



BUILDING INSPECTION COMMISSION (BIC)

Department of Building Inspection

Voice (628) 652 -3510

49 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor San Francisco, California 94103

March 11, 2025

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

COMMISSION

Alysabeth
Alexander-Tut
President

Evita Chavez
Catherine Meng
Bianca Neumann
Kavin Williams

Sonya Harris
Secretary

Monique Mustapha
Asst. Secretary

Patrick O'Riordan,
C.B.O., Director

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors, City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

RE: Building Inspection Commission's official recommendation on Positions and Code Enforcement Grants included in DBI's Proposed Budget

The Building Inspection Commission (BIC) respectfully submits this letter as a supplemental request regarding staff positions and clarification of the BIC's official position regarding the general fund line in our budget that currently funds code enforcement outreach efforts in apartments and single room occupancy (SRO) buildings.

Positions:

The BIC commends Mayor Lurie for his bold leadership in enacting a hiring and contracting freeze to address the historic General Fund deficit. It is in the spirit of economic recovery and homelessness prevention that the BIC submits these requests for your consideration.

As an enterprise department, DBI staff and programs are funded by our fee revenue and service charges, our hiring does not impact the General Fund deficit.

The work done by the department is critical to economic recovery, health and safety, emergency preparedness, and emergency response. The department does this work by reviewing and approving plans for everything from a single family home renovation to a new hospital, by holding landlords to account for unsafe living conditions, through the soft story program, high-rise window inspections, and responding when disaster strikes; It is DBI's responsibility to ensure the safety and habitability of our City.

The BIC requests your support to fill the positions requested in DBI's budget submission to maintain, and increase the efficiency of providing core public services.

Please approve DBI's positions as requested in the proposed budget.

Code Enforcement Grants (Currently General Fund line)

The BIC passed one motion that approved forwarding the staff's budget to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors *with the recommendation that the Code Enforcement Grants be fully funded*. The BIC considered two pathways for funding this budget line by restoring FY 25-26 10% reduction and the FY 26-27 additional 15% reduction:

1. General Fund: The Mayor and Board of Supervisors could restore the Code Enforcement Grants to full funding using the General Fund; or
2. 1.5% Fee Increase: DBI could increase fees across the board by 1.5% as part of its fee legislation to compensate for the proposed General Fund reductions in support.

For decades, DBI funded community-based enforcement programming. However, most recently the General Fund has supported these programs. This change in funding source was, in part, a result of a budget shortfall.

The work of these Code Enforcement Grants is important and supports the core mission of DBI. These programs reach residents that are living in unsafe living conditions that do not know where to start or are too afraid to report. They are often the most vulnerable SRO residents, immigrant families, and low-income seniors. The BIC supports and recognizes the value of the work done by these programs and the necessity for culturally competent, multi-lingual, direct services to vulnerable populations. These providers go to the tenants as well as take complaints. Reduction in outreach services will not mean a reduction in need, it will mean more tenants leave inhabitable apartments and end up homeless or people will suffer health conditions as a result of uninhabitable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these two important elements to keep city services running. We appreciate your time and attention to these services.

Sincerely,

Building Inspection Commissioners

Alysabeth Alexander-Tut

Evita Chavez

Catherine Meng

Bianca Neumann

Kavin Williams

cc: Patrick O'Riordan, Director
Mayor Daniel Lurie
Board of Supervisors