



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 2, 2016

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**DBI CELEBRATES MAY AS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH**

**Offers Informative Workshops to Property Owners**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today, Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Director Tom Hui invited customers and all San Franciscans, to join the nationwide Building Safety Month celebration under way this month in raising awareness of individual’s role in ensuring building safety in their home, property or business. DBI is offering lunch-time brown-bag discussions, focused on equipping owners with hands-on knowledge about the Mandatory Soft Story Program, Additional Dwelling Program and Earthquake Preparedness workshops by its partnering agencies.

“Join our informative lunchtime workshops to learn about the compliance requirements of the Mandatory Soft Story program and take advantage of the Additional Dwelling Unit program offered this month and to learn about what they can do in your home or property to ensure it is fire and seismically safe and code compliant,” said Tom Hui, DBI Director. “We encourage owners and tenants to periodically assess and inspect your properties and living quarters to address potentially dangerous fire-safety conditions, such as overloaded electrical circuits in older multi-family unit buildings.”

DBI has partnered with City agencies and neighborhood partners to provide the following workshops, which will be held at the DBI office located at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 from 11:30am – 1pm:

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016: Complying with the Soft Story Program and Role of Rent Control Provisions**

Is your property on the Mandatory Soft Story Program list? If so and you fall under tiers 2-4, join us for this informative workshop to learn about the steps you need to take to have your building seismically retrofitted by the due dates and have your tenant related questions answered by the Rent Board.

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016: Building Additional Units On Your Property**

Interested in converting available space in your building into additional dwelling units? Join us for this informative workshop to learn about the steps you need to take to add a unit within your property’s existing building footprint and the requirements you need to address for construction.

**Earthquake Preparedness Workshops Available in Supervisorial Districts 3, 5 and 10:** Through our Seismic Safety Outreach Program, in-language earthquake safety workshops are available to San Francisco residents in three Supervisorial districts, which include District 3 (Chinatown/North Beach), District 5 (Western Addition) and District 10 (Bayview/Visitacion Valley). Visit [www.sfdbi.org/seismicsafety](http://www.sfdbi.org/seismicsafety) for more information and to attend a workshop near you.

As part of Building Safety Month, San Francisco Muni buses will feature an informative advertisement that focuses on DBI’s main goal of “Protecting Building and Life Safety Every Day.” As the regulatory enforcement agency for the over 200,000 commercial and residential buildings in San Francisco, DBI not only provides review of

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construction plans, issuance of construction permits, approval of inspections, and investigates code violation complaints, it is instrumental in ensuring that building and life safety is protected every day.

Every day, the Department of Building Inspection reviews construction plans, approves permits, conducts inspections and investigates complaints. In 2015, over 68,000 permits were issued and 154,000 inspections were conducted, ensuring the building and life safety of those that live, work and visit San Francisco. These include the work of engineers, plan reviewers, as well as building, plumbing, electrical and housing inspectors. For more information, visit [www.sfdbi.org/annual-reports](http://www.sfdbi.org/annual-reports).

Also, in celebration of Small Business Month this May, permit plan review fees for awning replacements, signs on awning replacements and pedestrian level lighting are mostly waived for all those who apply with DBI and the Planning Department. Established in 2014, the fee waiver program was made permanent in 2015 and added waived related awning fees for Fire Department and Public Works, as well. Awning improvements help invigorate businesses and the commercial corridors where they are located, and contribute to neighborhood improvements. Small businesses with 100 employees or less are encouraged to take advantage of this fee waiver opportunity as it can save over \$1,000 dollars in plan review fees. Program ends on May 31, 2016. For more information, please visit [www.sfdbi.org/awning-fee-waiver-program](http://www.sfdbi.org/awning-fee-waiver-program).

Visit [www.sfdbi.org/buildingsafetymonth](http://www.sfdbi.org/buildingsafetymonth) to get the most up-to-date event information and for safety tips for both residents and property owners. Follow @sfdbi on Twitter and Facebook to receive real-time safety tips.

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**About the Department of Building Inspection (DBI)**

*The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) oversees the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of the City and County of San Francisco's building, housing, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and disability access codes for San Francisco's more than 200,000 buildings. Please visit [www.sfdbi.org](http://www.sfdbi.org) for more information.*