

2013 SEP 27 AM 9:56

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of the Finance and Management Committee
FROM: Chairperson Libby Schaaf
DATE: October 8, 2013

RE: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DATA POLICY FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND FOR MAKING PUBLIC DATA AVAILABLE IN MACHINE READABLE FORMATS USING OPEN DATA STANDARDS

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt this Open Data Policy to ensure that the City make every reasonable effort to publish its data in machine readable formats using prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media for the purpose of making this data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications in a manner that is open and accessible to the public and is maintained in a catalog on a single City website.

SUMMARY

Adopting this Open Data Policy would ensure that Oakland's public data become more accessible and useful to its residents. It would require the City Administrator to develop regulations establishing the technical requirements and standards for publishing Open Data sets in raw or unprocessed formats for the purpose of making Open Data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications, as well as the guidelines and processes necessary for the effective implementation of this Open Data Policy.

In addition to developing a Public Engagement Strategy, the public will have the following opportunities to provide further input on these regulations and policy's effective implementation:

Within six months of adopting this policy, the Finance and Management Committee will hear an Informational Report on the draft Regulations setting forth the technical requirements and standards for publishing Open Data sets in raw or unprocessed formats for the purpose of making Open Data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications, as well as the guidelines and processes necessary for the effective implementation of this Open Data Policy.

Within one year, the Committee will hear a report detailing the completed inventory of the City's data and a plan for disseminating it as Open Data, including any information regarding the current state that the data exists in, as well as the costs and barriers of releasing it as Open Data. Also within one year any existing City Data sets that are already publicly available on oaklandnet.com will be published to the Open Data catalog.

Additionally, to ensure on-going feedback and policy compliance, the Committee will hear regular informational reports including updates to the data catalog and the implementation, successes, barriers, and public uses resulting from the Open Data policy. These reports must come every six months for the first two years and annually thereafter.

It would require that the City Administration not only develop technical standards, but also create policies and guidelines to ensure the policy's effective implementation, including:

- Ensure that sufficient City staff are designated to support Oakland's Open Data Policy such that every organizational unit throughout the City has someone who has been designated responsible for being knowledgeable about that unit's data and ensuring that unit's successful implementation of Oakland's Open Data Policy (understanding that it is within the City Administrator's discretion to designate one staff member to support multiple organizational units);
- Include clear guidelines for identifying "high value" and "high interest" City Data sets and a policy for prioritizing its publication as Open Data;
- Include a public engagement strategy to ensure on-going feedback and collaboration with citizens and data users;
- Include City guidelines for maintaining consistency with applicable laws and best practices, including those related to privacy and security; and
- Provide a process by which the City Administrator receives regular ongoing input from those City employees responsible for data collection in their respective organizational units, City employees in the Department of Information & Technology, employees working in citizen engagement, as well as members of the community who are users of Open Data, such as an Open Data Advisory Committee.

While these decisions are within the City Administrator's discretion, it is worth noting that there is already designated staff within each City department responsible for complying with public records requests and that the Administration has already begun talks of creating an Open Data Advisory Committee.

Finally, it would require Open Data sets to be clearly defined and include information on the type of data set in its description (meta data), as well as license what it publishes for free re-use to ensure clarity of copyright without legal responsibility or liability.

OUTCOME

By passing this Resolution, the City of Oakland shows its commitment to using technology to foster a more open, transparent and accessible Government. This resolution will formalize the work being done in Oakland in regards to Open Data, ensures the maintenance of an Open Data

platform, and directs the City Administrator to prepare and publish Regulations that will lay out the standards for publishing public data sets in raw or unprocessed formats for the purpose of making public data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications. Under the proposed policy, the City Administrator will solicit public feedback on these Regulations and create a plan for on-going public engagement.

Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this resolution, the City Administrator will convene her Open Data Advisory Committee. The Open Data Advisory Committee will work together to come up with an inventory of “high-value” public data and a plan for dissemination. The plan will include community feedback about which data to prioritize, as well as any information regarding the current state that the data exists in and the barriers to releasing it as open data. These plans shall be updated each year and will together serve as a roadmap for departments to post their datasets to a single web catalog. The data catalog would be updated as often as necessary to preserve the integrity and usefulness of the data sets. The City will inform the public of updates or new data that is added to the data catalog.

The Finance and Management Committee shall hear an informational report from the data advisory committee every 6 months for the first two years following adoption, and henceforth once yearly. The report will evaluate the implementation, updates, successes, barriers, and public uses resulting from the Open Data policy.

All public data sets shall provide metadata for data uploaded to the open data catalog. The Regulations will define how the metadata will be formatted and will include information about the fields in the dataset, how often the dataset will be updated or refreshed, the source of the data and who published it. In addition, City staff will need to make every reasonable effort to ensure that data is published in machine readable formats using prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media. The City of Oakland will make all Open Data available with a license that allows for free re-use to ensure clarity of copyright and to waive legal responsibility for all published data.

BACKGROUND

On April 30, 2012, the Oakland City Council passed a resolution supporting an Open Data initiative introduced by Councilmembers Schaaf and Kaplan. Direction was given to staff to return to the Council with a report on the cost and benefits of implementation and an analysis of the steps necessary to implement an Open Data system.

On June 20, 2012, staff returned to the Council with an Open Data System Implementation Report that outlined the implementation and planning of an Open Data system, identifying and prioritizing data, costs associated with developing an Open Data portal and a timeline for implementation.

On January 31, 2013 the City of Oakland launched an Open Data portal at data.oaklandnet.com, as the central repository for the City of Oakland’s public data. The Open Data Platform was launched with just over 35 datasets, and has since grown to include over 100. The Department of

Information Technology (DIT) has been developing an API so that we can begin to sync internal databases with the Open Data platform. On June 20th, DIT completed the first API integration with crime statistics. New crime statistics are now being ported to the Open Data system nightly.

The launch of the open data platform came at the same time as Oakland welcomed three Code for America fellows to the City. Code for America works with cities and their communities to develop new apps and technology tools that bring greater openness, efficiency and participation to local government. The City of Oakland was one of ten cities awarded a partnership with Code for America in 2013, providing us with the opportunity to share and expand technology with other jurisdictions across the nation.

Simultaneously, the civic hacking group Open Oakland, a Code for America Brigade, launched in Oakland and began weekly hacking nights at City Hall.

ANALYSIS

Open data is the idea that public data should be broadly accessible and usable by humans and machines, free of any technological, legal, or usability barriers.

Proactively disclosing public data is a foundation of Open Government and is consistent with laws regarding residents' right to access public information as well as privacy laws that have been outlined by the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code §6250, et seq.) and the Oakland Sunshine Ordinance (Oakland Municipal Code §2.20.180.C.).

By sharing data freely, the City of Oakland seeks to better service delivery, while developing opportunities for economic development, commerce, increased investment and civic engagement. Publishing structured standardized data in machine readable formats creates new opportunities for information from different sources to be combined and visualized in new and unexpected ways, for niche markets to be identified and developed, and for citizens to browse, interpret and draw attention to trends or issues with greater efficiency.

Open Data improves transparency, access to public information, and improved coordination and efficiencies among organizations across the public, non-profit and private sectors. The City of Oakland seeks to encourage the local community to develop software applications and tools to collect, organize, and share public data in new and innovative ways that benefit both citizens and government. Software applications and tools that enable residents to access, visualize, and analyze public information will encourage residents to provide feedback on local issues. Many cities and government entities have opened up their data and established policies, standards and best practices around the use of Open Data, including the United States Government. President Obama signed the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government on his first full day in office, ushering in a new era of open and accountable government to bridge the gap between the American people and their government. To date, 30 U.S. states and 15 cities have launched Open Data initiatives.

In October 2007, 30 Open Government advocates met to discuss how government could open up electronically-stored government data for public use. The conference, sponsored by the Sunlight Foundation resulted in eight principles that, if implemented, would empower the public's use of government-held data.

Since then, the Sunlight Foundation updated and expanded upon the list and identified ten principles that provide a lens to evaluate the extent to which government data is open and accessible to the public. The list is not exhaustive, and each principle exists along a continuum of openness.

1. Completeness

Datasets released by the government should be as complete as possible, reflecting the entirety of what is recorded about a particular subject. All raw information from a dataset should be released to the public, except to the extent necessary to comply with federal law regarding the release of personally identifiable information. Metadata that defines and explains the raw data should be included as well, along with formulas and explanations for how derived data was calculated. Doing so will permit users to understand the scope of information available and examine each data item at the greatest possible level of detail.

2. Primacy

Datasets released by the government should be primary source data. This includes the original information collected by the government, details on how the data was collected and the original source documents recording the collection of the data. Public dissemination will allow users to verify that information was collected properly and recorded accurately.

3. Timeliness

Datasets released by the government should be available to the public in a timely fashion. Whenever feasible, information collected by the government should be released as quickly as it is gathered and collected. Priority should be given to data whose utility is time sensitive. Realtime information updates would maximize the utility the public can obtain from this information.

4. Ease of Physical and Electronic Access

Datasets released by the government should be as accessible as possible, with accessibility defined as the ease with which information can be obtained, whether through physical or electronic means. Barriers to physical access include requirements to visit a particular office in person or requirements to comply with particular procedures (such as completing forms or submitting FOIA requests). Barriers to automated electronic access include making data accessible only via submitted forms or systems that require browser oriented technologies (e.g., Flash, Javascript, cookies or Java applets). By contrast, providing an interface for users to download all of the information stored in a database at once (known as "bulk" access) and the means to make specific calls for data through an Application Programming Interface (API) make data much more readily accessible. An aspect of this is "findability," which is the ability to easily locate and download content.

5. Machine readability

Machines can handle certain kinds of inputs much better than others. For example, handwritten notes on paper are very difficult for machines to process. Scanning text via Optical Character Recognition (OCR) results in many matching and formatting errors. Information shared in the widely used PDF format, for example, is very difficult for machines to parse. Thus, information should be stored in widely used file formats that easily lend themselves to machine processing. When other factors necessitate the use of difficult to parse formats, data should also be available in machine friendly formats. These files should be accompanied by documentation related to the format and how to use it in relation to the data.

6. Nondiscrimination

“Nondiscrimination” refers to who can access data and how they must do so. Barriers to use of data can include registration or membership requirements. Another barrier is the uses of “walled garden,” which is when only some applications are allowed access to data. At its broadest, nondiscriminatory access to data means that any person can access the data at any time without having to identify him/herself or provide any justification for doing so.

7. Use of Commonly Owned Standards

Commonly owned (or “open”) standards refers to who owns the format in which data is stored. For example, if only one company manufactures the program that can read a file where data is stored, access to that information is dependent upon use of the company's processing program. Sometimes that program is unavailable to the public at any cost, or is available, but for a fee. For example, Microsoft Excel is a fairly commonly used spreadsheet program which costs money to use. Freely available alternative formats often exist by which stored data can be accessed without the need for a software license. Removing this cost makes the data available to a wider pool of potential users.

8. Licensing

The imposition of “Terms of Service,” attribution requirements, restrictions on dissemination and so on acts as barriers to public use of data. Maximal openness includes clearly labeling public information as a work of the government and available without restrictions on use as part of the public domain.

9. Permanence

The capability of finding information over time is referred to as permanence. Information released by the government online should be sticky: It should be available online in archives in perpetuity. Often times, information is updated, changed or removed without any indication that an alteration has been made. Or, it is made available as a stream of data, but not archived with appropriate version tracking and archiving over time.

10. Usage Costs

One of the greatest barriers to access to ostensibly publicly available information is the cost imposed on the public for access—even when the cost is *de minimus*. Governments use a number of bases for charging the public for access to their own documents: the costs of creating the

information; a cost recovery basis (cost to produce the information divided by the expected number of purchasers); the cost to retrieve information; a per page or per inquiry cost; processing cost; the cost of duplication etc. Most government information is collected for governmental purposes, and the existence of user fees has little to no effect on whether the government gathers the data in the first place. Imposing fees for access skews the pool of who is willing (or able) to access information. It also may preclude transformative uses of the data that in turn generates business growth and tax revenues.

The City of Oakland currently makes a very small amount of public data available on various City websites and in various formats. Much of this data is currently available in only proprietary and/or visual formats (e.g. PDFs, maps), and almost none of it is raw data. The data would greatly benefit from being posted in raw formats on a central portal that utilizes a web application programming interface that would permit application programs to request and receive public data sets directly from the web portal.

This Policy would establish a commitment to making as much data available in Oakland's Open Data catalogue as reasonably possible. It would create a roadmap and standards for achieving and sustaining this goal.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

During the summer of 2013, Councilmember Schaaf reached out to the Open Oakland civic hacking group to seek input on a formal Open Data Policy for Oakland. The group created a collaborative google doc that was shared publicly inviting open data experts as well as local activists to help draft and comment on a proposed policy for Oakland (contained as Attachment A to this report). That draft served as the basis for the proposed policy, which was further refined by the City Attorney and Oakland staff. Particular appreciation goes to Steve Spiker of Open Oakland and Urban Strategies Council for his leadership.

COORDINATION

This Policy was developed in close consultation and collaboration with the City Administrator's Office, particularly communications and public engagement staff, Department of Information Technology and the City Attorney's Office, in addition to the public stakeholders described above.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no immediate fiscal impact to the City associated with this resolution. There is the possibility of a long-term positive fiscal impact due to the positive economic opportunities caused indirectly by technology innovated spurred by this Resolution's Open Data Policy.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic:

The Open Data initiative will save the City money in the long run by reducing the number of Public Records Requests and time staff spends tracking Public Records Requests. It will reduce duplication of efforts and result in more efficient City operations.

Environmental:

The initiative will reduce the use of paper record tracking.

Social Equity:

Technology enhancements will improve accessibility to public records for the disabled, improve transparency and increase civic engagement.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Schaaf
Oakland City Councilmember, District 4

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*-This document represents a collaborative effort to craft an effective, viable, and sustainable Open Data policy for the City of Oakland to be passed in 2013.

[Please make comments if you want to suggest changes or additions, or make direct edits if you wish to make changes live - we ask that you use a logged in account to do so as we can all correspond more effectively than via anonymous edits.]

Contact Spike at Urban Strategies Council if you have questions about this doc/process or Bruce Stoffmacher in Councilmember Libby Schaaf's office for policy issues.

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Approved as to Form and Legality

Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Libby Schaaf

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DATA POLICY FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND FOR MAKING PUBLIC DATA AVAILABLE IN MACHINE READABLE FORMATS USING OPEN DATA STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to using technology to foster open, transparent, and accessible government; and

WHEREAS, by sharing data freely, the City of Oakland seeks to develop opportunities for economic development, commerce, increased investment and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, Open Data; proactively disclosing City data, is a foundational element of Open Government, is consistent with citizens' right to public information, and promotes engagement with the potential benefit of civic development of technology products and infrastructures to improve service delivery through expanded and innovative applications, among other things; and

WHEREAS, publishing structured standardized data in machine readable formats creates new opportunities for information from different sources to be combined and visualized in new and unexpected ways, for niche markets to be identified and developed, and for citizens to browse, interpret and draw attention to trends or issues with greater efficiency; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has been awarded a partnership with Code for America in 2013 providing the opportunity to share and expand technology with other jurisdictions across the nation; and

WHEREAS the use of open data exchange standards improves transparency, access to public information, and improved coordination and efficiencies among organizations across the public, non-profit and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland seeks to encourage the local software community to develop software applications and tools to collect, organize, and share public data in new and innovative ways that benefit both citizens and government;

WHEREAS, Software applications and tools that enable residents to access, visualize, and analyze public information will encourage residents to provide feedback on local issues;

RESOLVED: Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this resolution, that the City Administrator shall prepare and publish an Administrative Instruction setting forth the technical standards for the publishing of public data sets in raw or unprocessed form through a single web portal by city agencies for the purpose of making public data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Administrator shall hold a public meeting to solicit feedback on the technical implementation plan within 60 days of its preparation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this resolution, the City Administrator will establish a data advisory committee with members representing all city departments; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: All city departments shall publish compliance plans within twelve months of the passing of this resolution. These plans shall be updated each year and will together serve as a roadmap for departments to post their datasets to a single web catalog; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: Each City Department shall be required to publish at least three "high value" datasets within 180 days of the passing of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City of Oakland shall maintain an open data website at data.oaklandnet.com or elsewhere on a single City website that will serve as a catalog of the data available from the City of Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Administrator shall make every reasonable effort to ensure data are published in machine readable formats using prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media; and be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Administrator must publish to the open data catalog qualifying agency data already publicly available on oaklandnet.com within twelve months of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City of Oakland will make all Open Data available with a license that allows for free re-use to ensure clarity of copyright and to waive legal responsibility for all published data, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: All public data sets shall be updated on the public data catalog as often as necessary to preserve the integrity and usefulness of the data sets; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: All public data sets shall have metadata (information about the data set) made available to the public through the single web data catalog. Agencies will be responsible for providing the metadata as defined by the City Administrator. The City Administrator shall provide all agencies with a template for metadata; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City shall inform the public of the Data catalog launch and updates to the catalog; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The Finance and Management Committee shall notice and hear an informational report every six months evaluating the implementation, successes and barriers, and public uses resulting from the Open Data policy for the first two years after this policy is adopted and once every year thereafter.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2012

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES -

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

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Outstanding Issues

- How can we best link this with the Public records process/system?
- Do we leave in the budget item?
- Is it best to leave in the clause about privacy and such?
- Do we keep the definition of data in the 'whereas'?

Notes from the 16 August 2013 meeting:

- Introductions.
- History. City hired Socrata to pilot data.oaklandnet.com but there's no policy to sustain it.
- Goal for today. revise draft to make it ready for staff review.
- Austin, Raleigh, Portland were some of the sources for the first draft of this policy – Spike
- Rebecca Williams, Sunlight Foundation
 - Sunlight relaunched their open data guidelines this week.
<http://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/>
 - Suggestion. Push to be more aggressive about scope of which data to be included. (base this on Freedom of Information laws)
 - Suggestion: Use creative commons as an example, not the only way to license data.
 - Suggestion: Public interest balance test (as per sunlight guidelines)
 - All US policies cross compared:
https://docs.google.com/a/sunlightfoundation.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ap0CEAgs-R_odFc0Qk1WNHdIUDE3bUNVd1U3WUInblE#aId=0
 - Dataset inventory examples
 - <https://docs.google.com/a/sunlightfoundation.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AoYwlTlqH8t3dDIXN0ILZTR4UUI4dIlZTEkVtV5YYXc#aId=1>
 - <http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/05/13/how-unique-is-the-new-u-s-open-data-policy/>
 - NYC passed their law with their Transparency Working Group (<http://nycitwg.org/>)
IT dept and legal dept, perhaps invite them to comment as well or to the next meetings
- Phillip Ashlock -
 - NYC policy is comprehensive and has stages (inventory of all data sets already made available online > now published in city-wide open data catalog portal; inventory of all data sets that can be made public but haven't been yet (to do list)).

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- o City did public feedback of new policy effort
 - From NYC open data site:
 - The City must deliver qualifying agency data already publicly available on [NYC.gov](http://nyc.gov) by March, 2013.
 - All agencies must publish compliance plans by September, 2013.
 - These plans will be updated each year and will together serve as a roadmap for agencies to post their datasets to a single Web portal by 2018.
 - Keep opensource separate.
- Mark Headd -
 - o Working groups are mandated for each dept Forms advisory committee.
 - o Buy in from school district, transit, parking authority, gas utility
 - o Need to form official body to guide efforts
 - Technology Commission?
 - http://oaklandwiki.org/Technology_Commission_Proposal
 - o Opportunities to share issues with data sharing between agencies/depts. Facilitates sharing
 - o Policy requirement to catalog/document things that could be released
 - o Maintain public catalog of things that can be released.
 - o Required each dept to publish 3 "high value" datasets from depts/teams. Numbers for motivation/accountability.
 - o Q. What is "high value"?
 - High demand? Data subject to FOIA requests, site scraping, search traffic
 - High importance? Crime, transportation, money/budget
 - Name someone to make this call.
 - o Use Trello to show progress. Can be voted on to show priorities of demand.
- Q&A
 - o NYC had some significant funding
 - o NYC had implementation guidelines in addition to the policy
 - o funding: leverage existing mandates and data sharing policies to add some extra open data features for the portal
 - o For launch deadline, don't mandate perfection; mandate launch with what you have
 - o TBL Five Stars To Open Data <http://5stardata.info/> a maturity model (start simple and small, build skill and capacity)
 - o Catalog and fold in all existing data that exists online! Contract records, PEC filings etc
 - o Metadata needs to be required
 - o API v bulk data methods.

Comment [1]: Rebecca Williams:
<http://nycopendata.pediacities.com/wiki/index.php/>

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- There needs to be language not only addressing community usage, but education on how to use it, and that the City will do its best to make sure the audience is diverse with a variety of tech backgrounds.

TDL Comment: I think there needs to be language indicating data that is clear and readable to those with low tech backgrounds. To make data truly open it can't just be understandable to TĒCH, but to the actual community.

I would be happy to sit and brainstorm this.

I'm not sure if this was noted elsewhere, but I (Phil Ashlock) would emphasize what someone else mentioned about better integrating Freedom of Information Requests and responses (Public Records Act) with open data catalog and policy. I've recommended this for every open data policy and haven't seen anyone link their FOI request process with their data catalog release process. There are some notes on existing open FOI platforms and approaches at http://wiki.civiccommons.org/Open_FOI

Open Questions:

Q. Pure Open Data or bundled with Open Source mandate?

- CONSENSUS: UNBUNDLE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE/TOOLS
- Standards: how to deal with mix of open and proprietary.
- SF - make every reasonable effort to use open formats where practical - list?

Q. Who decides funding for this program?

- Internal executive sponsors for each data set approve IT projects for their departments, along with staff time and cash for contractors/vendors

Q. Who gets fired? Accountability?

- What are the minimums that must be met?
- How measurable are those deliverables?
- Are there degrees/grades of completion with corresponding degrees/grades of consequence?
- CPRA (public records requests): Arly (Arlette) in attorney's office sends to departmental Records Request Liaison for action.
-

Comment [2]: steves:

These are big issues- they are important, but they won't pass in an open data law- they are too broad and require significant staff time and a shift in resources - let's start a separate brainstorming doc on broader improvements to city operation w things like this!

Comment [3]: Nate Smith:

Strongly agree. It would be particularly useful if data sets were made available in an Excel - digestible format resulting in a human-readable spreadsheet. Excel isn't the best or lowest tech solution in the world but lots of people know how to use it, and it's effective for manipulating medium-sized data sets.

Laurenellen McCann:

If you go down the rabbit hole of mandating specific formats in this policy, you'll only limit yourselves in the future. Better to define the nature of the formats you want data published in (machine-readable, searchable, nonproprietary, and so on - the definition of "open formats") than to specify anything about excel or even "spreadsheets". In 2013, we know and use these terms and formats, but they are not going to last forever - nor are they technically open. (Excel is a proprietary format) Yes, it is important that data is human-readable, but specifying a spreadsheet format won't help with that. The human-readable part will be supported by how the portal is designed, whether or not people can download data from it for their own perusal, by including documents in addition to statistical information in the definition of data, by making sure you can search and sort the data in the portal ...and by efforts that can't be baked into the data itself - like, the use of data by local press and non-profits who will be using the portal, etc.

The standards we set for release should be achievable in steps. Improving data literacy and inclusion of the community in deliberation is vital, but these concepts/practices should be included as part of the ongoing process of making Oakland Open and a determination for how and where public participation is integrated into this policy, not a determination of the specific formats that data is released in.

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Q. Who decides what data sets are shared? Appeals (FOIA-style?)

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Q. Sunset for this law? Other milestones/dates?

- Sonny - PEC commissioner - issue of data in boxes as paper
- Philly - linked to Mayoral term
- Do it only if there's strong public commitment
- Require review of implementation guidelines
- SF has annual implementation review.
- Separate law from implementation guidelines and tech standards
 - CONSENSUS: NO SUNSET ON THE LAW. ADD STRONG ANNUAL REVIEW.

Q. Roles? Who does what?

- internal body participation from each department, agency
- external body. public advisors, membership not from city government
- budgeting / funding
- Who is responsible?

Q. Funding? How is it supported?

- NYC- established over time.

Q. What does Data mean?

- Define the term in the law - docs, raw data etc.
- See "23-501 Definitions" in http://www.nyc.gov/html/doitt/html/open/local_law_11_2012.shtml

Q. Should we include a preference for a "raw" form of the data?

- Include both the source XLS and the CSV export
- Non-aggregated data
- Original schema

Comment [4]: Thomas LeVine.
I thought of this during the discussion of open formats and the story about how the economists needed special work to use data that were in open formats

Talking point angles:

- We're already doing a lot of this,
 - This unifies the open data initiatives and gives them focus.
- This saves money

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- o Cost savings through reduced FOIA efforts (set up once, self service after)
 - o Cost savings through better internal efficiency
 - o Cost savings through constituent self-service (fewer phone calls)
- This makes citizens happier with Oakland
 - o Clearer value of what the City does to constituents with each app & data set

FAQ

Q. Doesn't the digital divide mean my constituents won't use this? This law doesn't serve low income residents with no internet access!

A

- Every Oakland council district has over 60% of residents with internet access at home, combined with libraries there is no district in our city where this law will not have a positive impact
- This law is to serve a broad swath of our residents, because it is not immediately relevant to every single resident is like suggesting we don't implement ADA sidewalks because most people do not use them.
- (TDL Comment: I foresee a community access objection, especially from CM's from areas that feel there is low-tech access)

Q. Isn't this covered by our existing CPRA policies and practices and laws?

Q.

Philip Ashlock

12 49 PM

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s7__p8Duj9aH7MmULqBqOU13iKVqeBaID1Gk4Y2v4/edit

Comment [5]: Laurenellen McCann
Are there any departments with programs doing community tech integration/inclusion efforts? You could include a broad statement about working with these (and other non-governmental) new and existing efforts that support data literacy, online connectivity, and community infrastructure as a way of deepening public understanding, use of, and contributions to the resources available. This could be cast as part of an expanded version of the the public-participation clause above or as part of the vision (laid out in the Whereas statements) for the kind of community you're trying to build by releasing open data. Sounds like this would be a great point to highlight

Comment [6]:

To list all available commands enter "/?".



mc

12 50 PM

https://docs.google.com/a/urbanstrategies.org/document/d/1s7__p8Duj9aH7MmULqBqOU13iKVqeBaID1Gk4Y2v4/edit

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Cameron Bird joined group chat



Rebecca Williams

12:57 PM

Here's a roundup of how cities have handled dataset inventories:

<https://docs.google.com/a/sunlightfoundation.com/spreadsheets/ccc?key=0AoYwITlgH8t3dDIXN0ILZTR4UUI4djIZTEktVk5YYXc#gid=1>



Mark Headd

1:05 PM

<https://trello.com/board/city-of-philadelphia-open-data-pipeline/51487d15bb68f5de3b0099b0>

<http://blog.trello.com/create-cards-via-email/>

Esteemed?



Philip Ashlock

1:10 PM

There's also a question of long term cost savings thru internal efficiency, reducing FOIA costs, and the potential for long term economic development



Mark Headd

1:16 PM

Totally agree with @Philip



Philip Ashlock

1:21 PM

@Spike if you can mute again. Thanks

Part of the point of the importance on public engagement for the implementation guidelines is to ensure you have good messaging that there is an incremental phased approach, so that at the first stage people are let down thinking that is all the city is going to do and instead are supportive to get to the next step

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* people are NOT let down

Cameron Bird left group chat



Philip Ashlock

1:36 PM

There is some entanglement, eg in addition to open source it is also important for open data and open standards capabilities to be considered in procurement policy

My only opposition is that if it's removed that it won't be reintroduced in subsequent policy

+1

you just release in both formats

Technology changes fast which is where the regular review of the implementation guidelines is important, but it's great if the policy can focus on high level principles that will last many years of technology changes

Also through public feedback



Rebecca Williams

1:49 PM

adding keywords like machine-readable (structured), non-proprietary and/or implemented in open source software



Philip Ashlock

1:50 PM

As for kinds of data to release (as opposed to how to release) there are also some notes on prioritization strategies at http://wiki.civiccommons.org/Open_Data_Principles

Re licensing, also worth looking at <https://github.com/project-open-data/project-open-data.github.io/pull/11> and <http://project-open-data.github.io/license-examples/>



Rebecca Williams

1:58 PM

+1 to that

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Mark Headd

2 02 PM

Here is the section from our open data guidebook that talks about ways to identify data for release
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Kd4AOoRG8qi8PVZ0JMusgKWJmgyrWwv3iTdKUjLEdT4/edit#heading=h.f0bier759jvk>



Rebecca Williams

2 06 PM

NYC's definition of data: b. "Data" means final versions of statistical or factual information (1) in alphanumeric form reflected in a list, table, graph, chart or other non-narrative form, that can be digitally transmitted or processed; and (2) regularly created or maintained by or on behalf of and owned by an agency that records a measurement, transaction, or determination related to the mission of an agency. Such term shall not include information provided to an agency by other governmental entities, nor shall it include image files, such as designs, drawings, maps, photos, or scanned copies of original documents, provided that it shall include statistical or factual information about such image files and shall include geographic information system data. Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to prohibit an agency from voluntarily disclosing information not otherwise defined as "data" in this subdivision, nor shall it be deemed to prohibit an agency from making such voluntarily disclosed information accessible through the single web portal established pursuant to section 23-502.



Philip Ashlock

2 06 PM

and also: "Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this chapter, the department shall prepare and publish a technical standards manual for the publishing of public data sets in raw or unprocessed form through a single web portal by city agencies for the purpose of making public data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications and shall, whenever practicable, use open standards for web publishing and e-government "

+1 to discussing the need to define a role of open data steward per dept



Rebecca Williams

2 11 PM

+1 again

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Philip Ashlock

2 11 PM

that was cut&paste from NYC Local Law 11 of 2012



Mark Headd

2 12 PM

Apologies to all. I need to go and catch a train.



Rebecca Williams

2 12 PM

bye Mark!

Mark Headd left group chat



Philip Ashlock

2 14 PM

Here's the wiki for the implementation guidelines
http://nycopendata.pediacities.com/wiki/index.php/NYC_Open_Data
and the final version http://www.nyc.gov/html/doiit/downloads/pdf/nyc_open_data_tsm.pdf
You're also enabling non-government intermediaries who can better reach those constituents than the
gov can directly



Rebecca Williams

2 21 PM

<http://opendataphilly.org/contest/>



Philip Ashlock

2 24 PM

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BIG +1 to that

Rebecca Williams left group chat



Philip Ashlock

2 24 PM

I would love that to be added to the policy I don't understand why nothing like that has ever been included in an open data policy
Probably a bit out of date now, but there are some notes on opening up FOI here -
http://wiki.civiccommons.org/Open_FOI

Rebecca Williams joined group chat



Philip Ashlock

2 32 PM

I'm going to have to jump off shortly, but glad I could join Excited to see where this goes!
That's not a bad idea
Have a great weekend all! Bye.

Philip Ashlock left group chat



me

2 45 PM

hows ur holiday rebecca?



Rebecca Williams

2 45 PM

ha
lovely!

okay, I am going to have to leave too

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BUT you guys need to properly pat yourselves on the back for this



me

2 48 PM

k
thx!!!



Rebecca Williams

2 48 PM

and make sure to include review in whatever you pass
I can add more notes too

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FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

Approved as to Form and Legality

Barbara J. Carter
City Attorney's Office

13 SEP 27 AM 9:51

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LIBBY SCHAAF

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DATA POLICY FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND FOR MAKING PUBLIC DATA AVAILABLE IN MACHINE READABLE FORMATS USING OPEN DATA STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to using technology to foster open, transparent, and accessible government ("Open Government") ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland collects or generates data that is legally accessible to the public ("City Data"); and

WHEREAS, by publishing such data more freely, the City of Oakland seeks to improve government service delivery, develop opportunities and insights for promoting economic development, commerce, increased investment, civic engagement and strengthening our community; and

WHEREAS, proactively publishing City Data is a foundation of Open Government and is consistent with laws regarding residents' right to access public information as well as privacy laws that have been outlined by the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code §6250, et seq.) and the Oakland Sunshine Ordinance (Oakland Municipal Code §2.20.180.C.); and;

WHEREAS, publishing structured standardized data in machine readable formats creates new opportunities for information from different sources to be combined and visualized in new and innovative ways, for niche markets to be identified and developed, and for citizens, policymakers and public servants to browse, interpret and draw attention to trends or issues with greater efficiency; and

WHEREAS the use of open data exchange standards improves transparency, access to public information, and improved coordination and efficiencies among organizations across the public, non-profit and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland seeks to encourage the local community to develop software applications and tools to collect, organize, and share City Data in new and innovative ways that benefit both residents and government; and

WHEREAS, software applications and tools that enable residents, policymakers and public servants to access, visualize, and analyze public information will encourage feedback on local issues; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2012, the City Council approved Resolution No. 83824 directing the City Administrator to prepare a report identifying the costs and benefits of implementing an open data system and analyzing the steps to implement such a system, and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2012, staff returned to the Council with an Open Data System Implementation Report that outlined the implementation and planning of an Open Data system, identifying and prioritizing data, costs associated with developing an Open Data portal and a timeline for implementation; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2013 the City of Oakland launched an Open Data portal at data.oaklandnet.com, as the central repository for the City of Oakland's public data; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland was one of ten cities awarded a partnership with Code for America in 2013, providing the opportunity to share and expand technology with other jurisdictions across the nation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland hereby establishes an Open Data Policy that the City shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that City Data is published in machine readable formats using prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media for the purpose of making City Data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications in a manner that is open and accessible to the public to be maintained in a catalog on a single City website ("Open Data"); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that it is the policy of the City Council that an effective Open Data policy shall:

- Ensure that the City provides sufficient knowledgeable support for Oakland's Open Data Policy to every organizational unit of the City regarding that unit's data to ensure each unit's successful compliance with and implementation of this Open Data Policy, such as by designating a person or persons to be responsible for providing such support for each organizational unit;
- Include clear guidelines for identifying "high value" and "high interest" City Data sets and a policy for prioritizing its publication as Open Data;
- Include a public engagement strategy to ensure on-going feedback and collaboration with citizens and data users;
- Include City guidelines for maintaining consistency with applicable laws and best practices, including those related to privacy and security;
- Provide a process by which the City Administrator receives regular ongoing input from those City employees responsible for data collection in their respective organizational units, City employees in the Department of Information &

Technology, employees working in citizen engagement, as well as members of the community who are users of Open Data, such as an Open Data Advisory Committee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this resolution, the City Administrator or his/her designee shall prepare and present to the City Council's Finance and Management Committee for public review and comment, an informational report on the draft Regulations setting forth the technical requirements and standards for publishing Open Data sets in raw or unprocessed formats for the purpose of making Open Data available to the greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications, as well as the guidelines and processes necessary for the effective implementation of this Open Data Policy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Administrator and his/her designee shall take into account such public review and comment before finalizing such Regulations for publication; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: Within twelve months of the effective date of this resolution, the City Administrator or his/her designee shall publish an inventory of Open Data and a plan for disseminating it; and such plan should include any information regarding the current state that the data exists in, as well as the costs and barriers of releasing it as Open Data; such inventory and plan will be presented to the City Council's Finance and Management Committee as an Informational Report for public review and comment; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Council's Finance and Management Committee shall hear an informational report from the City Administrator or his or her designee every six months informing the public of updates to the data catalog and evaluating the implementation, successes, barriers, and public uses resulting from the Open Data policy for the first two years and henceforth once yearly after the first two years; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Administrator or his/her designee must publish existing City Data sets to the Open Data catalog that are already publicly available on oaklandnet.com within twelve months of the effective date of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City of Oakland shall license any Open Data it publishes for free re-use to ensure clarity of copyright without legal responsibility or liability for publishing such data as described further below; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: All data sets shall be updated in the public Open Data catalog as often as necessary to preserve the integrity and usefulness of the data sets; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: All Open Data sets shall be clearly defined and information on the type of data set should be included in the data set description for each dataset uploaded to the Open Data catalog as defined by the Regulations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: Open Data made available by the City is provided solely for informational purposes. The City does not warranty the completeness, accuracy, content or fitness for any particular purpose or use of any Open Data set made available, nor are

any such warranties to be implied or inferred with respect to the data sets furnished therein; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City is not liable for any deficiencies in the completeness, accuracy, content or fitness for any particular purpose or use of any Open Data, or application utilizing such data, provided by any third party; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: This policy shall not be construed to create a private right of action to enforce its provisions. Failure to comply with this policy shall not result in any liability to the City of Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator or his/her designee's disclosure of any data sets shall be consistent with applicable laws and best practices, including those related to privacy and security.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2013

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California