



March 10, 2020

Via US Mail and email

Angus McCarthy, President
San Francisco Building Inspection Commission
Department of Building Inspection
1660 Mission Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103-2414

Dear President McCarthy:

Under Charter Section 4.102(6), I write to recommend that the Building Inspection Commission exercise its authority under Charter Section 4.121 to remove Tom Hui from his position as Director of Building Inspection. Under the Charter, the Commission must act on this recommendation within 30 days. While this recommendation is pending, I have placed Mr. Hui on paid administrative leave from his position.

The City Attorney launched an investigation of Mr. Hui's activities after determining that he is "DBI OFFICIAL 1" referenced in the unsealed federal criminal complaint, Complaint No. 3-20-70028, filed against former Director of Public Works Mohammed Nuru on January 15, 2020, in the Northern District of California. Although the investigation remains underway, the City Attorney has determined based on the evidence obtained to date that Mr. Hui has violated state and local laws, the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Code of Professional Conduct, and City policies. The enclosed investigative summary details these violations. In the report, the City Attorney's Office finds that Mr. Hui provided intentional preferential treatment and access to Walter Wong, a permit expediter who regularly conducts business with DBI, and to Zhang Li, the developer of 555 Fulton, a project subject to DBI review. Mr. Hui also accepted gifts of meals from Mr. Wong, at dinners arranged to discuss the 555 Fulton project. Also, Mr. Hui solicited and relied on Mr. Wong's input in making DBI operational decisions. Finally, Mr. Hui requested and accepted favors from Mr. Wong in seeking City employment for members of Mr. Hui's family, violating City law and policy by abusing his official position.

There is no place in public service for self-dealing. Mr. Hui abused his position and authority, and betrayed the public trust. Also, Mr. Hui's actions cast a shadow over the good work of the honest and hard-working employees in the DBI. I have no confidence in his judgement, integrity, or ability to serve as Director of Building Inspection. For these reasons, I ask that you place an item on your March 18, 2020 agenda, to remove Mr. Hui as the Director of Building Inspection.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



LONDON N. BREED
MAYOR

I thank City Attorney Dennis Herrera and his investigative team for exposing Mr. Hui's misconduct. I understand the investigation remains ongoing. Based on the investigation to date and any further findings, I will direct the next Director of Building Inspection to take steps to remove Mr. Hui from his underlying permanent civil service appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "London Breed".

Mayor London N. Breed

C: City Attorney Dennis J. Herrera
Director of Building Inspection Tom Hui
LeeAnn Pelham, Executive Director, Ethics Commission
Members of the Building Inspection Commission

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