

BOS File No. 101155 (City's Open Data Policy)

Simon Silverman

to:

LaTonia Stokes

09/27/2010 04:28 PM

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Dear Ms. Peoples-Stokes,

While the San Francisco Police Department supports transparency in government, we are concerned about the proposed ordinance which establishes the City's open data policy (BOS file #101155). As presently drafted, the ordinance does not provide exclusions for information whose disclosure is prohibited by law (for example, criminal history information or peace officer personnel records). In addition, the Department must maintain the confidentiality of certain information in order to protect the safety of persons and the integrity of ongoing investigations. Further, the Department must safeguard information that is subject to the attorney client privilege. Finally, the Department is concerned that implementation of the open data policy may place demands on the department's technological resources that we are unable to meet.

At present, the Department has adequate, lawful policies and practices in place for responding to specific information requests from citizens. In addition, we regularly post crime information and statistics on our website for public inspection.

In conclusion, we are concerned that the ordinance does not contemplate the unique circumstances of the San Francisco Police Department and we foresee significant problems with implementation should it be adopted in its present form.

Sincerely,

Lt. Simon Silverman

San Francisco Police Department

Legal Division