



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 27, 2016

Contact: Lily Madjus Wu, (415) 537-0345 cell

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**DBI REMINDS SOFT STORY PROPERTY OWNERS TO
TURN IN PERMIT APPLICATION IN ADVANCE OF
LOOMING SEPTEMBER 15 DEADLINE**

With less than 60-days, over 340 multi-unit residential properties have yet to comply

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Director Tom Hui reminded property owners of Tier 2 properties, with 3-stories and 15 or more residential units, to turn in required permit applications in advance of September 15, 2016 deadline to comply with the second step of the Mandatory Soft Story Program requirements. This program requires owners of wood-frame buildings with 3-stories, 5-units or more and a vulnerable ground floor to seismically strengthen their building. Forty percent of 570+ properties have complied in advance of the looming September 15 deadline and are thus avoiding DBI code enforcement. But the fact remain 60% , or 340+ property owners, need to act now and turn in the required permit application.

“Building owners of 3-stories and 15 or more residential units should not delay turning in their permit application to DBI,” said Tom Hui, S.E. and DBI Director. “We are less than 60-days away from the September 15 deadline, and we want to ensure all required properties comply by that date. Our Soft Story team is available to answer your questions and help you comply with the mandatory retrofit law. Call, visit or email us today!” added Hui. “This ordinance ensures the safety and resilience of San Francisco's housing stock through the retrofit of older, wood-framed, multi-family buildings with a soft-story condition. With the swarm of small earthquakes occurring in the South Bay and the 6.2 earthquake in Chile recently, we cannot predict when the next earthquake will happen, but we can work together to protect ourselves and our properties.”

Property owners who have yet to comply are receiving a 60-day reminder postcard in their mailboxes this week. Although soft story properties are found throughout the City, Tier 2 properties that have yet to comply are mainly found in the Marina, Chinatown, Western Addition, Castro/Noe Valley, Richmond and the Mission neighborhoods. To find out if your property is on the list and what steps you need to take to comply in advance of the September deadline, visit www.sfdbi.org/softstory or DBI office at 1660 Mission Street, 1st Floor at Window 8 or call (415)558-6699. Properties that fail to comply by September 15 will be sent to code enforcement, which includes the posting of an Earthquake Warning placard on the non-compliant property, along with an assessment of penalties and possibly a lien on their property.

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**1660 Mission Street – San Francisco CA 94103
Office (415) 558-6088 – FAX (415) 558-6401
Website: www.sfdbi.org**

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 for more information.