



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2009**

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**MAYOR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, APPROVE DBI CODE & FEE UPDATES,  
INCLUDING NEW CODE ENFORCEMENT FEE for ONE and TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS;  
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2009**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The San Francisco Board of Supervisors yesterday approved unanimously code and fee amendments for the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) in ongoing efforts to standardize codes, and to bring permit processing, plan review and inspection services' costs in line with actual costs required to provide professional building safety services.

"This is 'clean-up' legislation following last year's long-overdue cost of services' fee study," said Vivian L. Day, C.B.O. and DBI's Director. "Among other actions, it enables us to standardize and make more consistent many building codes; gives the Building Official the authority to extend building, electrical and plumbing expiration dates, thereby providing essential flexibility in the current economic downturn; and adjusts fees in areas where the department continues to run substantial cost-recovery deficits.

"While these cost-recovery fee revenues are essential to DBI's long-term financial stability," Day added, "they will not generate sufficient funds quickly enough to reverse recent staff reductions due to the severe economic recession affecting the building and construction industry. With permit application activities down by more than 45 percent compared to last year, we are reorganizing and redeploying professional staff to provide the building safety services demanded by San Franciscans."

The Mayor indicated he will sign the new ordinances, which take effect August 7, 2009.

"We appreciate the nearly unanimous support we have received for these amendments from our customers, from the Building Inspection Commission and from City policy-makers," Day added. "As one of the City's enterprise departments, we have to pay for our operations through the fees we earn for the professional building safety services we provide all San Franciscans."

Overall, DBI's Fee Study, completed in May 2008, revealed that department had been under-recovering its costs by roughly 29%, measured in 2006-07 budgeted dollars. In the Housing Inspection Division, cost under-recovery was found to be 60 percent.

A Summary of the newly-approved amendments is posted on DBI's web site, [http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/dbi/media\\_info/press\\_kit/CodeFeeUpdate.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/dbi/media_info/press_kit/CodeFeeUpdate.pdf).

DBI oversees the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of City building, disability access, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and housing codes for San Francisco's more than 195,000 buildings. For more information, please visit our web site, [www.sfgov.org/dbi](http://www.sfgov.org/dbi).