



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

September 6, 2018

Contact: William Strawn, DBI, (415) 850-9816

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

**MAYOR LONDON BREED AND DBI DIRECTOR  
REMIND PROPERTY OWNERS OF IMPENDING  
SEPTEMBER 15 SOFT STORY RETROFIT DEADLINE**

*Less than 15 days away, over 525 properties have yet to comply*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today, Mayor London N. Breed and Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Director Tom Hui reminded property owners to submit required permit applications, and to complete required retrofitting work, in advance of the September 15, 2018 Mandatory Soft Story Retrofit Program deadline.

With over 350 remaining property owners who have yet to comply under Tier 4, and another 175 properties needing to complete work under Tier 2 by September 15th, the deadline is in two weeks. Director Hui reminded owners during a tour of a six-unit building currently undergoing a retrofit in the Russian Hill neighborhood with City Administrator Naomi M. Kelly, United States Geological Survey Earthquake Science Center's Deputy Director Keith Knudsen and the City's Chief Resilience Officer Brian Strong. Since 2013, this important program has required the owners of nearly 5,000 wood-frame buildings with 3-stories, 5-units or more, and a vulnerable ground floor, to seismically strengthen their building and enhance the safety of the people who occupy them – thereby increasing the resilience of San Francisco's housing stock.

"In San Francisco, we know it is only a matter of time until the next big earthquake strikes, which is why we are taking proactive steps to ensure the City is as prepared as possible," said Mayor Breed. "Through the Mandatory Soft Story Program and the City's other resiliency efforts, we are ensuring our City and the people living in these retrofitted buildings are safer in the next earthquake. I join Director Hui in urging the remaining property owners who have yet to comply to do so before September 15, 2018."

"As the recent tragic earthquakes in Japan, Alaska, Venezuela, and in the South Bay have reminded us in recent weeks, it's important to seismically strengthen the City's housing stock before the next earthquake," said Tom Hui, Director of DBI. "As we near the end of the first phase of compliance for the Mandatory Soft Story Program, with Tier 4 properties, there are still over 350 commercial buildings and properties within the City's liquefaction zone needing to turn in permit applications -- and over 175 buildings required to complete work to comply with the Program," Hui added. "I urge property owners to comply before the deadline to avoid code enforcement and to act immediately to protect their tenants, families and property with retrofits before the next earthquake strikes."

"Through the Mandatory Soft Story Program we are increasing the City's resilience and protecting our valuable housing stock. As we are reminded about the Hayward Fault, we know it's not if, but when an earthquake will strike. Many residents have already acted to retrofit their properties and the City and County of San Francisco remains ready to assist in completing these lifesaving repairs," said City Administrator Naomi M. Kelly.

The Retrofit Program is half way through, as all work is required to be completed by September 2020. Of the nearly 5,000 properties under this Program, over 90% (4,456) have complied with the Program's requirements -- with over 45% (2,242) properties having completed the work. Although the properties identified under this Program are located throughout the City, the properties needing to comply with this upcoming September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline are located primarily in Districts 2, 3, 5 and 9.

Today's tour of an apartment building undergoing a seismic retrofit also provided a reminder of the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1868 6.8 earthquake on the Hayward Fault. Shaking during that time caused significant damage to San Francisco's buildings mainly consisting of non-retrofitted masonry and soft story ground floors.

To find out if your property is on the list and the steps you need to take to comply in advance of the September deadline, visit [www.sfdbi.org/softstory](http://www.sfdbi.org/softstory) or DBI's office at 1660 Mission Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at Window 8 or call (415)558-6699.

# # #

**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.*