

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Honorable President and
Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall – Room 409
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

January 29, 2016

Re: City Council Bill #16-0615; Enactment of an Open Data Program for Baltimore City

Dear City Council President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Information Technology (MOIT) is in receipt of City Council Bill 16-0615 (Baltimore City Open Data Program); requesting the technological capabilities and resource feasibility of enacting an Open Data Program for Baltimore City.

This involves providing for the implementation and governance of this program; providing for the continued maintenance of the "Open Baltimore" Web Portal; specifying the nature of the datasets to be published on this open data portal; stating certain disclaimers; requiring certain reports; defining certain terms and; providing for a special effective date.

The bill requires the City's representative (MOIT's Chief Data Officer (CDO)) to:

- Proactively release high quality, timely and publishable datasets to the open data portal
- Maintain the "Open Baltimore" web portal as the central location
- Minimize limitations
- Innovate the use of the publishable data by other city agencies and the public as a whole

To initiate this process, MOIT will begin its analysis by seeking best practices; working closely with other City agencies – including the legal ramifications and resources – to ensure datasets are reviewed for use in appropriate formats, with quality and timeliness. We will provide oversight and attentiveness to the exclusion of protected and sensitive information. MOIT plans to author the framework to create a governance plan that will include providing annual reports on the Open Data Program.

MOIT is prepared to take a very active role in encouraging the public's use of the published data while leading the way for innovative civic enhancing uses.

Sincerely


Jerome Mullen
Chief Information Officer
The Mayor's Office of Information Technology

