



**KATY TANG**  
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**SUPERVISOR KATY TANG INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO CREATE  
COMMERCIAL VACANCY REGISTRY**

*Legislation to increase storefront vacancy data and connect property  
owners with resources*

Supervisor Katy Tang introduced legislation today to address the issue of commercial vacancies in San Francisco.

Based on the Department of Building Inspection's (DBI) current vacant building registration report, there are 239 vacant buildings in San Francisco. There are also additional commercial storefront vacancies, which this new legislation will help to identify. A recent sidewalk survey by DBI revealed over 45 partially vacant buildings with vacant ground floor commercial space in the Sunset District, 24 of which are on Taraval Street.

"Our office has seen many storefronts remain vacant for years," said Supervisor Tang. "Vacant commercial storefronts not only contribute to neighborhood blight, but they also represent a missed opportunity to provide goods and services to our residents, boost surrounding small businesses, and develop the economic viability and vibrancy of our neighborhoods."

The new legislation: 1) defines a vacant commercial storefront; 2) requires a property owner to register the commercial storefront with DBI within 30 days of the vacancy; and 3) requires DBI to maintain a registry of all vacant or abandoned commercial storefronts.

Additional requirements include:

- DBI provide a copy of the registry to the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) at least once per fiscal quarter.
- Property owners pay a registration fee within 270 days of the notice to register. If the owner rents to a tenant within the 270 days, they do not need to pay.
- Signage, maintenance, security and insurance requirements while the commercial space remains vacant or abandoned.

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

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“Vacant commercial spaces and storefronts affect the economic viability of the City’s neighborhood commercial corridors,” said Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director of the Office of Small Business. “The City’s *Invest In Neighborhood* program has great services to assist commercial property owners. Having the property owner register their vacant space will allow the City to reach out to the property owner and assist them in turning their once vacant space into an economically vibrant space.”

Currently, the City has a Vacant and Abandoned Building Ordinance, passed by the Board of Supervisors in 2009, to register vacant and/or abandoned buildings. However, for buildings that have a vacant commercial storefront with occupied residential units above, the Vacant and Abandoned Building Ordinance does not apply.

“DBI looks forward to working Supervisor Tang and members of the Board of Supervisors on this new strengthening of the Vacant and Abandoned Building Ordinance,” said Tom Hui, S.E., C.B.O and Director of DBI. “Addressing vacant commercial storefronts and encouraging property owners to find new tenants quickly for their spaces will generate economic opportunities beneficial to our neighborhoods and to the entire city.”

The legislation will give property owners an opportunity to more widely publicize their vacancy using city services. The legislation will also exempt property owners who have obtained permits for valid repair or maintenance, who have filed an application for permits to allow the lawful use of the storefront, or who have hired an agent to sell, lease or rent their storefront.

"Through this program, we hope that property owners are better connected to city resources and opportunities to enhance their surrounding neighborhood," said Supervisor Tang.

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