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Ald. Robert Bauman  
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## New demolition requirements will create jobs and promote sustainability

The Common Council yesterday approved a new “deconstruction” ordinance authored by **Alderman Robert J. Bauman** that preserves old growth building materials, creates employment opportunities for city residents, and helps to reduce taxpayer expenditures for landfill tipping fees.

Co-sponsored by **Alderman Nik Kovac** and **Alderman Khalif J. Rainey**, the ordinance requires the deconstruction of most one- to four-family residential structures built prior to 1930 that are slated for demolition.

The ordinance goes into effect on **January 1, 2018** and covers structures built in 1929 or earlier, designated historic structures, and structures in historic districts. The requirements state that those structures must be deconstructed rather than demolished to maximize salvageable building materials and to help reduce the amount of waste in landfills. Reducing the demolition waste from these older structures that would otherwise go to landfills can save taxpayers from paying higher landfill tipping fees.

Alderman Bauman, a longtime historic preservation advocate and a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, said deconstruction also reduces carbon emissions, as well as the release of asbestos, dust, and other hazardous substances caused by mechanical demolition.

“The demolition of Milwaukee’s older housing stock does more harm than good. Deconstruction will help save rapidly disappearing old-growth building materials while also benefiting our environment and creating new jobs,” he said.