

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

January 20, 2015

County Open Data Initiative

An Open Data Initiative enables the County of Los Angeles (County) to further enhance transparency, improve collaboration with community organizations and local businesses, foster innovation, promote stronger regional economic development, and improve government services. The proposed County Open Data Initiative will be a commitment by the County to collect, release, and present data to the public and to the various County departments that will provide tremendous benefits to the residents and businesses of the County while also instituting appropriate security safeguards of confidential and protected information.

In March 2012, the County adopted an Information Sharing and Management Policy (Policy 6.200) to facilitate information sharing, improve coordination and delivery of services. In May 2013, President Obama signed the Executive Order 13642, Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information, which declared that information is a valuable national asset whose value is multiplied when it

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is made easily accessible to the public. The Executive Order requires that, going forward, data generated by the federal government be made available in open, machine-readable formats, while appropriately safeguarding privacy, confidentiality, and security. This Open Data Initiative is in line with the Federal Strategy and the County Policy. According to a survey conducted by the Chief Information Officer in September 2013, County departments have already been publishing hundreds of open data reports and sets on their respective websites. However, it is not published in a user-friendly or machine-readable format. The best practice for sharing this data is to establish a centralized portal to become a one-stop-shop for constituents, entrepreneurs, researchers, application developers and County employees, and make available a variety of tools in a machine-readable and open data format.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Information Officer to:

1. Establish and administer a Los Angeles County Open Data Portal to consolidate and unify existing departmental open data efforts onto one Countywide platform.
2. Establish a County Open Data Task Force (Task Force) under the leadership of the County Chief Information Officer or his designee to work with County departments to identify additional data sets that could be published openly on the County Open Data Portal in machine-readable format and report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days on the findings of the Task Force.

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(VH/MA)