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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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Ald. Bauman calls Mayoral veto of home improvement loan program a “slap to the face” of Milwaukee homeowners

Alderman Robert Bauman vowed Friday that he will work to overturn Mayor Tom Barrett’s veto of Common Council legislation that would offer forgivable loans up to \$25,000 to homeowners to perform major repairs to their homes, calling it a “slap to the face” of middle- and working-class homeowners in the city.

“Mayor Barrett’s veto demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the depth and breadth of the crisis in our neighborhoods,” Alderman Bauman said. “Middle-class and working-class homeowners are the glue that holds many of our most challenged neighborhoods together.

“These homeowners want to improve and maintain their properties, thereby contributing to neighborhood stability. However, their homes have lost so much value, in some cases 35 to 50 percent, that they cannot afford repairs, leading to further neighborhood deterioration and more potential foreclosures and vacant properties.”

Alderman Bauman said the program is primarily geared toward homeowners who have been hard hit by the dramatic decline in assessed values in many neighborhoods due to foreclosures, crime and disorder. The decline in property values has made it impossible for many homeowners to obtain second mortgages or home improvement loans to undertake renovations including roof tear-offs, porch reconstructions, exterior painting and restoration projects.

-More-

Housing veto/ADD ONE

Homeowners with household incomes up to 200 percent of the median county income would be eligible to apply, although homeowners with household incomes over 100 percent of the median county income would have to match a significant portion of the project cost. The loan term would extend 10 years, but would be forgivable if the homeowner remained in their home for the full 10 years.

“This program promotes home ownership, property maintenance, neighborhood stabilization and foreclosure prevention,” Alderman Bauman said. “These are critical goals for many neighborhoods which are on verge of tipping into serious blight. The mayor does not seem to understand that many hardworking homeowners are stuck. This program offers them an opportunity to get un-stuck.

“I trust my colleagues on the council will understand the importance of these goals and vote to override the veto on October 14. “