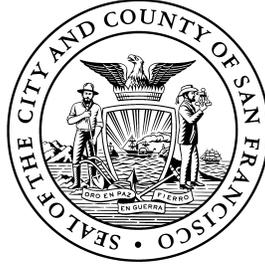


City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
District 6

MATT DORSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

Dorsey seeks accelerated placements for 33 Tehama's BMR tenants, City Attorney review of catastrophic flood

Newly extended mass tenant displacement is impacting more than 400 residential rental units, including some 60 below-market-rate units for low- and moderate-income renters

SAN FRANCISCO (July 18, 2022) — In response to news that hundreds of residents of a catastrophically flooded East Cut high rise at 33 Tehama Street will not be allowed to return to their apartments until late 2022 or early 2023 and that landlord payments for alternative housing arrangements will cease next month, Supervisor Matt Dorsey today called for expedited actions by relevant city agencies to help protect affected tenants.

- In a letter to Mayor London Breed and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Dorsey called on city officials to accelerate placements for tenants of some 60 below-market-rate units at 33 Tehama by next month in order to spare low- and moderate-income renters burdensome of out-of-pocket costs, and to provide guidance to market-rate renters about all available resources to help mitigate their displacement; and
- In a separate letter to City Attorney David Chiu, the Department of Building Inspection, and the San Francisco Rent Board, Dorsey asked for a formal review of whether the building's ownership is meeting its legal obligations to displaced tenants and if the June 3 water main failure that forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents resulted

from negligence or any other factor rising to the level of an actionable unlawful business practice or other civil cause of action.

“This is a bad situation that has caused very serious upheaval in the lives of hundreds of residents at 33 Tehama, none more so than the low- and moderate-income renters who are least able to afford near-term housing arrangements on their own,” said Supervisor Matt Dorsey. “Given the short timeframe left for hotel accommodations or housing stipends, I’m asking the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development to accelerate alternative or temporary placements for 33 Tehama’s BMR residents. I’m also asking for MOHCD’s assistance in identifying resources to help market-rate renters cope with their extended displacements as well.”

“I’m separately asking City Attorney David Chiu’s office to assess the adequacy of the 33 Tehama landlord’s handling of its displaced residents and to work with the Department of Building Inspection to determine if a civil cause of action exists under California’s Unfair Competition Law for the underlying water main failure,” Dorsey continued. “My request isn’t intended to accuse anyone of specific wrongdoing, but rather to provide the fullest assurance possible to 33 Tehama residents and to all San Franciscans that a months-long housing displacement of this magnitude will be rigorously and independently investigated.”

Hines, the building’s owner, informed residents that the June 3, 2022 flooding was caused by a water main failure on the 35th floor, which serviced the building’s fire sprinkler system. The “catastrophic” failure caused an estimated 20,000 gallons of water — “the equivalent of a swimming pool,” according to news reports — to flood the 403-unit building, leading to a massive evacuation. [DBI inspections](#) have deemed the building unsafe for occupancy, with reports detailing water damages to some 95 residences and common amenity areas.

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