



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 24, 2026

Scott Bruton
Director

DEGU TIBEBU MEKURIA
322 WOONSOCKETT LN
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905

PRELIMINARY INSPECTION REPORT
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)
ADU address: 322 WOONSOCKETT LN
Pending License #: 158270
Housing Code Case #: 196329

Dear DEGU TIBEBU MEKURIA:

The preliminary inspection for the ADU licensing and registration was conducted on **February 19, 2026**. The required Licensing Pending ADU sign was posted on the front yard and visible to the public. The existing ADU is located in the basement with the entrance door on the rear of the property. The on-site parking measured 360 square feet. The property lot is not located within 1 mile of the Metrorail, Purple Line, or MARC Rail Station. The Principal Dwelling is approximately 1079 gross square feet, and the Accessory Dwelling Unit is approximately 520 gross square feet.

All applicable building permits must be obtained through Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and/or Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and finalized before DHCA can approve the license. All repairs, maintenance work, alterations, or installations shall be executed in a workmanlike manner and in compliance with all applicable codes. **Present this inspection report along with a copy of your stamped ADU drawing to DPS for any needed permits.**

The following requirements must be met for the ADU license to be approved:

1. The property must be occupied by the homeowner(s), who may reside in the principal dwelling or in the ADU. The ADU must have the same address as the main house.
2. The ADU may not be occupied by more than two adults (eighteen years or older) and total number of occupants must abide by the square footage limitations under Chapter 26 of the Montgomery County Code.
3. The ADU must be subordinate to the principal dwelling whether attached or detached and shall be the only additional living unit or residential use space on a lot or parcel. No other tenants, Airbnb's or short-term residential rentals are permitted.
4. Attached ADU – the maximum gross floor area is 1,200 square feet; if only the basement or cellar is used, the maximum gross floor area may equal the square footage of the

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- basement/cellar.
5. ADU located in finished basements or cellars must have a ceiling height of at least 6'8" except that a beam, girder, duct or other obstruction may project to within 6'4" of the finished floor. The minimum ceiling height for habitable spaces not located in the basement/cellar is at least 7 feet. (Exception for rooms with slopped ceilings where not less than 50 percent of the required floor area shall have a ceiling height of 7 feet).
 6. Above grade level ADU – must have a safe unobstructed means of escape leading to an open space at ground level; a unit door with exterior stairs leading to ground level with no obstructions.
 7. Detached ADU – Built prior to May 31, 2012
 - (a) that is not increased in size or building height and does not have new windows on a wall nearest to abutting property may be used for a detached ADU without regard to setbacks or floor area per ZTA 19-01).Detached ADU – Built after May 30, 2012
 - with a length along a rear or side lot line that is longer than 24 feet, the minimum side or rear setback must be increased at a ratio of 1 foot for every 1 foot that the dimension exceeds 24 linear feet. The additional rear setback is from a 12-foot setback as its starting point.
 - (b) the maximum gross floor area must be the least of 50% of the footprint of the principal dwelling; 10% of the lot area; or 1,200 square feet of gross floor area.
 8. **Onsite parking of at least 480 square feet, the minimum parking space for three vehicles, however, if a new driveway must be constructed for the ADU then a total of at least two on-site parking spaces must be provided.** On-site parking is not required if the property is located within 1 mile of Metrorail, Purple Line, or MARC Rail Station.
 9. Exterior light fixtures are required to provide adequate lighting for walkway to ADU and outside the ADU entrance door. Motion or photocell fixtures recommended. Exterior lighting shall be installed in a way that is directed away from the windows of adjacent homes.
 10. **Walkway path to ADU entrance door must be in good, serviceable, and safe condition.**
 11. Each owner of a dwelling unit shall have heating equipment capable of maintaining a temperature of at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit in each habitable room, bathroom, and water closet at a distance of 3 feet above floor level.
 12. The ADU must have a separate entrance located on the side or rear yard. An entrance at the front of the principal dwelling is allowed if it is a single entrance door for both the principal dwelling and the accessory unit. A front entrance solely for the ADU is allowed if it existed before May 20, 2013.
 13. **The entrance door shall be side-hinged and have a clear width of not less than 32 inches and a clear height of not less than 78 inches. A viewer must be installed in the entrance door, except for when a window, vision panel, or similar transparent device is located within 2 feet of the door and faces the external area in front of the door.**
 14. All doors and windows shall be installed and maintained with a locking mechanism. Entrance doors shall have a deadbolt lock with a minimum one-inch throw or other acceptable locking mechanism. The door locks shall operate with a key from the outside, and all window and door locks must operate by a thumb turn from the inside. **Screens are required on all windows.**
 15. Every sleeping room must have at least one operable outside window or exterior door

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- approved for emergency egress or rescue in accordance with the fire code. A window shall be at least 5 square feet of net clear opening for grade floor or below grade. Above grade windows shall be at least 5'7" square feet of net clear opening. The minimum height of the window opening must be at least 24 inches and the width at least 20 inches. The maximum height from the finished floor to the windowsill shall be not more than 44 inches.
16. Window well size for emergency escape and rescue opening shall be not less than 9 square feet, with a horizontal projection and width not less than 36 inches. Window well shall allow for the window to be fully opened and may require a drainage system and cover. If the vertical depth is greater than 44 inches, it shall be equipped with a permanent affixed ladder or steps usable with the window in the open position and the ladder shall encroach not more than 6 inches. If installed under a deck or porch, it shall provide a path of not less than 36 inches in height to a yard or court.
 17. A sleeping room cannot be installed in an area that is adjacent to a utility room containing fuel burning furnaces and/or water heaters that use the sleeping area for combustion air.
 18. Dwelling Units shall be separated from each other by wall and ceiling assemblies of finished interior drywall. If a door separates the main dwelling from the ADU, it shall have a locking device.
 19. Smoke alarm Maryland law requires the replacement of any battery-only alarms with new smoke alarms powered by a sealed-in, long-life battery. All electric and hard-wired smoke alarms must be replaced if over 10 years old; hard-wired alarms must remain hard-wired.
 20. Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside each sleeping area and on every level to include the basement in homes that contain any fuel burning equipment, wood burning appliance or have an enclosed attached garage.
 21. Stairs of four or more risers must have a handrail on at least one side. Handrails must have minimum height of 34 inches and a maximum height of not more than 38 inches as measured vertically from the nosing (outside portion of stair treads).
 22. Porches, balconies, decks or raised floor surfaces located more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below must have guardrails not less than 36 inches in height. Open sides of stairs must have a guardrail installed to prevent passage of an object four or more inches in diameter.
 23. ADU must contain a room or space with the following equipment and facilities to store, prepare, and cook food. **Cooking range (top burners and oven, at least 24 inches wide)**, storage cabinets, countertop space for food preparation, a standard-size refrigerator with freezer, sink connected to hot and cold running water, and approved sewer system installed and maintained as prescribed by applicable County and WSSC regulations.
 24. ADU must be equipped with a complete bathroom fixture group, consisting of a flush water closet, lavatory basin, and bathtub or shower in good working condition, connected to hot and cold running water, and approved sewer system **installed and maintained as prescribed by applicable County and WSSC regulations.**
 25. Every habitable room must have electric service and outlets or fixtures, or both. **Every cooking area must be supplied with two circuits rated for at least 20-amp service capacity. GFCI outlets in bathroom and kitchen as required by building code.**
 26. **Applicant shall provide copies of the finalized applicable building, electrical and plumbing permits from the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).** For more detailed information on DPS permit requirements and permit application guidance for ADUs, please visit

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<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/Resources/Files/RCI/ADUGuidelines.pdf> .

A re-inspection will be conducted on **August 26, 2026, at 01:00 PM**. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julia Thom

Housing Code Inspector III

(240) 777-3643

Julia.Thom@montgomerycountymd.gov

cc: DHCA Licensing and Registration

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