One-stop city resource guide needed for home buyers, owners

A comprehensive guide detailing all City of Milwaukee-administered programs providing financial resources and other assistance for the purchase, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of one- to four-unit residential properties has been proposed by Alderman Robert J. Bauman.

Alderman Bauman has sponsored a Common Council resolution (file # 131285 - attached) directing the Department of City Development (DCD) to prepare, in collaboration with other city departments and agencies, the helpful all-in-one guide for purchasers and owners of one- to four-unit residential properties. The time is past due, Alderman Bauman said, for just such a user-friendly informational guide to assist homeowners and those interested in purchasing residential property in the city.

“As it stands now, information about these programs is typically provided by multiple sources including individual booklets and brochures, web pages and other documents,” he said.

“Public information is critical to ensure home buyers are aware of and know where to look for the city financial and other resources that are available to them, and that is exactly what I envision this guide containing,” Alderman Bauman said.

If approved by the full Common Council in its current form, the resolution would require DCD to create the resource guide within 60 days of adoption.
Alderman Bauman said a single, comprehensive resource guide is especially timely because the 2014 city budget includes millions of dollars of additional city funding for home buyer and homeowner assistance programs under the Strong Neighborhood Investment Plan.

The resolution is expected to be heard before the Council’s Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee on January 14, 2014.