

# CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: August 31, 2016  
 Charter Provision: *Provide for the orderly government and administration of the affairs of the City*  
 Objective: *Determine Policies*

## ACTION

**Open Data Policy and Program.** Adopt Resolution No. 10548 establishing an open data policy and directing the city manager to establish an open data program.

## BACKGROUND

The Scottsdale City Council approved an agreement with What Works Cities in May 2016. The agreement helps advance the City Council priorities by improving the city's practice of evidence-based decision-making. In particular, one of the areas where WWC is assisting Scottsdale in advancing its goals is the area of open data. Here is the goal as stated in the approved agreement:

"Scottsdale will make data more consumable, readily available, and useful for decision making by developing the policies and processes to initiate and sustain a comprehensive effort to inventory, prioritize, release, and maintain public data, incorporating best practices and a scalable approach into the City's open data program."

Developing an open data policy and program is part of the scope of work approved by the city Council in May. The other parts consist of conducting a data inventory to identify city data sources and data sets, and improving the information available on the city's open data portal. The priority is to focus on release of datasets that are used by the city for decision-making and support the City Council's priorities.

## ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

### Recent Staff Action

The work with the WWC partners began in July. A staff team meets bi-weekly with advisors from the Sunlight Foundation and the Center for Government Excellence on the open data scope of work.

The first step was to review the Sunlight Foundation's Open Data Policy Guidelines, <http://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/>, and assess the city's current practice and policy relative to those guidelines. Staff also reviewed Open Data policies from Mesa and Phoenix Arizona and from other WWC cities. Resolution No. 10548 was drafted based on these guidelines.

Scottsdale's approach is for the City Council to commit the city to an Open Data policy, and to direct the city manager to implement an Open Data Program and maintain an Open Data Portal.

### **Policy Implications**

Committing to an open data policy can improve evidence-based decision-making. This is because although the city collects and reports data, much of the data is stored within each collecting division and department, which can impede the ability to aggregate, analyze and synthesize it to improve decision-making and better allocate public resources. In addition, improving access to important data internally, and to the public, can improve the ability to use data to improve decision-making by staff and the City Council, and can better inform the citizens with information to provide valuable feedback regarding local issues.

The Open Data Policy has three major components:

1. To promote openness, transparency and accountability through open data
2. To consider public information to be open by default and for inspection, complying with the letter and spirit of public records laws and Article 13, Section 1 of the City Charter.
3. To protect when applicable the privacy, confidentiality and security within data and information under the city's control

The concept of "open by default" means that information and data are presumed to be open to public scrutiny unless there is a compelling reason for them to remain unpublished (such as laws requiring confidentiality, privacy or security).

This policy statement is consistent with current city practice as provided for in Administrative Regulation 296, Records Requests.

### **Significant Issues to be Addressed**

Resolution No. 10548 directs the city manager to coordinate with the other charter officers to develop an Open Data Program that takes into account data security and privacy concerns and is:

1. Consistent with city policy and public records and other applicable laws
2. As appropriate provides for a proactive release of data and information to support city policies and decisions
3. Establishes and maintains an Open Data Portal where the city's published data will be publicly available online
4. Creates a process for oversight and leadership of the Open Data Program

### **Community Involvement**

One of Sunlight's Open Data Guidelines is to "incorporate public perspectives into policy implementation." Including public involvement into the prioritization of data sets for release, as well as ongoing feedback about the user-friendliness of the Open Data Portal will be included in the administrative regulation that will be created to implement the Open Data Policy.

## **RESOURCE IMPACTS**

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The intent is to implement this policy using existing staff time and resources. The city has many datasets and interactive maps already online at <https://eservices.scottsdaleaz.gov/eservices/> and <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/maps>, and staff will work to prioritize and release these in Open Data

format. Staff is exploring how existing resources in combination with free resources can be used to develop the portal, however Resolution No. 10548 states that if necessary the city manager may request additional funds from the City Council to implement the program.

## OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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### Recommended Approach

Adopt Resolution No. 10548 establishing an open data policy and directing the city manager to establish an open data program.

### Proposed Next Steps

The City Manager's Office will prepare an administrative regulation creating the Open Data Program and identify a staff team to oversee the program. Within a year, a report will be submitted to the City Council assessing progress regarding the Open Data Program, a list of datasets available on the Open Data Portal, and a timeline for release of additional datasets.

## RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

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City Manager's Office, Information Technology

## STAFF CONTACTS (S)

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M. Brent Stockwell, Assistant City Manager, [BStockwell@ScottsdaleAZ.gov](mailto:BStockwell@ScottsdaleAZ.gov); Brad Hartig, Chief Information Officer, [BHartig@ScottsdaleAZ.gov](mailto:BHartig@ScottsdaleAZ.gov)

## APPROVED BY

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8-15-16

Date

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. Resolution No. 10548

# ATTACHMENT 1

## RESOLUTION NO. 10548

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DATA POLICY AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN DATA PROGRAM AND REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THAT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, committing to an Open Data policy can improve evidence-based decision making and support the City's mission statement of "Simply Better Service for a World-Class Community"; and

WHEREAS, the City collects data, much of which is stored within each collecting division or department, which can impede the ability to aggregate, analyze and synthesize it to improve decision-making and better allocate public resources; and

WHEREAS, improving access to information to important data internally, and to the public, can improve the ability to use data to improve decision-making by staff and the City Council, and can better inform the citizens with information to provide valuable feedback regarding local issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale as follows:

Section 1. It is the policy of the City of Scottsdale to promote openness, transparency and accountability through open data, to consider public information to be open by default and open for inspection unless a countervailing privacy, confidentiality or security interest exists, to comply with the letter and spirit of public records and other laws, and to protect when applicable privacy, confidentiality, and security interests within data and information under the City's control.

Section 2. The City Manager is directed to coordinate with the other charter officers to develop an Open Data Program which is consistent with City policy and public records and other applicable laws, provides for as appropriate proactive release of data and information to support City priorities and decisions, establishes and maintains an Open Data Portal where the City's published data will be publicly available online, and creates a process for oversight and leadership of the Open Data Program.

Section 3. In developing the Open Data Program, the City Manager may, after considering the priority needs and financial resources of the City, request from the City Council additional funds, if necessary, to support the Program and the Portal.

Section 4. Within one year of the effective date of this resolution, the City Manager shall submit to the City Council an Open Data Report. The report shall include an assessment of progress towards achievement of the goals of the city's Open Data Program, a list of datasets

Resolution No. 10548

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currently available on the Open Data Portal, and a description and publication timeline for datasets envisioned to be published on the portal.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale this 31st day of August, 2016.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an Arizona  
municipal corporation

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Jagger, City Clerk

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W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Bruce Washburn, City Attorney

By: Luis Santaella, Senior Assistant City Attorney

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