

RESOLUTION No.

Establish a program to provide incentives, training, and technical assistance to promote voluntary deconstruction as a viable alternative to mechanical demolition (Resolution)

WHEREAS, deconstruction is the systematic dismantling of a structure, or portion thereof, to maximize the recovery of primarily reusable, and secondarily recyclable, materials; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 there were 350 demolitions of single-dwelling homes and the number of building demolitions is trending upwards as the Portland area economy recovers; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2015, Portland City Council directed the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to develop strategies for increasing deconstruction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability convened a Deconstruction Advisory Group to provide advice on strategies and incentives for advancing deconstruction activities; and

WHEREAS, barriers to deconstruction often include misconceptions about what materials have salvage value and what types of services are available; and

WHEREAS, deconstruction supports 6-8 jobs for every one job associated with traditional mechanized demolition; and

WHEREAS, salvaging reusable material supports the local economy, creates viable local enterprises and offers an affordable option for residents and businesses to acquire quality used building materials such as old-growth lumber; and

WHEREAS, deconstruction reduces carbon emissions by preserving the embodied energy of existing building materials and avoiding the creation of greenhouse gasses associated with landfilling waste; and

WHEREAS, deconstruction helps achieve the policies and actions related to the current efforts of the Climate Action Plan Update and the Comprehensive Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, deconstruction allows for the systematic discovery and further abatement of hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead, and mercury which can go undiscovered when using mechanical demolition.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland establish an incentive program to promote voluntary deconstruction as an alternative for mechanical demolition of buildings and components; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability develop a program to support the incentive including training, compliance and technical assistance and report back to Council on program status and next steps in September 2016.

Passed by the Council:

Commissioner Mayor Charlie Hales
Prepared by: Shawn Wood
Date Prepared: May 7, 2015

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy