

Promoting Commitment to Open Data

A Compendium of Open Data Policy Press Releases in US Municipalities

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<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/PressReleases/Pages/20160427MunicipalityofAnchorageAdoptsOpenDataPolicy.aspx?platform=hootsuite>

Municipality of Anchorage Adopts Open Data Policy

4/27/2016

Mayor's Corner

ANCHORAGE – The Municipality of Anchorage has adopted an open data policy to promote transparency through increased community access to government data and information. The MOA Open Data Initiative will focus on collecting data from five initial areas: public health, housing, finance, public safety, and transportation.

“Making Anchorage an open data city will give Anchorage cutting edge transparency and improve engagement and access to the Municipality,” said Mayor Berkowitz.

The Municipality is partnering with Socrata to expand its open data capabilities. Within the five initial areas, early focus will be on providing data from food safety and sanitation inspections, property information, building permits and inspections, code violations, the budget, crime reports, and collision data.

“Open data will be good for neighborhoods and community councils, allowing insights into patterns and facts that affect them,” said MOA E-Gov and Applications Service Manager Teresa Helleck.

Asheville, NC

<http://coablog.ashevillenc.gov/2016/02/municipal-data-evolves-to-next-gen-in-asheville-open-data/>

Municipal data evolves to Next Gen in Asheville: Open data

February 11, 2016

The City of Asheville collects and houses a lot of data, everything from property records to zoning permits and beyond. Putting that data to use for the public good has been a driving force behind City initiatives such as the [SimpliCity](#) search engine, which won a national award, and [avlbudget.org](#), a partnership with Code for Asheville that provides a visual tour of the City's budget.

Now the City of Asheville is working to make data available to anyone who wants it in easy-to-find and downloadable formats.

City Council led the way by adopting an Open Data Policy in October, [Resolution No. 15-189](#), which says the City of Asheville website “will serve as an open data catalog of the data available from the City.” It further allows for free re-use and this is where we are seeing an intersection of public data with private innovation.

Consider the City's [Find Parking](#) native site launched in November to help people find parking spaces available in downtown parking garages. It's also available as a [Wheres-Parking](#) site on your mobile phone. Much of that data has now been incorporated into another website, [AVLpark](#), which not only tells you where parking spaces are available but also offers parking data analysis, what days of the week are most busy and where there is the most parking demand when there are events downtown.

City Business and Public Technology Manager Scott Barnwell is about to geek out over [AVLpark](#). He thinks it's so cool. “We're feeding civic innovation,” Barnwell said.

“I talked to the guys who built that, Patrick Conant and Jesse Michel from PRC Applications,” Barnwell said. “I thought that was so awesome that someone was building it on their own time for the public good. They are local software developers who had a great idea and all we had to do was make the data available.”

The open data model offers a new level of transparency with citizens as well as serving up information that can be used any number of ways.

The City's Chief Information Officer Jonathan Feldman helped build the case for open data by promoting its practical value in terms of freeing up staff time alone. “Open data provides a self-serve

model for citizens, businesses and journalists,” he said.

And it’s the new model going forward for the City of Asheville.

What’s available?

Visit the [City of Asheville Open Data Portal](#). We are adding data to it all the time. Click on “parks,” for example and you will find databases on Asheville trees, greenways, City of Asheville building footprints and more. Click on “transportation” and find City of Asheville bicycle routes, bus stops and a database of City-maintained streets. It’s [SimpliCity](#) on steroids.

“This is a way to amplify City data and create deeper engagement between citizens and their government,” said Barnwell. “There are also business opportunities; there are businesses in this town that are based on open data.”

Insurance companies, for example, can access the City building permit database to assess risk in insuring a home.

And we’re not done yet.

The City is working to expand the existing Open Data Catalog with additional datasets and tools with the goal of having it fully functional later this year.

<http://coablog.ashevillenc.gov/2016/06/city-of-asheville-unveils-new-open-data-portal/>

[City of Asheville unveils new Open Data Portal](#)

June 14, 2016

Our data is your data. Literally.

The City of Asheville collects and houses a lot of data, everything from property records to zoning permits and beyond. Putting that data to use for the public good has been a driving force behind City initiatives such as the [SimpliCity](#) search engine, which won a national award, and [avlbudget.org](#), a partnership with Code for Asheville that provides a visual tour of the City’s budget.

Earlier this year, we reported that the City of Asheville is working to make data available to anyone who wants it in easy-to-find and downloadable formats.

The outcome of that effort is an updated City open data portal. Go to data.ashevillenc.gov to find all kinds of information, ranging from local Census data to how many National Register of Historic

Places there are in Asheville and where to find them.

The City's new open data portal has been upgraded with some cool search features. "And it's redesigned to make the categories easier to follow," said Christen McNamara, GIS Programmer Analyst who has been working on the site.

The person coming to the City's open data portal typically is either going to be a developer trying to get information, a web analyst or a citizen interested in big data. Under the City Government tab, for example, the data for vendors, business licenses and permits is updated every night.

"Now people can come here and download data in whatever format they want: spreadsheet, shapefile, API, as well as perform simple spatial analysis directly on the site," McNamara said.

The hope is that the public will mine this data and make it work for them. We also want City staff to use it to help make their jobs more efficient with search tools.

So go on the [City of Asheville Open Data Portal](#), check it out. Don't see what you want? Make a data request.

"As people ask us for data, we will share it through the new site whenever possible to make it more widely accessible," said McNamara.

Boston, MA

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/Default.aspx?id=20265>

Mayor Walsh Announces Open and Protected Data Policy

Increases transparency, accountability in City government

For Immediate Release: July 30, 2015

BOSTON - Thursday, July 30, 2015 - Mayor Martin J. Walsh today released the Open and Protected Data Policy, designed to increase transparency and accountability by opening more City data to the public. The policy fulfills a commitment made by the Mayor in his [Executive Order on Open and Protected Data](#) last year. The policy calls for City agencies to publish data sets on the City's open data portal (<http://data.cityofboston.gov/>) and provides guidance for protecting sensitive information, and is available for viewing [here](#).

"The City's Open and Protected Data Policy builds on my commitment to openness and transparency in government," said Mayor Walsh. "This new policy will make more data available to the public, encourage business to build useful applications with City data, and increase collaboration between the City and the research community."

The Open and Protected Data Policy was created by the Department of Innovation and Technology and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, with input from the public, City departments and outside experts. The policy will streamline the release of new datasets. It adopts a Creative Commons license for all data released by the City to encourage the use of data for commercial and non-commercial purposes. It also provides a framework for responsibly sharing data with researchers and other partner organizations.

To accompany the release of the data policy, the City of Boston has announced the current availability of a number of new datasets:

- Usage information from the City's ParkBoston meter parking payment program
- Boston Police Department firearm recovery data
- Usage information for the City's Wicked Free WiFi initiative
- Residential recycling/waste tonnage
- Active user counts from the Boston Public Libraries

The City of Boston also announced today that they are joining the Building and Land Development Specification (BLDS), one of a number of emerging Open Data standards. BLDS provides a standardized format for data about development projects and is being adopted by municipalities around the country.

"Data standards like BLDS make open data more useful," said Chief Information Officer Jascha Franklin-Hodge. "They encourage private companies to use open data, and make it easier for residents and businesses to access the information they need."

Since the Mayor signed the Open and Protected Data Executive Order in April 2014, the City has continued to expand its open data program:

- The number of published data sets has grown from 342 to 376. New datasets include data on tax assessing for City properties, Liquor Licenses, as well as economic indicators tracked by the BRA.
- The City was selected as a Knight News Challenge grant recipient to make Open Data more useful by creating data-focused programs within the Boston Public Library.

In April, the City of Boston hosted its second [HubHacks hackathon](#), where members of the public were invited to use City data and data from partners to tell the story of Boston through data visualization.

Buffalo, NY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2017

Contact: Sharon Linstedt

(716) 851-4246/(716) 480-3068

MAYOR BROWN ANNOUNCES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON CITY OF BUFFALO'S PROPOSED OPEN DATA PROGRAM

Starting today, January 10 through January 24, 2017, residents are invited to review and comment on the draft Open Data policy which will guide the enhancement of government transparency through a new data program

Buffalo – Mayor Byron W. Brown today announced the opening of the 14-day public comment period on the City of Buffalo's draft Open Data policy. The proposed policy will govern the City's new Open Data program and guide release of public data in the future.

"This is an opportunity for our residents to give us feedback on the policy which will greatly enhance the City of Buffalo's open data practices. Our goal is to engage the public as we make more city data easily accessible to residents and city staff to improve service, boost efficiency and increase transparency and accountability," Mayor Brown said.

The Brown administration's effort to launch an Open Data program is being aided by the Bloomberg Philanthropies National "What Work Cities" initiative, which is working with 39 cities in 25 states to use data to make government more effective, while improving lives of residents. In June 2016, Buffalo was one of 10 cities selected by the What Works Cities team for assistance in advancing its goals of Open Data and Performance Management.

"Our in-house team, with the expertise of our What Works Cities partners, is pushing ahead toward the July launch of the free, Buffalo Open Data internet portal which will enhance the on-going effort to grow Buffalo into a City of opportunity for all. We look forward to receiving comments on what we believe will be a best-of-class public data portal," Mayor Brown said.

The City has established an Open Data Governance Committee, which includes data liaisons representing all facets of city government. The committee has been working with the Sunlight Foundation to develop an Open Data policy that reflects best practices, creates robust open data sets and advances City performance through stronger targets.

Emily Shaw, a senior analyst with the Sunlight Foundation, who has been in frequent contact with the City's governance committee said it's critical for residents to become engaged in the Open Data development process by participating in the policy comment period.

"Buffalo is making great strides in publishing the city's data for its residents to use. Buffalonians should be sure to take a look at the draft open data policy and leave a comment about the data they'd like to see their city publish," Shaw said.

The City is utilizing a temporary internet platform provided by the OpenGov Foundation's Madison Project to host the public comment period. Madison is a government policy co-creation platform that opens up laws and legislation previously off-limits to individuals and the Internet community.

As the Buffalo Open Data process continues, the City will be issuing an RFP for a third-party firm to develop and host the live data portal.

The policy can be viewed at <https://documents.mymadison.io/docs/city-of-buffalo-open-data-policy> or via the City of Buffalo website at <http://www.city-buffalo.com/>. There is an Open Data Buffalo button on the City's website which takes participants directly to the draft policy. After a brief and simple sign up, they be able to do five things: read the document; let the City know whether they support or oppose the document; leave a comment on the policy or open data, in general; highlight a bit of text and leave a note on that specific text; and respond to other people's notes, starting a dialogue about a specific passage.

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Chicago, IL

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2012/december_2012/mayor_emanuel_expandsopendataoncityportalwithexecutiveorder.html

December 10, 2012

Mayor Emanuel Expands Open Data on City Portal with Executive Order

Action Includes Release of 21 New Datasets; Mandates that Each City Agency Release Datasets and Empowers the Chief Data Officer to Build on the Success of Chicago's National Leadership on Open Data

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today signed an Executive Order mandating that city agencies publish public data sets under their control as well as update them on a regular basis. The Executive Order will expand upon Chicago's national leadership in open data by establishing a lasting framework for future releases and empowering the Chief Data Officer (CDO) to continue developing datasets by working collaboratively with representatives from City departments and sister agencies.

"An open and transparent administration makes it easier for residents to hold their government accountable, but it also serves as a platform for innovative tools that improve the lives of all residents," said Mayor Emanuel. "Chicago's vibrant technology and startup community will leverage this wealth of open, public data to create applications that will improve service delivery and lead to greater quality of service for residents and more public engagement in City government."

The Mayor's Chief Data Officer will coordinate implementation of the Executive Order by establishing reasonable timelines, implementation plans, and review processes to promote increased online public access to city agency data sets. At the start of his term, the Mayor created the position of CDO to coordinate the City's open data policy and lead data analysis initiatives to improve city decision-making and management, and today's Executive Order ensures that the position will be maintained and strengthened for the remainder of the Mayor's time in office.

As an immediate next step, the CDO will convene an Open Data Advisory Group consisting of open data coordinators appointed from each City agency, which will assist the CDO in establishing timelines for implementing the Executive Order.

"By making more data available to residents and developers, we are better able to move past administrative and technical hurdles so that we can find solutions to City's most complex problems," said Brett Goldstein, the City's Chief Data Officer and Commissioner of the Department of Innovation and Technology.

To commence a new phase in the City's ongoing efforts to increase transparency and accountability, the City is also releasing **21 new datasets** to the City's data portal. These datasets include the Chicago Traffic Tracker, which will provide data on traffic congestion on Chicago's arterial streets in real-time by continuously monitoring and analyzing GPS traces received from Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) buses. Congestion estimates will be produced every ten minutes to measure the current estimated speed for about 1250 segments covering 300 miles of arterial roads. In addition to Traffic Tracker, the City is releasing a lookup table that will enable residents to determine whether any environmental records exist for a given address, a map of locations in Chicago where residents can drop off recycling, a map of liquor moratorium districts in the city, and a database of abandoned vehicle service requests. Full descriptions and links are included with this release.

Since Mayor Emanuel took office, the city has overhauled the City's data portal, data.cityofchicago.org, which now hosts more than 400 datasets and has been viewed 2.5 million times. Notable datasets include "Current Employee Names, Salaries and Position Titles," which publicly displays the salary for every employee of the City of Chicago, a searchable version of the City's budget, and more than 5 million crime incident reports spanning ten years. To improve City services through data driven decision-making, the Mayor launched a citywide data collection project led by Chapin Hall and financed through a \$300,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation to document citywide data and consolidate it into a singular data

platform that will improve City operations, services and analytical decision-making. In addition, the City, State, and County have joined forces to launch MetroChicagoData.org, the nation's first "convergence patch" site that brings public data from multiple governments into a single open portal to help increase service efficiencies, access to vital information and new innovation. Information Week recently included Metro Chicago Data in its top 15 Government IT Innovators for 2012. In August 2012, Chicago partnered with the Federal government, New York City, San Francisco, and Seattle to launch Cities.Data.Gov. In September, Mayor Emanuel partnered with Code for America to announce the launch of Chicago's new "Open311" service request system, which allows Chicagoans to track service requests from the time they are submitted and receive an email when the issue is resolved through a new "311 Service Tracker." The system also allows residents to submit photos with service requests, encouraging more accurate and detailed reporting of issues to City departments.

As a result of these and other efforts to improve transparency and accessibility of City data, Chicago received a national transparency award from the Sunshine Review, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to government transparency, and the City of Chicago website received an A+ grade.

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2014/feb/mayor-rahm-emanuel-releases-first-annual-open-data-report.html

February 7, 2014

Mayor Rahm Emanuel Releases First Annual Open Data Report

Report Outlines New Data Initiatives and Dataset Releases for 2014 and Provides a Progress Update on the City's Open Data Policies

Mayor Emanuel today released the first Open Data Annual Report, which provides an update on the City's open data policies, outlines several new initiatives and previews dataset releases for 2014. Since 2011, the number of datasets and user downloads of City data has more than doubled. This year, the City will launch additional efforts to use data to provide a platform for innovation and enhance existing services.

"The City's open data efforts are part of my commitment to an open, accountable administration that empowers residents to take part in government and enables developers to create innovative applications that improve the lives of Chicagoans," said Mayor Emanuel. "The Open Data Annual Report reflects the strides the City has made in the interest of transparency and outlines our goals for making Chicago a national leader in civic and digital innovation in the next year."

The Open Data Annual Report provides an update on the City's data efforts and outlines several new initiatives for 2014:

- 1) The City to promote open data in the procurement process
- 2) City and Cook County to increase coordination in the release of related datasets
- 3) The release of new dataset including additional 311 calls, city-owned assets, business violations, specific public safety and hazard violations, and building code violations

Going forward as part of the procurement process, City contracts with vendors will contain provisions that promote open data by ensuring that potential data releases are identified in the bid documents and as a result will be incorporated in the contract with a selected vendor so that any such potential data may be released without undue delay during the performance of the contract. Prior to this policy change, data releases related to City contracts were worked out with vendors on a case-by-case basis after the contracts were signed. With this change in policy, the City will identify potential data releases before contracts are final and include provisions in completed agreements.

The City and Cook County will also deepen their efforts to identify opportunities to coordinate in the release of related datasets. The City's advanced analytics team will use text-analytic techniques to identify frequently-requested data to target for release on the open data portal. The City's data portal is set to contain a new, public method to solicit suggestions for

new datasets, and the City will create and maintain a new Open Data Status Blog to provide detailed feedback to portal users.

The City has targeted key datasets for release in 2014, including additional 311 calls, city-owned vehicles, business violations, specific public safety and hazard violations, and building code violations. Chicago currently discloses 311 data for the twelve most common service requests. In 2014 Chicago will release more 311 calls on the data portal, including fly dumping complaints, building violation complaints, and basement flooding complaints. The City will also release all business violations, public safety and hazard violations, and building code violations filed with the City's Department of Administrative Hearings dating back to 2001. These datasets will include violations related to operating a business without a proper license, deceptive marketing practices, building safety and building exterior and interior maintenance violations, and de-identified data on violations for driving while using a mobile telephone and driving under the influence (DUI).

"This document lays out Mayor Emanuel's continued efforts to further the open data movement in Chicago and foster an open government," said Commissioner Brenna Berman of the Department of Innovation and Technology. "Residents expect their governments to be responsive and agile, and through open data, Chicago has been able to serve residents in the 21st Century, whether it's exploring energy usage in your community, when to move your car for street sweeping, or where to get a flu shot."

In addition to establishing goals for 2014, the Open Data Report provides an update on the City's ongoing data initiatives, and demonstrates the dramatic growth in the City's data portal. Since Mayor Emanuel took office, the City has overhauled the City's data portal – data.cityofchicago.org – resulting in substantial growth in content and traffic, including:

- The number of datasets on the portal has nearly tripled. Today the portal contains 592 datasets compared to 271 datasets just two years ago.
- Total downloads of datasets from the portal have also nearly tripled. In December 2013, 6.5 terabytes of data were accessed on the portal. In May 2011, only 2.5 terabytes of data were accessed.

The total number of visits per month has increased by 5 million views. In May 2011, 29,513 pages were viewed on the dataset. Since then, the number of monthly visits has increased to 5.4 million visits in December 2013. Cumulatively, the City's data portal has been viewed a total of 17.2 million times.

By making data accessible, the City's significant expansion of content and growth in traffic has facilitated the development of numerous innovative civic applications by independent developers, such as:

- [Chicago Works](#), which allows residents to make service requests to 311 and track issues as they are addressed
- [Wasmcartowed.com](#), which lets users look up their car by license plate, make, or model and find out if it has been towed or relocated
- [Adopt a Sidewalk](#), which allows users to adopt certain paths of sidewalk that they can maintain throughout the winter
- [SweepAround.us](#), which allows users to input their address and find out when their street will be swept next. It also provides the option to register for text, e-mail and calendar alerts.
- [ChicagoLobbyists.org](#), which provides users with information about lobbying in Chicago.

For a full list of City Data apps, visit: <http://digital.cityofchicago.org/index.php/open-data-applications/>

The first annual Open Data Report is a result of Mayor Emanuel's 2012 Open Data Executive Order, which required that City agencies make reasonable efforts to publish public data sets under their control as well as update them on a regular basis. An integral component of the Executive Order is that the City releases an annual report detailing progress on ongoing data initiatives as well as establishing goals and targets for the upcoming year. Over the past year, an Open Data Advisory Group consisting of open data coordinators from each City agency worked to develop this report.

As a result of these and other efforts by Mayor Emanuel to improve accessibility of City data, Chicago received a national transparency award from the Sunshine Review, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to government transparency, and

the City of Chicago website received an A+ grade.

For the full Annual Report visit: http://10.220.135.180/annual/_site/index.html

Cincinnati, OH

<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cityofcincinnati/news/cincinnati-s-open-data-portal-opens-the-books-on-government-operations/>

Cincinnati's Open Data Portal 'Opens the Books' on Government Operations

Apr. 22

City Invites Public to Partner on Creative Solutions

The City of Cincinnati enhances transparency by sharing the City's data with the general public.

A new initiative, Open Data Cincinnati, allows anyone to browse through various datasets of information collected by the City to document how the government operates.

CLICK TO ACCESS THE PORTAL

The City believes giving the data to the public will encourage residents to help come up with creative tools to engage, improve and serve the community. The long-term vision is for the new portal to improve customer service, increase accountability and stimulate economic activity through data sharing.

"Open Data Cincinnati is about more than just stats, numbers and bar charts. This is about the City opening itself up to the people we serve on a daily basis," said Black who has made it a priority to establish Cincinnati as a national model for using data analytics to make city government more efficient and effective. "We as a City recognize that a citizens' access to their local government's information is fundamental to transparency and accountability," the city manager added.

The portal went live to the public April 22 which coincided with a kick-off event at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall. Those interested in the topic should post to social media using the hashtag #CincyOpenData.

The initial 15 datasets included in the new portal range from fire department incidents to

response times for customer service to restaurant inspections. Each dataset will be viewable as a standard spreadsheet or as a more user-friendly “visualization” that can take the form of anything from a pie chart to a bar graph.

VIEW PICTURES OF THE PORTAL BELOW

This new technology is about offering the citizens of Cincinnati – City officials included – a chance to analyze, interpret and critique performance data, providing an unprecedented opportunity to reexamine the way local government works.

“This initiative empowers Cincinnati citizens to become more fully engaged with their government,” Mayor John Cranley said. “I encourage everyone to use the portal to check how we’re doing. A government that is transparent and accessible will inevitably do a better job because it will be held accountable by its stakeholders.”

Topics can be found in a “Browse All Data” search bar on the homepage or found broken down into the City Manager’s five administrative priority goals:

- Safer Streets
- Growing Economy
- Thriving & Healthy Neighborhoods
- Innovative Government
- Fiscal Sustainability & Strategic Investment

The City acknowledges that the system is not yet perfect, but it’s a first step in the right direction. For example, the City will continue to add new datasets to the portal so improvements can be made in all facets of local government.

What Is Open Data And Why Does It Matter?

Open data is a fast-growing global movement that enhances governance by making

non-personal, public information broadly accessible and usable by people and machines, free of any constraints.

The initiative in Cincinnati was born out of a proposal sponsored by Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld who is the Chair of the Entrepreneurship Committee. City Council unanimously adopted the proposal in January 2014.

"I was glad to set this work in motion and have my colleagues' support in doing so," Sittenfeld said. "The City's data is really the people's data, and our citizens can create powerful innovations by having access to this data."

By taking steps to publish data to our new public information site, Cincinnati joins the ranks of some of the world's most innovative and forward-thinking public-sector organizations. The process has already been adopted by cities across the United States – Chicago, Boston, Palo Alto, San Francisco and beyond. It is believed Cincinnati is the first city in Ohio to adopt such a policy regarding the handling of its data.

Open Data Cincinnati will be supported by Seattle-based software-as-a-services provider, Socrata, the leading global provider of open data and government performance management solutions.

Denton, TX

<http://cityofdenton.com/Home/Components/News/News/4567/35?backlist=%2F>

City of Denton Launches Open Data Portal

Post Date:02/11/2015 3:12 PM

DENTON, TX, Feb. 11, 2015 - The City of Denton announced today the launch of a portal, data.cityofdenton.com, to provide easy access to a wide range of public data. Denton joins a growing number of government agencies across the country that are creating a central location where the public can view and download a variety of civic data. The site hosts government information in open, machine-readable formats while ensuring privacy, confidentiality, and security.

"The open data initiative demonstrates the City's commitment to transparency and open government. This portal provides another avenue for citizens to engage with and participate in their local government," said Council Member Kevin Roden. "Denton is home to a vibrant technology and startup community, and this site can serve as a platform for innovators and entrepreneurs to build creative solutions for their community."

The portal currently hosts 99 downloadable datasets on various City functions and operations, including infrastructure, land use, parks, and gas wells. A key feature of the portal is the interactive mapping function, where citizens can display data geographically on a map of the city. The portal also includes printable maps and links to additional information. To get started, visit data.cityofdenton.com.

Detroit, MI

<http://www.detroitmi.gov/News/ArticleID/39/Mayor-Duggan-announces-new-Open-Data-Initiative-to-give-public-greater-access-to-city-data-and-information>

Mayor Duggan Announces New Open Data Initiative to Give Public Greater Access to City Data and Information

Forrest Johnson posted on 2/19/2015 10:50:00 AM

- o Initial GO DATA roll-out is “important first step” toward transparency

Today, the City of Detroit took a major step toward becoming a more transparent government by launching the first phase of its new Initiative, which will make volumes of information more easily accessible to the public at no cost.

The purpose of the GO DATA (Government Open Data Access To All) initiative – established by Executive Order 2015-02 – is to increase the accessibility and the availability of certain data collected or maintained by the City. The goal, according to Mayor Mike Duggan, is to create a more open, collaborative and accountable relationship between the City government and the people it serves.

Open data – a process of making non-personal, public information broadly accessible and usable by people and computers, free of any constraints - is a fast-growing movement within government. The cornerstone of this major shift in City policy will be that data and information, unless exempt from disclosure under State or federal law, will be available to the public, starting with an open data portal accessible at www.detroitmi.gov.

“Providing access to information is one of the most important things we can do to keep the public’s trust and establish a sense of accountability within city government,” said Mayor Duggan. “Today is an important first step in that direction and one we will continue to build on as more information is added to this new website,” he said.

With initial participation from nine City agencies, the following high-value data will be available starting today:

- **DPD crime reports** (updated hourly once a report has been completed and filed)

- **Building** and **Trade** permits (updated daily). This will allow visitors to see who pulled a permit, what type of work is being done and what contractor is doing the work.

- **Blight remediation data** (updated weekly)

- o Detroit Land Bank Authority sales reports: **properties, side lots, auctions**

- o DLBA demolitions: **completed** demolitions in Hardest Hit Funds Zones, as well as **projected** demolitions expected to occur by May 1, 2015

Overall, the data available at launch of the Open Data Portal includes:

- Information from nine City agencies and authorities

- o Buildings, Safety, Engineering & Environmental Department

- o Detroit Police Department

- o Detroit Land Bank Authority

- o Planning & Development Department

- o Recreation Department

- o Public Works

- o Assessor

- o DDOT

- o City Clerk (Elections)

- More than 75 individual datasets,

- o More than 60 maps of **libraries** and **parks**, an **official city parcel map**, and other data.

- o More coming online every other week

- Nearly 400,000 individual pieces of data about City operations

New data sets will come online in the weeks and months to come, including all city financial transactions, which should be accessible online by mid-year.

Public-Private Partnership

The new open data initiative is part of the overall effort to make city government more accessible to residents. Already the city has launched a mobile app showing the real time location of DDOT buses and unveiled a newly redesigned and more useful website that works on mobile phones. In his State of the City Address, the Mayor said that in the next month or so, the city would launch a new mobile app called “Improve Detroit,” which will allow anyone to report a range of service issues, including water main breaks, broken street lights, illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles and more.

This new open data portal will be supported by software-as-a-services provider, Socrata, Inc. the leading global provider of open data and government performance management solutions. The open data portal has been established through a partnership between Socrata, Inc., the Socrata Foundation, and the City of Detroit.

“Our goal,” explains Socrata CEO and Founder Kevin Merritt, “is to help governments use one of the most valuable and new natural resources – open data – to drive outcomes and impact with their constituents. Ultimately, fact-based and data-driven government will become the fundamental basis for all critical and strategic decisions made in the public sector everywhere.”

Community engagement will be an ongoing aspect

To determine what information can be made available, the Mayor also announced the creation of a Task Force and an Advisory Commission to evaluate and determine the best methods for the design, implementation and monitoring of his Open Data Initiative.

The Task Force, with assistance from the Law Department, will determine how to structure access to public data and information to ensure public records and other data and information can be easily accessible to the public in an open data format that is readable by residents, able to be processed by computers and scheduled for release. The Open Data Task Force includes the City’s Chief Financial Officer, Chief Information Officer, Director of Communications and relevant city department heads.

To encourage civic engagement, the new open data Portal features:

- Ability to retrieve, download, index, and search data by commonly used web search

applications

- Easy ways for members of the community to tell the City what data they want to see, give us feedback, and tell us when things are incorrect
- Quick access to tools and tutorials for developers and hackers to build visualizations and applications using City data

The Mayor's Open Data Advisory Committee is expected to be formed in the coming weeks. It will be chaired by CIO Beth Niblock and include representatives of the community, academic institutions and civic technologists. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to make sure the city is taking into consideration the needs of the community in developing its open data process.

Anyone interested in becoming a candidate for a [seat on the Advisory Committee can fill out this form](#).

Jackson, MS

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150910002459/http://www.jacksonms.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=442>

Posted on: September 1, 2015

Mayor Tony T. Yarber Signs Executive Order on Open Data

Mayor Tony T. Yarber on Tuesday, Sept. 1, signed an executive order on open data as the first step in the City's commitment to establish an open data policy and make key city data sets available to the public.

Establishing an open data policy and practice is a critical part of Jackson's work with What Works Cities, the Bloomberg Philanthropies-funded national initiative launched in April 2015 to enhance cities' use of data and evidence to improve residents' lives.

"Jackson will codify and standardize open data processes and policies to share data openly with residents, as well as internally," said Jackson Mayor Tony T. Yarber. "We'll ensure staff across city departments understand the purpose of data collection, regularly collect and publish data, and make decisions based on such data."

The City of Jackson will receive expert advice from the Sunlight Foundation, which will develop a formal, comprehensive open data policy while codifying the collection and liberation processes. The city will work with Sunlight and The Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University to help the city make data available to the public in a more useful and responsive way; and link open data to the city's performance management dashboard when it becomes available.

Within 30 days after engagement begins, Jackson will review and update open data policies, convene a governance committee and create an initial inventory of the city's datasets. Within 60 days, the city will establish a plan to share open data updates and outcomes with the public and begin incorporating external stakeholders.

<http://www.jacksonms.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=571>

Posted on: April 4, 2016

Visit Jackson's New Open Data Portal for Key Government Information

Mayor Tony T. Yarber on Monday, April 4, unveiled a new open data portal that will make government information and data more accessible to the public while helping to improve City of Jackson operations.

The portal, data.jacksonms.gov, will host 25 data sets related to the City budget, Infrastructure Master Plan, community improvement projects, public safety, economic growth, and mayoral goals.

The data is downloadable and can be embedded or accessed directly through an API (Application Program Interface) to create apps or other software. The interactive platform gives citizens the ability to create charts, graphs and maps with the City's data.

"We're placing key information about our City here so the public can easily find what they're seeking," Mayor Yarber said. "The portal is a tangible milestone that showcases the work the City has been doing to ensure it becomes more transparent and accountable to its citizens."

The portal is the result of the City's continued collaboration with partners on the What Works Cities initiative, launched by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The City of Jackson was among eight cities selected nationwide for the first cohort of the initiative in 2015. The goal was to implement open data processes and policies to share internally and externally and use such data to make governmental decisions.

As part of the initiative, the City formed a data governance committee, enacted Open Data legislation and completed inventory of the City's data.

The City also has committed to a performance management program that uses data and evidence to improve day-to-day operations and departmental decision making. Under the program, goals and outcome measures are defined for each department. Mayor Yarber holds bi-weekly meetings with City directors to discuss performance, challenges to achieving goals and potential solutions.

The mission of What Works Cities is to elevate and accelerate cities use of data and evidence to engage citizens, make government more effective and improve people's lives. The consortium of leading organizations that has been assembled by Bloomberg Philanthropies to provide program support includes:

- ? Results for America;
- ? Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University;
- ? Government Performance Lab at the Harvard Kennedy School;
- ? Sunlight Foundation;
- ? The Behavioral Insights Team

The City of Jackson has worked with the Sunlight Foundation to implement open data practices and the Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University to launch the performance management program.

Madison, WI

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/new-city-of-madison-open-data-ordinance>

New City of Madison Open Data Ordinance

Monday, June 11, 2012 - 6:04am

A new ordinance making city data more accessible will be introduced at the Madison Common Council meeting on Tuesday, June 12th. The ordinance is being introduced by Alder Scott Resnick and co-sponsored by Alders Mark Clear, Sayta Rhodes-Conway and Chris Schmidt. It establishes a process for agencies to publish most of the city's data or "data sets" through the city's website and make them available to the public on a self-service basis. Exceptions are made for information that is confidential or otherwise not subject to release under the public records law.

If adopted, Madison will be the first city in Wisconsin and one of first in the Midwest to codify an open data policy.

"This ordinance will enhance Madison's commitment to a transparent government, harness the talents of civically-minded entrepreneurs, and improve government efficiency. By making these data sets easily accessible to developers, new innovations can be created that benefit the entire community," said Alder Resnick.

The Madison technology community, including software developers and other citizens would have the ability to utilize city data for creating new applications, including smart phone applications.

Madison's technology and entrepreneurship community has grown exponentially within the last year. New applications have been released by the City as well as the development community promoting Madison Metro Transit, the Dane County Farmer's Market, fire department services, and local events.

Mayor Paul Soglin, a strong supporter of the ordinance stated, "This ordinance will provide a boost to Madison's highly educated technical workforce, provide new job opportunities and promote enhanced service delivery to residents and visitors alike."

Madison Information Technology Director, Paul Kronberger and staff will provide consultation and technical assistance to all city agencies in the implementation.

The ordinance will be referred to the Economic Development Committee, Common Council Organizational Committee and the Board of Estimates for recommendation to the full Council.

Naperville, IL

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/naperville-sun/community/chi-ugc-article-public-comments-naperville-being-accepted-on-citys-2016-10-04-story.html>

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Public Comments Now Being Accepted on City's Proposed Open Data Policy

Comments Accepted through Friday, October 28

NAPERVILLE, ILL. — As part of Naperville's involvement in the What Works Cities initiative and continued commitment to enhancing government transparency, the City has drafted an open data policy to guide its release of public data in the future. The City encourages the public to review the policy and provide comments on the document at <https://documents.mymadison.io/docs/napervilleopendatapolicy> by Friday, October 28.

"Open data and transparency build community trust and engage our residents on a whole new level," City Manager Doug Krieger said. "We look forward to finding out what solutions can be discovered through the use of our data."

The proposed open data policy addresses the parameters, governance, methodology and reporting structures of Naperville's open data program. The goal of this program is to make the City's data easily available to the public to help improve service delivery; increase transparency and access to public information; and enhance coordination and efficiency among departments, partner organizations, and residents. In many other cities, the public has been able to examine and use this data to suggest creative solutions to issues that a local government may be facing.

This effort is a milestone of the City's continued partnership with What Works Cities, an initiative that works with governments to enhance the use of data and evidence in the public sector. What Works Cities collaborates with participating municipalities to review their current use of data and evidence, understand where they are utilizing best practices and identify areas for growth. The City worked with

experts from the Sunlight Foundation and OpenGov Foundation to craft the policy.

The proposed policy is being hosted on Madison, a free, open source tool that opens up laws and legislation to individuals and the online community. The platform allows you to leave comments, annotate specific content and interact with other participants on a host of legislation, including the City's draft open data policy.

For more information on the City of Naperville, visit www.naperville.il.us.

New York, NY

<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/081-12/mayor-bloomberg-signs-legislation-creating-a-citywide-comprehensive-open-data-policy>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR- 081-12

March 7, 2012

MAYOR BLOOMBERG SIGNS LEGISLATION CREATING A CITYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OPEN DATA POLICY

Remarks by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at a Public Hearing on Local Laws

"The next bill before me is Introductory Number 29-A, sponsored by Council Members Brewer, Fidler, Gentile, Gonzalez, James, Lander, Palma, Nelson, Lappin, Dromm, Garodnick, Reyna, Mealy, Vann, Jackson, Levin, Cabrera, Gennaro, Williams, Van Bramer, Rodriguez, Halloran and the Public Advocate Bill de Blasio. When enacted, this bill will be the most ambitious and comprehensive open data legislation in the country.

"If we're going to continue leading the country in innovation and transparency, we're going to have to make sure that all New Yorkers have access to the data that drives our City. Across City government, agencies use data to develop policy, implement programs, and track performance — and each month, our Administration shares more and more of this data with the public at large, catalyzing the creativity, intellect, and enterprising spirit of computer programmers to build tools that help us all improve our lives.

"The NYC BigApps competition, now in its third iteration, has brought about dozens of such programs — helping New Yorkers do everything from pick a restaurant to find a parking space. At the contest's core is a simple premise: this data belongs to the public, and if we make it accessible to everyone, the possibilities are limitless. That's exactly the purpose of the bill before me today.

"Introductory Number 29-A consists of three important steps, each of which is critical to jumpstarting a comprehensive Citywide open data policy. First, the Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications must post on its web site a technical standards manual, which will help agencies make their public data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications.

"Second, within a year, each agency must convert all of their public data sets that are currently online in "locked" formats into formats that enable computer programmers to use the data to build applications. Finally, within eighteen months, DoITT will work with each agency to post a compliance plan, describing all of the public data sets in each agency's possession. The plan will be then be updated each year, and will serve as a roadmap for agencies to post these datasets to a single web portal by 2018.

"I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway, Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications Commissioner Carole Post, Counselor to the Mayor Anthony Crowell, and the staff in all of their offices for their work on this bill along with Katherine Winningham, Senior Counsel at the Law Department and Eric Munson in my Office of City Legislative Affairs. I would also like to thank the City

Council for approving this legislation.”

Philadelphia, PA

<https://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2012/04/27/mayor-nutter-signs-open-data-executive-order-3/>

Philadelphia, April 26, 2012 – Mayor Michael A. Nutter signed an executive order to establish an Open Data policy, which will provide increased access and will enhance the transparency of City data sets. The Executive Order creates a Chief Data Officer (CDO) position, which will oversee and enforce the Open Data Policy and will report to the Chief Information Officer (CIO). The policy provides for the City to publish data online and expands opportunities for the public to participate in the City agency decision-making process by creating the Open Government Portal, which will house departments' open data catalogue as well as a mechanism for public to offer feedback and assessments of the data sets.

“Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance, and it is vital for the City to be open and available to our citizens,” said Mayor Nutter. “Philadelphia was recently named at the seventh most social media savvy city in the nation. The Open Data policy furthers many of the policies and initiatives already put in place by the City.”

The executive order establishes the Open Data Working Group, which will focus on enhancing internal transparency, accountability, participation and collaboration through the Open Data policy and will develop the Open Government Portal—the City's forum for public feedback. Following the establishment of the policy and assumption of duties by the CDO, the Mayor will appoint a Data Governance Advisory Board—consisting of nine members—who will oversee the ongoing implementation of the Open Data policy.

“The Open Data Policy puts in place the necessary framework, structure and governance that will increase collaboration among City departments and bring citizens closer to their government,” said Chief Innovation Officer Adel Ebeid. “This policy is the first installment in Mayor Nutter's vision for Philadelphia to become a model for increasing transparency and removing barriers to information sharing and collaboration.”

The City of Philadelphia has been implementing new digital access programming to increase transparency and provide citizens with greater opportunities to be civically engaged. Mayor Nutter

added, “Change By Us Philly facilitates the sharing of ideas and projects among the City and citizens. Digital On-Ramps will provide Philadelphians access to anytime, anywhere learning. Freedom Rings Partnerships KEYSPOTS creates computer centers in neighborhoods throughout the city. My Administration is working hard to bridge the digital divide and to be completely accessible to citizens whether in person, on the phone, or on the internet.”

Also adopted in this Executive Order is the City’s internal social media policy, which outlines the acceptable use of social media by City employees overseen by the CIO and Mayor’s Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships.

<https://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2014/10/30/city-of-philadelphia-releases-open-data-strategic-plan/>

Philadelphia, October 30, 2014 – The City of Philadelphia released the Open Data Strategic Plan, which evaluates the progress of the City’s Open Data policy using a comprehensive analysis called *Open Data Census*, and outlines the next phase in the City’s Open Data policy, including a broader data management strategy for the City.

“Since the creation of the Open Data Executive Order, our Administration has released more than 100 data sets – including high-value data sets like Part 1 crime. We’ve worked hard to build a solid foundation for open data in Philadelphia,” said Mayor Michael A. Nutter. “But, we have more work to do. This Open Data Strategic Plan will be our guide for the next phase of Open Data in this great city. It will help us reaffirm our goal of using open data to better inform citizens, improve service delivery and increase communication and data sharing between departments. It will help us maintain a citizen-centric approach and improve the way we do business as a city.”

Richard Negrin, Deputy Mayor and Managing Director, said, “Open data creates opportunities for innovation around service delivery within city government and provides citizens the information they need to be more engaged. This enables government, businesses, and citizens alike to develop new solutions to complex problems. While this strategic plan captures several success stories and use cases, we are only just beginning to see the impact of open data.”

Chief Data Officer Tim Wisniewski added, “It’s time for open data to grow beyond an initiative – it needs to be part of the way we do business as a government. We’ll get there by focusing on the general public as our customer, facilitating department ownership, and improving how we manage

and share data in the first place.”

The Open Data Strategic Plan and the accompanying *Open Data Census* are available at www.phila.gov/data.

Sacramento, CA

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/City-Manager/Media-Releases/OpenData>

NEW OPEN DATA WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE

City launches web portal for easy access to information and data

December 11, 2013

Sacramento, CA – With a click of a button, citizens can now access meaningful city data on one webpage, create reports and download information including building permit activity, crime reports, budget information, and land-use data. The [open data website](#), intended to promote government transparency and openness, will allow residents, visitors and businesses the ability to easily access more than 40 data sets. The new site also allows the growing interest of local application developers to use the information to create applications and web-enabled tools to address civic issues. The site, which can be accessed at portal.cityofsacramento.org/opendata, will be populated with new information as it becomes available.

“This new website provides digital access to City Hall in a way that has never been done before,” said City Manager John Shirey. “It is our continued goal to be transparent and this is a great starting point for us. We will continue to use this site for one-stop access to citywide data.”

Municipalities across the nation are providing web access to important public data. Sacramento is the first in the region to provide this data in a one-stop-shop format. The website currently has information for 311 service requests, finance and budget, Police Department statistics, citywide contracts, and building permit numbers. Website-goers can also view the data as charts, in dashboards, or in sortable spreadsheets. The public is encouraged to visit www.envisionsacramento.com to give their ideas on what other data the City should provide.

“We want to ensure that all useful public City data can be easily found and used by citizens,” said Maria MacGunigal, Chief Information Officer for the City of Sacramento. “It is important to support and encourage innovation by providing access to information and encouraging residents and businesses to find ways of using public data. We are willing to add other data the community requests.”

This open data website is one of several initiatives the city has implemented to encourage the use of digital tools. The City recently launched a revamped website, organized in a way that is more user-friendly. Nearly a year ago, the City launched www.envisionsacramento.com to encourage community participation and share ideas to solve civic issues. In 2011, the Community Development Department implemented

electronic plan check for projects and is in the midst of processing building permits electronically, eliminating the need for customers to visit the public counter. The City also implemented its 311 app that gives customers the chance to report issues or concerns via smartphone.

San Francisco, CA

<http://www.sfmayor.org/index.aspx?page=846&recordid=127>

Mayor Lee & President Chiu Announce New Open Data Legislation

Strengthening City's Landmark Open Data Initiative, Creates Chief Data Officer & Promotes Government Efficiency; New Rec & Park App Launch Product of Partnership & Open Government Datasets

Posted Date: 10/15/2012

Today Mayor Lee and Board of Supervisors President David Chiu announced introduction of new Open Data legislation to strengthen San Francisco's landmark Open Data initiatives, including the creation of a Chief Data Officer and encouraging the use of information for more efficient government services. The legislation is a major milestone in San Francisco's Open Data initiative.

"Making City data available to everyday citizens will help government explore new solutions to old challenges," said Mayor Lee. "Changing Open Data policies can unleash the creativity of the private sector so they can help us improve City services that impact our lives, from transportation, to how we access our parks, to how we request City services, making San Francisco the leader in Gov 2.0."

"Strengthening our Open Data law will help us use technology to make government more efficient and accountable," said Board President Chiu, who co-founded a technology company prior to his election in 2009. "San Francisco created an incredible model for government encouragement of Open Data, but now we need to take our efforts to the next level."

Mayor Lee also announced a new ground-breaking collaboration between City government and private industry partners. Motionloft, a real-world analytics company, will contribute a portion of their rich datasets to the City's Open Data portal, DataSF. They are the first private business to partner with San Francisco in opening City-related data to the public.

"This is exactly the type of project that demonstrates how San Francisco companies are using their talents to give back to our communities," said sf.citi Chairman Ron Conway. "Today's leading tech companies have a wealth of data that would be invaluable to enhancing City services, and both the City and our tech industry benefit when we use Open Data to collaboratively improve the quality of life for San Franciscans."

Mayor Lee also launched the new Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) mobile application as one of the many ways Open Data can be used to make government services more accessible to our City's residents. The new application gives residents the ability to find new parks and playgrounds, submit feedback, and future updates will include mobile ticketing, permits and more. RPD partnered with San Francisco-based Appalicious, a mobile commerce company, to develop the Rec and Park app at no cost.

“San Francisco has world-class parks, fields and facilities, and now it has a world-class app for residents and visitors” said RPD General Manager Phil Ginsburg. “The San Francisco Rec and Park app will bring our parks into the 21st century, helping the public to find a new trail for a hike, the best dog-friendly parks and information on the hundreds of City playgrounds.”

In 2009, Mayor Gavin Newsom issued an Open Data Executive Directive requiring City departments to make all non-confidential datasets under their authority available on DataSF.org, the City’s one stop web site for government data. The new Open Data legislation once again demonstrates what it means for San Francisco to be on the cutting edge of government openness and transparency by making data sets publicly available and making City services easier to access for our residents.

Mayor Lee and Board President Chiu will introduce the Open Data legislation at the Board of Supervisors’ October 16th meeting.

<http://sfmayor.org/index.aspx?recordid=639&page=846>

Mayor Lee Announces City’s Open Data Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Strengthens City’s Landmark Open Data Initiatives & Promotes Greater Government Transparency, Accountability & Efficiency

Posted Date: 7/18/2014

Mayor Edwin M. Lee today announced the release of a multi-year strategic plan for the City’s Open Data, another major milestone in San Francisco’s landmark Open Data initiatives. This new strategic plan creates the framework to strengthen San Francisco’s leadership in Open Data and transforms the policy itself into greater government accountability, transparency and efficiency.

“From being one of the first cities with an open data policy to pioneering new uses of open data in partnership with private companies such as Yelp and nonprofits like Code for America, this new plan takes San Francisco to the next level in increasing government transparency and efficiency,” said Mayor Lee. “Open data continues to unleash the creativity of everyday residents so they can help us improve City services that impact our everyday lives.”

The strategic plan builds on the March 2013 revisions to the Open Data legislation introduced by Mayor Lee and Board President David Chiu, calling for increased accountability in open data by creating the role of Chief Data Officer and Data Coordinators in each City department, and the November 2013 revision introduced by Supervisor Mark Farrell to set deadlines to the provisions and strengthen further the City’s Open Data legislation.

“When we revised the Open Data legislation to include the role of Chief Data Officer, our goal was to spur the next phase of open data in San Francisco,” said Board President Chiu. “Our open data plan marks the arrival of that next phase and defines a path forward for increasing government transparency and efficiency by using data.”

“Opening our government data to the public will foster innovation throughout San Francisco, while also improving the quality of life for our residents and strengthening the City’s role in maintaining and growing a strong local economy,” said Supervisor Farrell. “As a leader at the Board of Supervisors in advancing open data and open government

initiatives, I believe the release of our City's new strategic open data plan cements San Francisco's commitment as a national leader in supporting and promoting open data."

The Open Data strategic plan calls for six core strategic goals over a three-year timeframe to broaden the focus of open data from simply publishing to making it available in a manner that fosters better use of the data. Open Data can serve as a platform to: 1) change how San Francisco uses, shares and consumes government data – both externally and internally, 2) transform data into services, and 3) foster continuous improvement in decision-making and the business of government.

"San Francisco's open data strategy is a model for any City serious about making open data count," said Code for America Government Partnership Manager Jack Madans.

In 2009, Mayor Gavin Newsom issued an Open Data Executive Directive requiring City departments to make all non-confidential datasets under their authority available on [DataSF](#), the City's one stop web site for government data. The new Open Data strategic plan demonstrates again what it means for San Francisco to be on the cutting edge of government openness and transparency by making even more data sets publicly available and making City services easier to access for our residents.

In February, Mayor Lee appointed Joy Bonaguro as the City's first Chief Data Officer to standardize the City's data policies across City departments and make the data more user-friendly and accessible. The Chief Data Officer also manages the Data Coordinators in each City department to develop and monitor data efforts.

"Open data is about more simply posting data sets and building mobile apps," said Chief Data Officer Joy Bonaguro. "It's also about transforming how government itself accesses and uses its own data. If we can solve our internal challenges around data use, by definition, we increase the ability of developers, community groups, non-profits and analysts to use our data."

For more information on the Open Data strategic plan, go to:
<http://sfmayor.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=425>

San Jose, CA

<http://www.sanjoseinfo.org/external/content/document/1914/2806926/1/Open%20Data%20Final.pdf>

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2015

City Council Unanimously Approves New Open Data Policy

SAN JOSE, Calif. – On Tuesday, April 5, the San José City Council unanimously approved a new Open Data Policy that will help advance government transparency and empower organizations and individuals throughout the community to participate in efforts to use big data to improve services.

“We live in the most innovative community on the planet,” Mayor Sam Liccardo said. “By making our city data more open and accessible to the public, we have the opportunity to embrace ‘the wisdom of the crowd’ to really help move our city forward.”

Through the new Open Data Policy, data collected and generated by the City will be open by default, except where the public release of such data would violate privacy laws, reveal privileged information, violate contractual or proprietary rights, and/or jeopardize the security of individuals or property.

The new policy also calls for the creation of a single Open Data Portal to serve as a central hub for all of the City’s publicly accessible data. This portal - data.sanjoseca.gov - already includes a range of datasets from unemployment rates to average daily traffic, with further plans to improve the quality and volume of data in the months ahead.

In addition to improving public transparency, open data is a key building block of advanced data analytics that can help the City improve the effectiveness and efficiency of city services (for example, by building predictive models that identify “hotspots” to address public safety issues like traffic crashes, crime, and illegal dumping). And by making the data open to the public, civic-minded residents and organizations will be able to develop new visualizations, analyses, and applications that can help address the most pressing issues facing the City.

“Opening our data to the community is the first step in turning our city into a platform,” said

Shireen Santosham, the mayor's chief innovation officer. "In the coming years, we'll add more datasets that can benefit residents by not only having more data to experiment with but also providing the opportunity to create applications that further improve services and the community's quality of life.

Silicon Valley innovators have already partnered with the City on a number of projects that utilized data already available to the public. These demonstration sites include:

- A visualization of the city's transportation budget (<http://auditor.sanjoseca.gov/>),
- A map with icons of crime across the city (<http://bit.ly/1YeaV5g>), and
- A user friendly representation on San José's fire incidents (<http://bit.ly/1XfOdtl>).

The Open Data Policy also represents an important first step toward achieving Mayor Liccardo's recently released Smart City Vision, which is designed to utilize technology, data analytics and digital tools to significantly improve city services and the quality of life enjoyed by San José residents.

Seattle, WA

<http://murray.seattle.gov/mayor-murray-signs-historic-open-data-executive-order/>

Mayor Murray signs historic Open Data Executive Order

February 26, 2016

Mayor Ed Murray today renewed the City of Seattle's commitment to transparency by signing an Executive Order directing all City departments to comply with a new open data policy, which he announced during last week's State of the City address.

"Seattle is one of the most innovative and creative cities in the country— by opening up key City datasets to the public, we make it possible for problem solvers outside of government to get involved in finding solutions to civic challenges," said Mayor Murray. "This Executive Order encourages more transparency between the City and outside partners, and ensures we develop tools that provide critical insights for the public on what's happening in our city."

The policy directs all City data to be "open by preference" – meaning City departments will always make their data as accessible as possible to the public, after screening for privacy, security, and quality considerations. This policy is the result of a collaboration between the City of Seattle, the University of Washington, and the Sunlight Foundation through Bloomberg Philanthropies' national What Works Cities initiative.

Stephen Larrick, Open Data Project Lead at the Sunlight Foundation, which participated in initial drafting through the City's engagement with What Works Cities, credits Seattle's effort for a broader shift in thinking about how governments can balance open data and privacy concerns. He said, "Sunlight has long advocated for an 'open by default' approach to government information, but with the subtle change to 'open by preference'—and with the nuanced policy approach to balancing transparency against privacy that language implies—the City of Seattle is proposing a new model for open data policy in a post-Snowden world."

The University of Washington conducted a thorough review of the policy as part of its

partnership with the City of Seattle under the national MetroLab Network. Jan Whittington of the University of Washington's Tech Policy Lab said of the partnership, "We could not have asked for a more dedicated partner than the City of Seattle as we researched the hopes, concerns, and policy solutions to the problems that arise from municipal open data. With this policy, the City of Seattle is navigating the countervailing forces of transparency, privacy, and security, creating a path that promises to define the responsible release of municipal open data."

Bill Howe, Associate Director of the eScience Institute and Senior Data Science Fellow at the University of Washington's eScience Institute, added, "The City's leadership in instituting this transformative new policy — one that balances the need for open data with the critical sensitivities around privacy, security, and quality — will serve as a model for other cities nationwide. In the context of the MetroLab Network, the UW eScience Institute is thrilled to support an emerging portfolio of urban data science projects that are directly enabled by this policy."

Since the launch of the City's open data program in 2010, more than 400 datasets have been made open, including several that are used by private companies, journalists, and community members. Open data also powers tools hosted on the City's website such as **Open Budget**, **Performance Seattle**, the Police Department's **Neighborhood Crime Map**, and the Department of Transportation's **Capital Projects Explorer**.

In recent years, the City has expanded its Open Data Program to encourage more partnerships with the public, including initiatives such as 2015's Hack the Commute, through which more than 140 developers and community advocates prototyped 14 new data-driven technology solutions for improving transportation in Seattle.

In 2016, the Open Data Program, which is managed by the Department of Information Technology, will focus on training employees of other departments and establishing processes that make it easier to release more data to the public. The program has set a goal of having 544 datasets available to the public by the end of 2016.

The new policy can be viewed online at <http://www.seattle.gov/opendata>. Existing datasets and other information about the Open Data Program are on the City's open

data portal, <https://data.seattle.gov/>.

South Bend, IN

<https://www.ci.south-bend.in.us/residents-business-government/news/2013-8-21/mayor-buttigieg-launch-city%E2%80%99s-open-data-portal-website>

MAYOR BUTTIGIEG TO LAUNCH CITY'S OPEN DATA PORTAL WEBSITE

Mayor Pete Buttigieg will introduce data.southbendin.gov, a new city transparency website that provides user-friendly access to data from the City of South Bend in an event Thursday, August 22 at 10 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, 14th Floor, County-City Building.

"The website gives residents user-friendly access to City information," Mayor Buttigieg says. "As it evolves, data.southbendin.gov will improve efficiency, promote accountability, and boost innovation."

Open data refers to information that can be searched, retrieved, and downloaded online. Making the information available in this way promotes the development of useful apps based on the data and informs residents to offer input for improving City government.

The City is releasing 12 datasets and 10 GIS maps to the portal. Residents can look up code violations, view maps of parks and social services, and access a database of business licenses issued by the City. In the near future, datasets will include City expenditure and 311 call data.

"South Bend is joining an elite group of open data pioneers who are using the latest technologies to make public data more accessible and streamline collaboration between internal departments," says Kevin Merritt, president and CEO of [Socrata](http://Socrata.com), the software provider of South Bend's cloud-based open data system. "Mayor Buttigieg and his team are empowering the citizens with data and tools they can use to get involved and find practical ways to improve life for everyone in South Bend."

City departments are reviewing and cataloging additional data to make it available on the website. "It's an ever evolving site," says Mayor Buttigieg, "bringing a new approach to managing information that the public can easily access and use."

"Opening access to public data and ensuring it is within easy reach of the public are important and necessary steps for all local governments to take," says Laurenellen McCann, National Policy Manager at the [Sunlight Foundation](http://SunlightFoundation.org), a nonpartisan nonprofit that uses the power of the Internet to catalyze greater government openness and transparency. "We are enthused to see South Bend begin its open data journey with this policy, and hope it will inspire other cities to pursue similar ends."