

***BIC Regular Meeting  
of  
May 17, 2017***

***Agenda Item 14***



## BUILDING INSPECTION COMMISSION (BIC)

Department of Building Inspection      Voice (415) 558-6164 - Fax (415) 558-6509  
1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414

April 27, 2017

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

### COMMISSION

Angus McCarthy  
President

Kevin Clinch  
Gail Gilman  
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Assistant  
Secretary

Tom C. Hui  
Director

Tom C. Hui, S.E., C.B.O.  
Director, Department of Building Inspection  
1660 Mission Street, Sixth Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Director Hui:

The Building Inspection Commission (BIC) is committed to providing the public with the highest levels of accountability, transparency and efficiency, and in continuing to ensure that the San Francisco Department of Building Inspection (DBI) remains a national leader in setting and maintaining safe building standards.

This commitment was recently demonstrated in the 75-page report prepared by DBI staff, "The Department of Building Inspection's Tall Building Review Process," and presented to the BIC by Assistant Director Ron Tom at the March 15, 2017, meeting. The March report addressed questions received by DBI from members of the Commission and included in my December 6, 2016, letter. Though thorough in replying to the BIC, it is evident from the report that the regulations and procedures that guide DBI are continually evolving and therefore require frequent communications to better monitor ongoing progress towards their implementation and evaluation of their effectiveness.

In this Strategic Initiatives Letter (SIL), the BIC continues the positive momentum from the March report and presentation and looks to add to the goals and objectives of the Department's Fiscal Year 2015-16/2016-17 Strategic Plan, approved September 1, 2015.

The Commission requests the Department provide regular reports on the following topics:

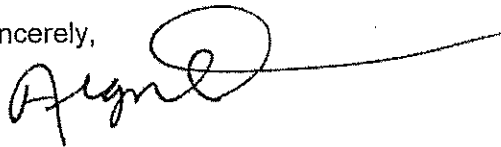
1. **Best practices approach** for Tall Building review, including the peer review panel selection and participant qualification requirements;
2. Establishing an **interim policy** that monitors Tall Buildings constructed of concrete, including possible local requirements that foundations go to bedrock and/or a more rigorous geotechnical review process for projects in Class F, or softest, soils and involving at least two geotechnical engineers;
3. **Technology Improvement Implementation Plan**. Progress report on building a new Enterprise-class system to replace the older Oracle system (Accela Permit and Project tracking system) ;
4. **Ongoing Digitalization and Indexation** of DBI records—a conversion program that is now under way—as well as updates to record retention requirements and practices;

5. Progress updates on the **new DBI headquarters** at 1500 Mission Street in terms of achieving the Mayor's goal of an approved One-Stop permit reviews and issuance.

As noted by the Commission in its discussion following the March presentation of the report, these are areas requiring greater depth than could be fully summarized in the 75-page report and include important policy changes that are already in progress. Furthermore, in initiating several of these policies, including being one of the first departments nationally to adopt a codified definition and rigorous building safety review process for tall buildings, DBI has demonstrated itself to be a leader among its peers. In dedicating separate staff reports to each of the critical topics listed above, DBI will be providing the BIC and broader public with periodically updated information on the crucial practices and regulations enforced by DBI to ensure that tall buildings in San Francisco continue to be as safe as modern engineering permits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angus McCarthy  
President, Building Inspection Commission