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**DBI LAUNCHES VACANT PROPERTY OWNER NOTIFICATIONS;
NEW ORDINANCE REQUIRES ANNUAL VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION FEE**

SAN FRANCISCO – The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) today announced that nearly 200 notification letters were sent last week to property owners identified as responsible for suspected vacant and/or abandoned buildings – long identified as public safety hazards, potential havens for criminal activities, and neighborhood eyesores. The letters informed owners of the newly-established legal requirement to register these buildings within the next 30 days with DBI. Failure to register will result in substantial financial and legal enforcement penalties under San Francisco Building Code Sections 102A, 103A, Section 110-Fee Tables, and other applicable sections of the City's Municipal Code.

"We are beginning efforts to register annually vacant and/or abandoned buildings as required by newly-passed legislation," explained Vivian L. Day, Chief Building Official (C.B.O.) and DBI's Director. "The letter defines a vacant and/or abandoned building, and requests the owner to fill out and return within 30 days the completed and signed form to DBI's Code Enforcement services. Once the owner submits the information and/or proves the building is exempt from the new law, we will schedule an initial inspection and collect the annual registration fee, which is currently \$765 to cover DBI inspection and administrative costs."

"The City's goal with this legislation is to provide effective measures to encourage property owners of vacant and/or abandoned buildings to act immediately and improve the property. Per investigations by the City's public safety departments, we know that many vacant buildings are potential public safety and fire hazards; and we know that people who may be involved in criminal activities also occupy such properties. That's why we want these buildings secured and repaired, brought up to appropriate codes for structural safety, and returned to residential and commercial uses beneficial to everyone in the community," Director Day said.

The Registration Packet calls for specific information from owners, including how they have secured the property against unauthorized entry; what future plans they have for the property; and the name of the fire and liability insurance carrier, policy number and coverage amounts. The owner(s) also may provide certifiable proofs to exempt the suspected building from the new ordinance.

Day added that anyone who suspects there is a vacant and/or abandoned building in their neighborhood may report the specific address to DBI's Code Enforcement Services either by telephoning 415/558-6454, or by emailing the suspected address to dbi.codeenforcement@sfgov.org. San Franciscans also may report suspected vacant and/or abandoned buildings to the City's 3-1-1 system. DBI currently estimates there may be as many as 400-500 vacant and/or abandoned buildings scattered throughout the City.

In addition to the notification letters, this information also is being posted on DBI's web site, www.sfdbi.org, where owners of such properties may download, print and fill out the Vacant Building Registration Packet required forms, and either return them in person to Code Enforcement, 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, or mail them to this same address.

DBI oversees the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of City building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, housing and disability access codes for San Francisco's more than 195,000 buildings. For more information, please visit www.sfdbi.org.