



Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance

CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING – 3/11/2025



Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance Update

QUICK FACTS

File Number

CODE-24-0006

Application Type

UDC Text Amendment

Decision Type

Legislative

Applicable Code

UDC provisions affected by the ordinance include: 7.2.101, 7.2.204, 7.2.205, 7.2.206, 7.2.207, 7.2.307, 7.2.605, 7.2.704, 7.3.201, 7.3.202, 7.3.304, 7.4.201, 7.4.203, 7.4.1003, 7.4.1006, 7.4.1011, 7.4.1404, 7.5.515, 7.6.206, and 7.6.301

Impact

City-wide

WHAT IS AN ADU?



Detached



Integrated



Attached



An accessory dwelling unit, usually called an ADU, is a secondary housing unit on a single-family residential lot. ADUs are also known as mother-in-law suites, granny flats or backyard cottages.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance Update



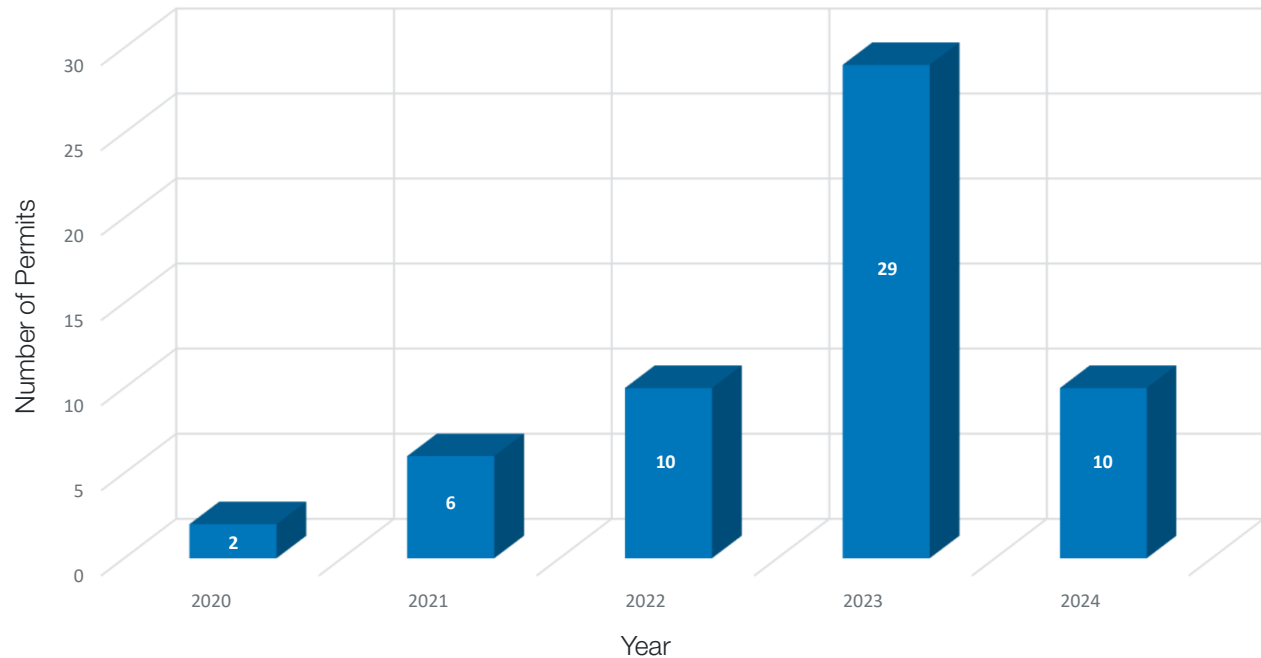
PROJECT SUMMARY

The ADU Ordinance is part of the City's PlanCOS implementation effort to ensure smart, equitable, and diversified housing solutions that allow our neighborhoods to grow in a way that is appropriate. While we update our ordinance to improve our local housing options, we also are aware that the state-mandated legislation recommends:

- the City allow ADUs in any location where a single-family detached home is permitted, and
- prohibits the City from enacting local laws that would unduly restrict ADUs.

QUICK FACTS

Permitted Accessory Dwelling Units



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ENGAGEMENT FACTS

Public participation process has been responsive to the desired ordinance development timeline and included:

Press Releases/Articles

Stakeholder Meetings

Open House

- 60+ Attendees

Community Survey

- 343 Respondents

Public Impute

- 50+ Written Comments
- Infavor and Opposition

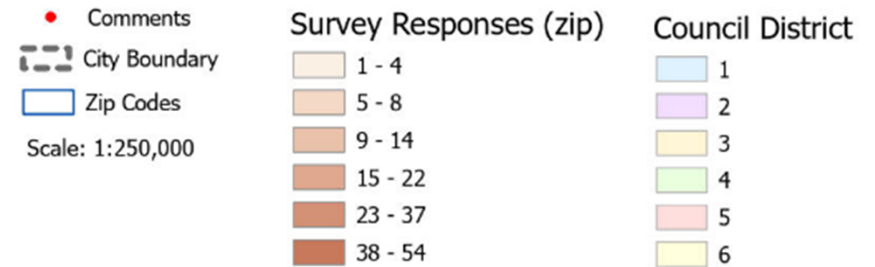
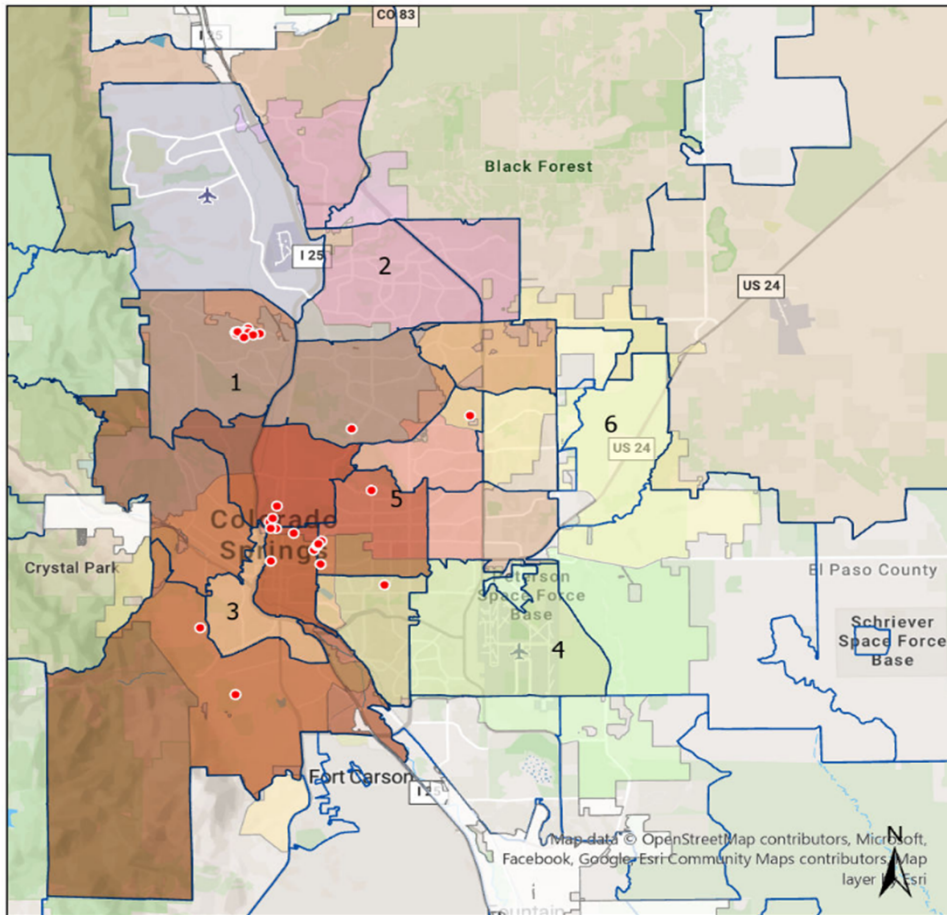
SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What is the maximum size new ADUs should be?
2. How many bedrooms should the ADU be allowed?
3. Should the ADU be attached to or detached from the home?
4. Where on the lot should the ADU be allowed to locate?
5. Should the ADU be allowed as an accessory use to other residential use types?
6. Should the ADU be allowed to also be a Short-Term Rental (STR)?
7. Any additional comments or ideas regarding ADUs for the City to consider?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

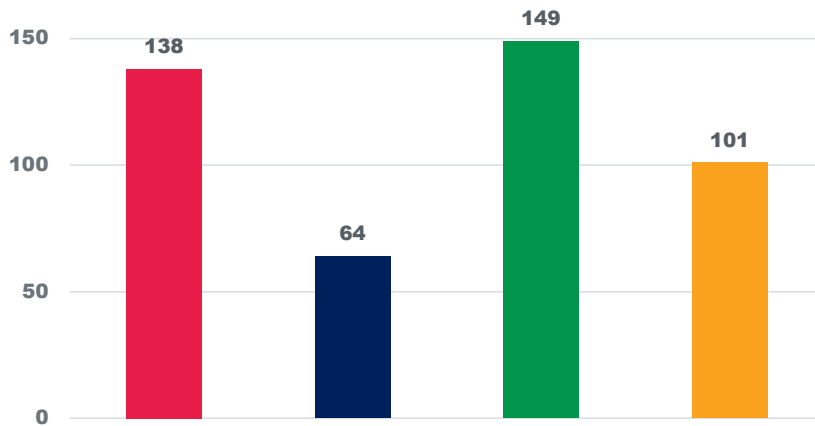
- Density
- Maximum Number of ADUs Allowed
- Design Compatibility
- Size
- Height
- Parking

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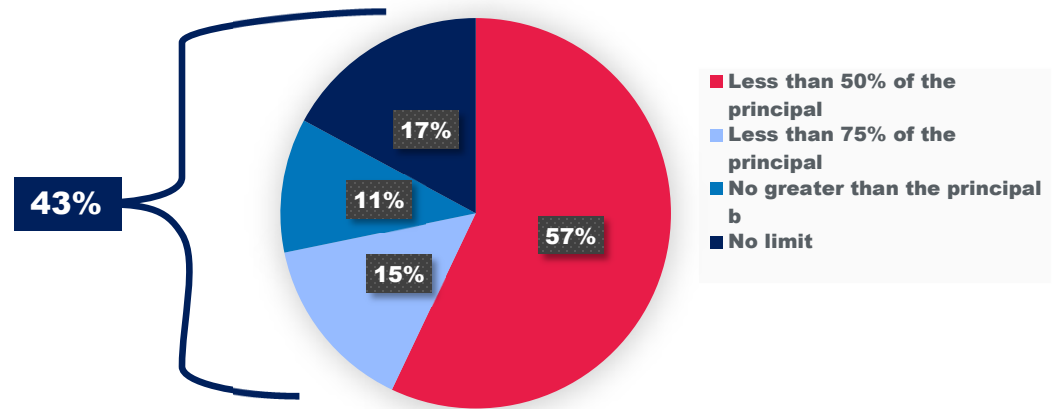
Analysis of Survey Questions

WHERE ON THE LOT SHOULD THE ADU BE ALLOWED TO LOCATE?



- Limited to rear yards
- Limited to side and rear yards
- Prohibited in front yards
- Within any yard if minimum setbacks are met

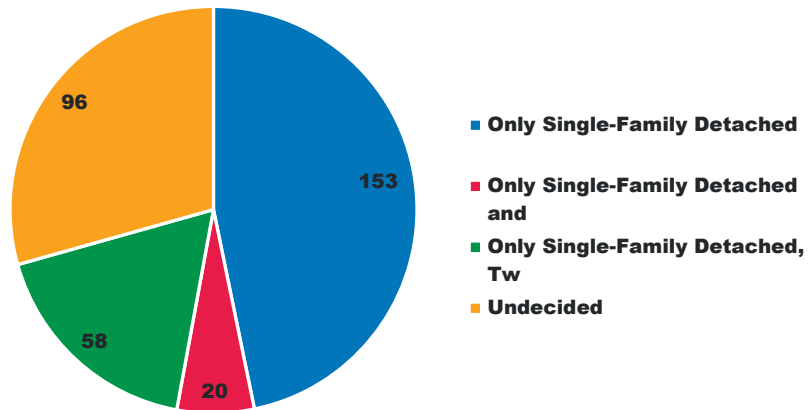
WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM SIZE NEW ADUS SHOULD BE?



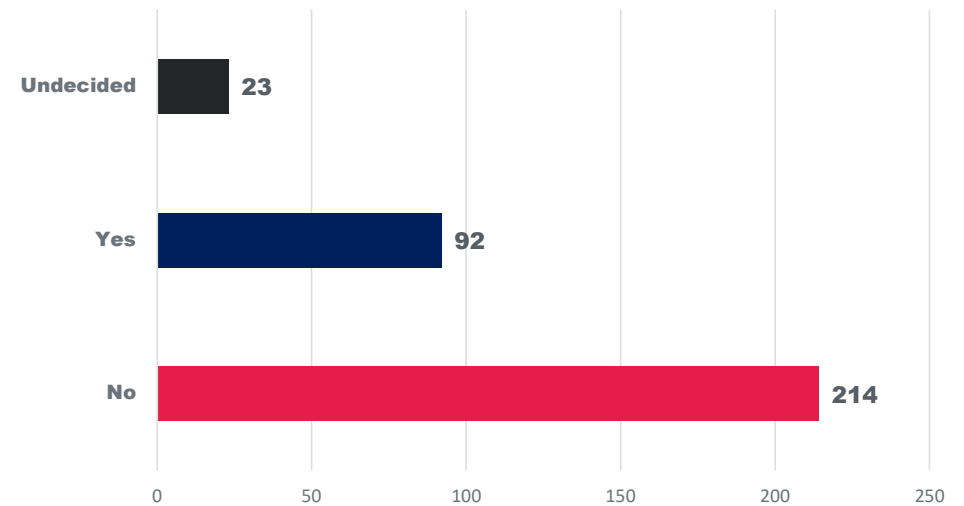
- Less than 50% of the principal
- Less than 75% of the principal
- No greater than the principal
- No limit

Analysis of Survey Questions

Should the ADU be allowed as an accessory use to other residential types?



Should the ADU be allowed to also be a short-term rental (STR)?



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HIGHLIGHTED PROPOSED CHANGES

Accessory Family Suites: The proposed ordinance eliminates the Accessory Family Suites (AFSs) regulations

ADU Types: Detached and attached (includes “integrated”) ADUs are permitted in all zone districts where a single-family detached unit is permitted

Owner Occupancy: Owner occupancy is no longer required, but an owner authorization requested at time of permitting

Design and Dimensional Standards:

- Multiple ADUs: No more than one (1) ADU per lot
- Size: The proposed maximum size of the ADU is limited to 50% percent of the primary structure or 1,250) square feet, whichever is less; except where the principal structure is less than 1,500 square feet, the maximum size of the accessory dwelling shall be 750 square feet.
- Setbacks:
 - The minimum yard setbacks for attached (includes “integrated”) ADUs are to be the same as the primary structure
 - The minimum side and rear yard setbacks for a detached ADUs are set at five (5) feet
- Building Height: The maximum height of an attached/integrated ADU shall not exceed the maximum building height for the principal building in the zone district and a detached ADU shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet regardless of roof type or pitch.
- Parking: No off-street parking for the ADU shall be required

Decision-Making Procedures: Allowances for Administrative Adjustments, which may be appealed, have been built in – No Non-Use Variance

Short-Term Rentals: Where an ADU is constructed, the principal structure, ADU and any other building on a property shall **not be used as a Short-Term Rental (STR)**.

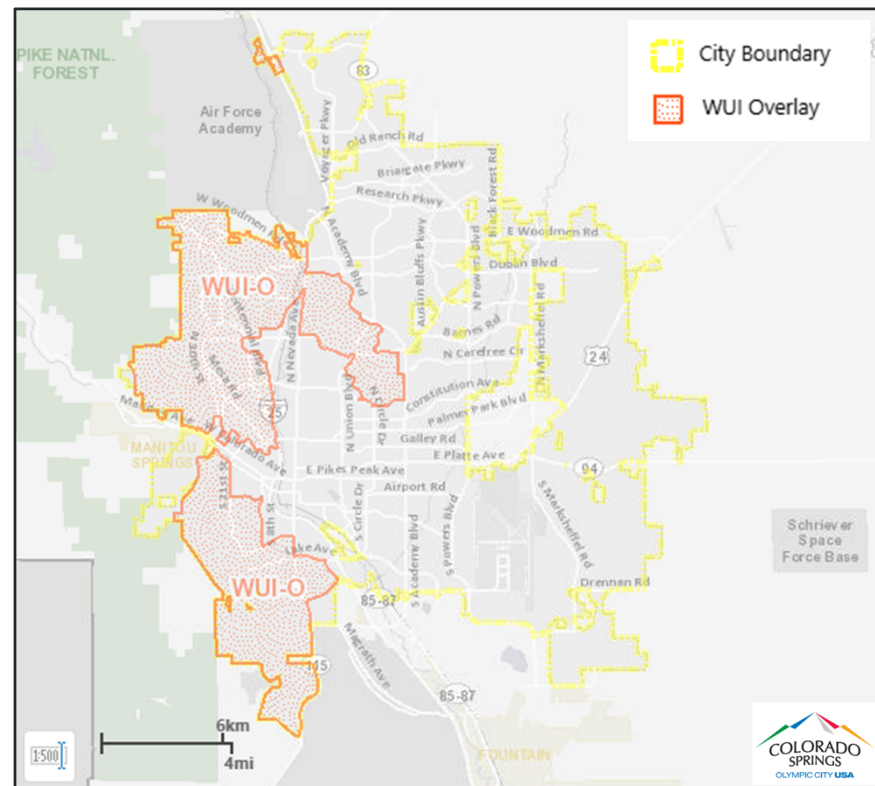
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Standard	Current Code	City Planning Commission	City Planning Staff
ALLOWABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attached and detached ADUs limited by zone district - No more than one (1) per lot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed in all zones where single-family home is permitted - Now more than one (1) per lot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed in all zones where single-family home is permitted - Now more than one (1) per lot
SIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to 50% of primary structure or 1,250 sq. ft. - If primary structure is less than 1,500 sq. ft. than limited to 750 sq. ft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to the gross floor area of principal structure - If principal structure is 1,500 sq. ft. or less, the size may not to exceed 1,500 sq. ft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited to 50% percent of the primary structure or 1,250) square feet, whichever is less; except where the principal structure is less than 1,500 square feet, the maximum size of the accessory dwelling shall be 750 square feet.
SETBACKS / YARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 ft side and rear, or 10 ft rear if ADU is above a garage - Front setback consistent with principal structure and no detached ADUs in front yards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Front and side setbacks shall not be greater than principal structure - 5 ft. rear setback - No detached ADUs in front yards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Front and side setbacks shall not be greater than principal structure - 5 ft. rear setback - No detached ADUs in front yards
HEIGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detached ADUs limited to 25 ft. with a flat roof or pitch less than 6:12; or 28 ft. if pitch greater than 6:12 - Attached ADUs follow principal structure standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detached ADUs limited to 25 ft. with a flat roof or pitch less than 6:12; or 28 ft. if pitch greater than 6:12 - Attached ADUs follow principal structure standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detached ADUs limited to 25 ft. regardless of roof type or pitch - Attached ADUs follow principal structure standard
PARKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum one (1) off-street parking space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No off-street parking space required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No off-street parking space required
DESIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In certain zones, attached ADUs followed architectural compatibility parameters (design, colors, and materials). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architectural compatibility (design, colors, and materials) evaluated for all ADUs regardless of zone district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architectural compatibility (design, colors, and materials) evaluated for all ADUs regardless of zone district

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WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE OVERLAY (WUI-O)

- ADU's are already allowed in the WUI.
- All new construction must meet the Fire Code, especially Schedule K which applies more rigid standards in the WUI-O.
- Landscaping and fuels management restrictions are also considered during building permit review today.
- If there is a need to create special restrictions in the WUI-O, then we will work on the WUI-O issue as a whole and change the ADU requirements accordingly.
- The State established Wildfire Resiliency Code Board is actively considering model wildfire resiliency codes.



APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

7.5.702 AMENDMENTS TO UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

Criteria for Approval

1. The Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan and other plans adopted by City Council.
2. The current conditions and character of current structures and uses in each zone district.
3. The most desirable use of land in each zone district.
4. The conservation of sensitive environmental features.
5. Promotion of responsible development and growth.

Statement of Compliance

CODE-24-0006

After evaluation of the UDC Text Amendment application for the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance the application meets the approval criteria as set forth under City Code Section 7.5.702.D Approval Considerations.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance Update



OPTIONAL MOTIONS

CODE-24-0006 – Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance

Should the City Council wish to approve the UDC Text Amendment application, the following motion is suggested:

Adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, as related to accessory dwelling units.

Should the City Council wish to deny the UDC Text Amendment application, the following motion is suggested.

Deny an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, as related to accessory dwelling units.



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIFFERING REGULATIONS

Administrative Decision-Making: Can allow for administrative relief or variance, just must be an administrative determination

Multiple ADUs: Allow for the development of more than one ADU

Design or Dimensional Standards:

- Size: A maximum or minimum size restriction may be imposed
- Front Yard Setback: ADUs may be allowed forward of a primary structure
- Building Height: A maximum or minimum building height restriction may be imposed
- Bedroom Limit: May impose a maximum or minimum number of bedrooms

Impact Fees: A municipality may impose the payment of fees or other development charges

Development Mitigation: The mitigation of development impacts (i.e., deficient sidewalk) in accordance with application requirements and standards

Short-Term Rental: Allows for local regulation of ADUs for use as Short-Term Rentals

Development Incentives:

- Deed Restrictions
- Affordable Housing with Income Limits or Workforce Housing

Utility Service Statement: A municipality may require a determination of service from local utility

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ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT SUPPORTIVE JURISDICTION

- Report Demonstrating evidence of compliance with HB-24-1152
- Enact one or more of the strategies listed below
- Certified Accessory Dwelling Supportive Jurisdictions Incentives:
 - Grants, Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance

SUPPORTIVE JURISDICTION IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Waive, reduce or provide financial assistance for ADU related fees
- Enact local regulations to incentive:
 - The affordability of ADUs used for workforce housing
 - The construction of accessible or visitable ADUs
- Provide pre-approved plans for construction
- Enact programs to education and provide technical assistance for homeowners to develop ADUs
- Allow for the ADUs to be used for Short Term Rentals
- Support existing ADUs to become compliant with newly enacted regulations
- Create a pathway for separate sale or ownership

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