



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 26, 2018

Contact: Lily Madjus Wu, DBI, (415) 558-6107

Rhea Aguinaldo, OSB, (415) 554-6408

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

**SUPERVISOR PESKIN JOINED DBI, OFFICE OF  
SMALL BUSINESS AND CHINATOWN COMMUNITY  
& BUSINESS LEADERS TO RAISE PROPERTY  
OWNERS' AWARENESS ABOUT NEW CITY  
ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM**

**DBI and Office of Small Business conduct merchant walk on Grant Avenue**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today, District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Director Tom Hui, and Office of Small Business (OSB) Director Regina Dick-Endrizzi, along with Chinatown community and business leaders, held a press conference in Chinatown immediately after a merchant walk on Grant Avenue to raise awareness about the City's Accessible Business Entrance (ABE) Program. Passed in May 2016 as Ordinance No. 51-16, the ABE Program helps property and business owners better comply with existing state and federal disability access laws. Created to help curb "drive-by" lawsuits of non-compliant entrances, this Program requires property owners with places of "public accommodation" to have all primary entrances accessible to people with disabilities.

"I join DBI Director Hui and OSB Director Dick-Endrizzi and Chinatown leaders to help raise awareness about the Accessible Business Entrance Program among property and business owners," said District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin. "This important program helps to ensure that people with disabilities are able to access goods and services at all San Francisco businesses. I encourage property owners to engage with DBI and the other departments involved in the program in order to comply."

"DBI understands the difficulty property and business owners may have in complying with ADA federal and state requirements," said Tom Hui, Director of the Department of Building Inspection. "That is why the ABE Program, a multi-agency collaboration with DBI, the Office of Small Business, Planning Department, Public Works and Access Appeals Commission was created to help property owners better comply with existing accessibility laws to ensure access to all San Franciscans. We are here today to let property owners know that there are resources available to them and DBI and our partners are thoughtfully rolling out this Program. Property owners can visit our office at 1660 Mission Street to receive assistance with their unique building circumstances."

"Chinatown businesses face unique issues in bringing their entryways into compliance given the steep streets, narrow sidewalks and older buildings," said Regina Dick-Endrizzi Director Office of Small

**1660 Mission Street – San Francisco CA 94103**

**Office (415) 558-6088 – FAX (415) 558-6401**

**Website: [www.sfdbi.org](http://www.sfdbi.org)**

Business. “Our office is involved in outreach to the business community to help navigate the ordinance and offer accessibility resources and assistance. We also want to remind businesses that they can go a long way toward minimizing risk and limiting exposure to lawsuits by taking proactive steps to assess the inside of their business for barriers.”

Buildings fall into one of four categories ranging from fully accessible to having major barriers to entry. Property owners are responsible for complying with this ordinance and are required to submit to DBI either a Pre-Screening Form or Category Checklist Compliance Form by the deadline based on their building’s compliance category. DBI mailed informational notices to property owners in November 2017 and March 2018. DBI along with partner agencies have held several public workshops on this Program with the last one held on April 13, 2018. Workshops will be held on an ongoing basis. Upcoming workshops are planned for May 16 at the SF Public Main Library’s Koret Auditorium and in June 2018 in Chinatown.

Currently, there is an amended version of the 2016 ordinance that was heard by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 24, which seeks to extend all compliance deadlines by six-months resulting in the first deadline to be pushed back from May 23, 2018 to January 1, 2019; eliminating the administrative fee of \$97; and requiring property owners to provide a 30-day notice to building tenants prior to any work commencing. These amendments will provide additional time for property owners to make accessibility improvements in their primary entrance areas.

For more information about this Program, its requirements and available resources, please visit [www.sfdbi.org/businessentrance](http://www.sfdbi.org/businessentrance).

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**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.*

**Office of Small Business**

*The Office of Small Business (OSB) is the city’s central point of information and assistance for small businesses and entrepreneurs located in San Francisco. We provide one-to-one assistance to help businesses start, grow, and thrive. Located in City Hall Room 110, we offer multilingual client services by phone, email, appointment, and on a drop-in basis, M-F 8am-5pm. Visit [www.sfosb.org](http://www.sfosb.org) for information or call (415) 554-6134.*