beyond**

2020 is just around the corner and the batch of new State Bills concerning accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that became State Government Code 65852.2 becomes law. The developers, builders and financial people have been hard at work lobbying our State Representatives to do their work for them. Our very own elected representatives have sponsored some of the bills that will take local decision making out of our city’s hands.

SB13, AB68, AB670 and AB881 will become effective January 1, 2020. These bills have been used to write Section 65852.2 of the State of California Government Code.

Of particular interest is a letter received by the City of Berkeley Agenda & Rules Committee of our City Council. A group that calls itself CALIFORNIANS FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP (CFH) sent a letter threatening to sue the City if the City Council attempts to make any conditions pertaining to the new ADU legislation that CFH sees as restricting the issuance of a permit to construct or restricting the design of an ADU.

CFH’s mission states “Keep Local Anti-Housing Policies in Check Through Investigation, Litigation and Education”.

Nothing is said about working together to find solutions to the housing problems we have, it is only build – build – build. If only we could build so that everyone’s issues are taken into consideration, not just dismissed.

This organization (CFH) is located in Los Angeles and is probably a front for developers. Their apparent charge is to build up all of the neighborhoods without consideration of the impacts it may have nor any suggestions about how the neighborhoods can remain livable. One has to ask themselves, why is a Los Angeles organization trying to intimidate the Berkeley City Council? Are there ties to local development groups?

BNC is not against development nor the new ADU law. If everyone would follow the rules, many of our concerns would be taken care of. The experience has been that the developers want everything their way, no matter what it does to a neighbor, neighborhood, or the City as a whole.

We hope the City Council and our Planning Department will do their part and follow the rules and laws before them. Changing them to fit the needs of a development is not fair to anyone.

Here are links to the [State of California Government Code 65852.2](https://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Revised-ADU-Law.pdf) and a summary of the State [ADU Bills](https://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ADU-Bills.docx) that created it - effective January 1, 2020, a copy of the CFH’s letter ([Californians-Letter-to-Agenda-and-Rules-Committee](https://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-11-24-Californians-Letter-to-Agenda-and-Rules-Committee.pdf)) and two other documents they have sent the City of Berkeley Agenda & Rules Committee ([CFH Mission](https://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Californians-for-Homeownership-Our-Mission.docx) and [CFH's Summary of Revised ADU Laws](https://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Summary-of-Revised-ADU-Laws.pdf)). These can all also be found in the Archived Documents section of our website.

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