



# RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

# **IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

Presented to City Council 1-18-17

1900 SW Fourth Avenue | Portland, Oregon 97201 | www.portlandoregon.gov/bds



# General Overview of Demolition Ordinance

#### Effective Date: April 20, 2015

#### **Residential Demolition Delay Requirements**

- Notification mailed notice to properties within 150 feet within 5 business days of application; mailed notice to
  recognized organizations whose boundaries include the site, Architectural Heritage Center and Restore Oregon;
  and door hangers on surrounding properties at least 5 days before demolition required
- All residential structures in residential zones subject to 35-day delay in issuing permits
- Extension for demolition delay period: 60-day extension possible with successful appeal of demolition permit issuance
- Definition of demolition added to code
- Certification Regarding Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint required prior to permit issuance

#### **Major Residential Alterations and Additions**

- New category for "Major Alterations and Additions" with definitions added to Code
- Includes requirement to post notice on abutting properties 35 days prior to permit issuance and emailed notice to recognized organizations whose boundaries include the site [but no delay]
- Certification Regarding Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint



### **Demolition Delay and Delay Extensions**

#### **Demolition Delay**

• All demolitions of residential structures in areas with a Residential Comprehensive Plan Map designation have an initial 35-day delay (excluding accessory structures, such as ADUs and garages)

#### **Extension of Initial 35-Day Delay**

#### Who May Request:

• Recognized organization or any interested party

#### Time of extension:

• 60 days, for a total maximum delay of 95 days

#### **Extension Criteria:**

- Submitted request by last day of the initial 35 day delay
- Accompanied by appeal to Code Hearings Officer, appeal fee or fee waiver and supporting documentation showing requesting party is actively pursuing alternative to demolition



# General Overview of Demolition Ordinance

### **Appeal for Extension**

#### Who May Appeal:

• Recognized organization whose boundaries include the site or any interested party may appeal to extend the initial demolition delay from initial 35 days to up to 60 additional days, for a total possible delay of 95 days

#### Appeal to:

• Code Hearings Officer by submitting appeal packet to BDS

#### <u>Burden:</u>

- On party requesting appeal
- Must show actively pursuing an alternative to demolition by demonstrating:
- ✓ The requesting party has contacted the property owner/representative to request a meeting via certified mail
- The property has significance to the neighborhood, as demonstrated by architectural significance, the age and condition of the structure or other factors
- ✓ Plan to save the structure
- Reasonable potential to consummate the plan by providing pro-forma budget and evidence of funds on hand or fund raising plan sufficient to meet the financial requirements of the budget



#### From April 20, 2015 – October 31, 2016:

- Number of demolition applications BDS has accepted:
  - Number subject to the Ordinance:
  - Number not subject to Ordinance: [includes dangerous buildings, house moves, houses without Residential Comprehensive Plan map designation, demolitions subject to Title 33 120-day delay]

| <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 257         | 305         | 562          |
| 17          | 48          | 65           |



### From April 20, 2015 – October 31, 2016:

- Implementation costs:
  - Staff:
  - Printing and mailing:
  - > Appeal fees:

> TOTAL

\$194,113 [1 FTE Permit Tech III & 45 min./application Permit Tech II \$ 15,573 <u>\$ 15,048</u> <u>\$224,734</u>



#### What Worked:

- All demolitions subject to notice and delay, except nuisance properties and those subject to 120day Zoning Code delay
- Added major alterations and additions provisions
- Outreach
- Notice provisions
- Appeals process
- Implementation guides



#### What Didn't Work/ Needs Improvement:

- Aspects of demolition delay appeal process
  - Lack of incentive to negotiate
  - What is a "pro-forma budget"?
  - Who has authority to negotiate?
  - > How to demonstrate significance of the property to the neighborhood
  - > When does the plan to save the structure have to be consummated?
  - Can additional evidence be submitted at the hearing?



What Didn't Work/ Needs Improvement Continued:

- Equity issues
- Scope of demolition notice
- Application of Ordinance to all residential demolitions, not just 1-2 family
- Some definitions



### **Applicability of Ordinance to Multi-Family Dwellings**

- BDS had been applying residential demolition delay only to 1-2 family dwellings
- State Building Code changed to allow local jurisdictions to regulate commercial demolitions
- Title 24 definition of "residential structure" includes multi-family dwellings
- DRAC Demolition Subcommittee stakeholders do not include representatives from the commercial building industry
- DRAC Demolition Subcommittee recommendations to City Council regarding notice and delay provisions were based on assumption that they would only apply to 1-2 family dwellings
- Notice and delay provisions are not effective for commercial structures



### **Hazardous Materials in Residential Demolitions**

- BDS developed a Certificate Regarding Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint
- State Legislature enacted SB 705 to require asbestos surveys for residential demolitions
- No state or federal regulations of lead-based paint for residential demolitions
- BDS does not have authority or expertise to regulate air and water quality
- 2017 Oregon state legislative session new legislation to be introduced allowing local jurisdictions to require copies of the asbestos survey with demolition permits and addressing lead-based paint in residential demolitions



### Applicability of Ordinance Outside Residential Comprehensive Plan Map Areas

- Ordinance only applies in areas with Residential Comprehensive Plan Map designations
- Impacts in non-residential areas are different from impacts in residential areas
- DRAC Demolition Subcommittee recommendation to City Council regarding notice and delay provisions were based on assumption that they would only apply in residential areas
- Notice and delay provisions are not effective for commercial zones



### **Major Residential Alterations and Additions (MRAAs)**

- The notice provisions have been effective
- Portion of definition of "major alteration or addition" that includes increasing or replacing 50
   % or more of an exterior wall is too difficult to apply; recommend removing this provision and decreasing the square footage trigger from 800 square feet to 500 square feet



### **Creating Administrative Rules**

- BDS staff developed implementation guides to address various specific scenarios that arise in applying the Ordinance
- The Ordinance was drafted using general terms, knowing not all scenarios could be anticipated
- BDS recommends using those guides as a basis for developing administrative rules that contain specific examples and detailed language for how to apply the Ordinance, with input from the Subcommittee



### **Historic Resources Inventory**

- *City of Lake Oswego* case prompted BDS and BPS staff and City Attorneys and determined that ranked HRI properties that are removed from the HRI list should be subject to the 120-day demolition delay
- BPS is including language in RICAP 8 to codify this requirement
- BDS is working with BPS on some accompanying language changes to Title 24, so there are no inconsistencies or gaps



### **Notice Issues**

- Narrowing time for posting of demolition notices via door hangers to no more than 5 days before demolition, so neighbors have a better idea of when to close windows, etc.
- Issue of whether 150 feet is enough for mailed notice needs further discussion with Subcommittee
- BDS will make recommendations to City Council based on further discussions



### **Additional Issues to Address**

- Seek solutions to address equity issues in the process
- Consider convening a different subcommittee with commercial construction stakeholders to discuss commercial structure demolition issues and housing affordability issues
- Examine funding requirements for any expansion in the scope of the Ordinance
- Continue requiring properties removed from the HRI to comply with 120-day demolition delay
- Continue working with State Legislature on hazardous materials legislation to address hazardous materials issues associated with both residential and commercial demolitions
- Require ONI to provide consistent contact information for each neighborhood association and coalition



### **Next Steps**

- Seek direction from the City Council on:
  - Amending the Code to limit applicability of Ordinance to 1-2 family dwellings
  - Retaining current language that limits Ordinance to areas with Residential Comprehensive Plan Map designation
- Based on input from the Council, re-convene the DRAC Demolition Subcommittee to draft revisions to City Code Chapter 24.55 to present to the City Council for consideration in the next few months
- BDS staff will work with stakeholders to develop administrative rules to assist in administering the Ordinance
- Other direction from the City Council

### **QUESTIONS?**