

FIRE COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

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Francee Covington, *President*
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Stephen A. Nakajo, *Commissioner*
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Maureen Conefrey, *Secretary*

September 16, 2016

Erica Major
Assistant Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Attn: Government Audit and Oversight Committee

Re: Civil Grand Jury Report
2015-16 Civil Grand Jury - Fire Safety Inspections in San Francisco:
A tale of Two Departments: Department of Building Inspection and
San Francisco Fire Department

Dear Ms. Major:

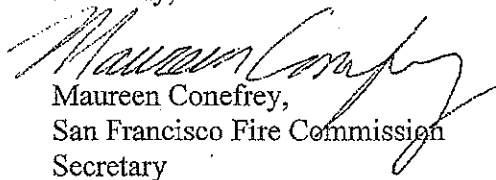
Pursuant to your email dated July 27, 2016, attached is the San Francisco Fire Commission's response to the 2015-16 Civil Grand Jury's Report, "Fire Safety Inspections in San Francisco: A tale of Two Departments: Department of Building Inspection and San Francisco Fire Department".

It is our understanding that this matter will be heard at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee on October 5, 2016, in City Hall, Chamber Room 250 at 9:30 a.m. Fire Commission President, Francee Covington will attend the hearing.

It is also our understanding that once this matter has been heard at that meeting, you will forward the response to Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Hon. John K. Stewart.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Maureen Conefrey,
San Francisco Fire Commission
Secretary

cc: Fire Commissioners
Chief Joanne Hayes-White
Jay Cunningham, Foreperson 2016-2016 Civil Grand Jury

2015-16 Civil Grand Jury

Fire Safety Inspections in San Francisco

A Tale of Two Departments: Department of Building Inspection and San Francisco Fire Department

June 2016

CGJ Year	Report Title	Findings	Responding Dept.	2016 Responses (Agree/Disagree) Use the drop down menu	2016 Response Text
2015-2016	Fire Safety Inspections in San Francisco	F.III.1. DBI and SFFD inspect multi-unit residential buildings for many of the same fire safety hazards but do not coordinate any of their inspections or code enforcement efforts including not sharing information.	Fire Commission	Partially agree with finding (explanation in next column)	<p>SFFD is always open and willing to foster and improve interdepartmental engagement and collaboration. In the particular case of DBI and SFFD, one must take into consideration the very different business models of DBI and SFFD: DBI has staffing dedicated to R2 inspections, whereas the SFFD Fire Suppression Truck and Engine Companies are first and foremost tasked with first responder duties. SFFD inspection of R2 occupancies is both an imperative and a responsibility that must be timed in a manner so as to not compromise health and safety emergencies. In spite of differing business models per above, there are key ways to enhance and drive greater collaboration.</p> <p>1. Establish a perpetual, working committee (that meets with a regular cadence) and seeks to evaluate the Housing Code and the Fire Code *in parallel*, identify where there is a lack of overlap, and develop a referral process to support these areas in a proactive and transparent manner.</p> <p>2. Implement a 21st century closed loop, digital solution that enables DBI and SFFD to seamlessly share data across departments and provide online access to interdepartmental referral tracking and reporting.</p>

2015-16 Civil Grand Jury
 Fire Safety Inspections in San Francisco
 A Tale of Two Departments: Department of Building Inspection and San Francisco Fire Department
 June 2016

CGJ Year	Report Title	Recommendations	Responding Dept.	2016 Responses (Implementation) Use the drop-down menu	
2015-2016	Fire Safety Inspections in San Francisco	R.111.1 The Building Inspection Commission and Fire Commission should require a task force be formed to study DBI and SFFD inspection and code enforcement processes and make recommendations on how they can coordinate their efforts.	Fire Commission	The recommendation has not been, but will be, implemented in the future (timeframe for implementation noted in next column)	The Fire Commission will work with the DBI Commission to implement a task force. The goal is to have a task force in place by February 2017.