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June 29, 2020

Denver City Council  
City and County Building  
1437 Bannock St., Rm. 451  
Denver, CO 80202

## RE: Group Living Advisory Committee Recommendations

Dear Honorable Members of Denver City Council:

**Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) is committed to keeping our neighborhoods vibrant, accessible places to live.** We are proud of Capitol Hill's rich history of being a welcoming, inclusive home, and our organization is committed to supporting efforts that bolster equity and support our diverse community. This includes providing housing solutions through public policy, issue advocacy, and direct services that result in home affordability.

In August 2019, CHUN unanimously passed a diversity and inclusion statement committing to supporting diversity across all lines of difference including but not limited to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status, class or economic background, and housing status. **As Denver's largest and oldest registered neighborhood organization, we feel it is time to address and correct the decades-long discrimination that still exists in our zoning and housing policies.**<sup>1</sup> As such, we believe that current restrictions limiting people who are not related by blood or marriage is outdated, unnecessarily restrictive, and discriminatory.

We acknowledge that the current zoning code was designed to preserve single family homeowners and preserve an exclusive class structure that disproportionately affected people of color<sup>2</sup> as well other historically marginalized communities like the LGBTQ+ population, seniors, et al. **We support an increase to the number of unrelated people allowed to live together, as the current legal limit of two unrelated individuals is a relic of Denver's past and, to this day, unnecessarily limits affordable living options.**

We believe that the proposed Group Living Zoning Code Amendments are a much-needed update to our code and will assist in creating more safe, accessible, diverse places for people to live within CHUN's geographic boundaries and our beloved City. Moreover, we support the

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<sup>1</sup> ["How can we see redlining's lasting impacts on Denver?"](#) *Denverite.com*, October 24, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> ["Denver built its neighborhoods around racist housing policies. But "neighborhood defenders" refuse change."](#) *Denver Post*, June 13, 2020.

categorization of residential care and group living homes by size rather than the type of facility or services being provided, to advance people’s ability to live in places accessible to transit, jobs, and other community-based services.

We urge responsible City officials—including members of the Denver City Council and Denver Planning Board—to respond to the many community-identified problems with current rules and adopt the proposed slate of updates to Denver Zoning Code’s residential use regulations.

Sincerely,



Travis Leiker, MPA  
President | Board of Delegates  
Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Inc.

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### **BOARD VOTE SUMMARY & APPROVAL**

On Thursday, June 18, 2020, the Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled board meeting. Dmitrii Zavorotny moved to adopt the letter of support for the proposed Group Living Advisory Code changes as drafted by the CHUN Urban Planning Committee; the motion was seconded by James LaRue.

- **Votes favoring the motion: 26**
- **Votes opposing the motion: 2**
- **Votes abstain from taking a position: 1**
- **No Votes: 6**