

President, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

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Contact: Calvin Ho, calvin.ho@sfgov.org; (510) 734-2648

Melanie Mathewson, melanie.mathewson@sfgov.org; (707) 477-9413

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

PRESIDENT RAFAEL MANDELMAN’S LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO HUNDREDS OF PROPERTY OWNERS IMPACTED BY CITY AUDIT PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Today, Board President Rafael Mandelman’s legislation to create a time-limited amnesty program for properties that have been issued notice of violations (NOVs) by the Department of Building Inspection as part of its Internal Quality Control Audit, passed unanimously at the Board of Supervisors. This legislation amends Article 1.7 of the Planning Code and Chapter 1A of the Building Code, providing relief to property owners who were unknowingly victims of corruption.

In 2023, former DBI inspector Bernard Curran and longtime San Francisco building and construction engineer Rodrigo Santos were found guilty of numerous fraud schemes including the completion of work beyond the scope of issued permits. In response, DBI completed an Internal Quality Control Audit, a review of properties associated with Santos and Curran. Of the 5,445 properties identified within the audit, most were cleared without DBI issuing NOVs.

Approximately 2% of properties were found to have been out of compliance with the Building Code and have been issued NOVs. According to DBI, none of the properties in violation have significant life-safety issues.

“We should not punish hundreds of people because of the actions of a few bad actors,” said **Board of Supervisors President Rafael Mandelman**. “At a time when our City resources are already stretched thin, we should be using staff time to enforce on actual life-threatening hazards. By creating this amnesty program, we are providing relief to these property owners who have or will have to spend tens of thousands of dollars to fix problems they didn’t create and never knew existed.”

The legislation creates an amnesty program that does the following:

1. Provides for certification from DBI and Planning that the properties do not have life-safety hazards.
2. Waives department fees and penalties for audit NOVs, refund fees and penalties for those who have already tried to abate their NOVs, and waives permit costs to allow owners to bring their properties into compliance.
3. Prohibits new construction, additions, or any intensification of these properties unless they are brought into compliance.

“Evaluating the construction associated with Curran and Santos was necessary to confirm the buildings were built safely. Fortunately, we found no imminent life safety hazards,” said **Patrick O’Riordan, Director of the Department of Building Inspection**. “We did, however, find a number of properties that require additional work or inspections to confirm structural safety and achieve code compliance. Waiving the permit and inspection fees for these people is just the right thing to do.”

“I want to extend my sincere thanks to Board President Mandelman and his team for their work on this legislation. After a difficult three-year ordeal, we are relieved to see it come to an end. As new homeowners, we were completely blindsided by the DBI issues or any pending violations. Having the matter dismissed and our fees refunded is an enormous relief,” said **Kim Albright, an affected property owner** who qualifies for the amnesty program.

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