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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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New Ordinance Allows Homeowners "Paver" Options For Driveways

Ordinance Offers Residents Ability to Reuse Old Bricks, Enhance Curb Appeal

The Common Council today approved a "green friendly" ordinance allowing the use of paving blocks and permeable paving for parking areas, said Ald. Robert J. Bauman, the legislation's primary sponsor.

Permeable paving materials are porous and provide a system for water to pass through while still providing a load-bearing quality. These environmentally friendly materials help with drainage in parking lots and home driveways and parking spaces. The ordinance allows for the public to make use of contemporary paving materials and blocks found at many local hardware and home building stores like Menards and Home Depot.

Combined with a resolution passed last September that enables the City of Milwaukee, rather than a contractor, to take ownership of recovered brick and paving materials from development projects, the ordinance now makes historic brick paving materials purchased through the city a viable option for driveway or home parking space remodeling.

In addition to the benefits offered homeowners who want to improve curb appeal, the ordinance grants the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) the authority to order property owners to abate parking surface nuisances like holes or ruts. "This allows and encourages homeowners to enhance their property and make use of the pieces of city history that are available. It's an environmentally sound approach to paving that encourages reuse and makes use of existing resources," said Ald. Bauman.

The Brewery project, located in Ald. Bauman's 4th Aldermanic District at the site of the former Pabst Brewery, is one of the city's largest brick recovery projects. According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), the city has already retained and stored thousands of bricks from work at the site.

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Paving Options/ADD ONE

Ald. Bauman said DPW plans to make the bricks available for public purchase sometime this spring. “By coordinating historic city materials and agencies like DPW, we’re able to allow homeowners to improve their properties, and improve driveways and parking areas using recycled materials in an environmentally-conscious manner,” he said.

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