

1. LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code--Citywide Coordination of Open Data Policy and Procedures]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code, Sections 22D.2 and 22D.3, relating to the San Francisco's open data policies and procedures and establishing the position and duties of Chief Data Officer and Departmental Data Coordinators.

Existing Law

Chapter 22D of the San Francisco Administrative Code established San Francisco's Open Data Policy and provided general standards for City Departments to comply with the policy.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would establish the position and duties of the Chief Data Officer, and Open Data Department Coordinators to assist in the implementation of the City's Open Data Policy. The ordinance would also establish rules and procedures for making open data available through the City's open data web portal.

The provisions would be incorporated into Chapter 22D.

Background Information

Open and accessible government is fundamental to successful representative democracy. The Internet has become a powerful tool for improving government and increasing transparency through the release of government documents and data, as well as improved engagement and partnership between government officials and citizens.

An open data policy has been shown to drive increased civic engagement, leading to social and economic benefits as a result of innovative resident interaction with government. Examples of potential social and economic benefits include, but are not limited to, (1) empowerment of citizens through democratization of information and fostering citizen participation in city projects; (2) supporting early stage entrepreneurship; and (3) encouraging positive environments that contribute to workforce development and jobs creation.

Mayor Gavin Newsom enacted the nation's first open data legislation in 2009, and the Board of Supervisors expanded on this work in 2010 with the passage of the City's Open Data Policy (Ordinance 293-10). This ordinance empowered San Francisco's Committee on Information Technology (COIT) to establish Rules and Standards applicable to all City departments regarding the release of data to the city's online data portal. The proposed ordinance establishes the position of Chief Data Officer and Department Data Coordinators to assist in the implementation of the City's Open Data Policy.

The Chief Data Officer (CDO) will work with COIT, the Mayor, and Board of Supervisors to further the goals of open data in the City. The CDO shall also prepare an annual citywide implementation plan and establish rules and standards to implement the open data policy, including developing standards to determine which data sets are appropriate for public disclosure. The CDO and COIT intend to work with the City Attorney's Office and the Purchaser to develop contract provisions to promote open data policies.

City departments shall make available data sets, provided that such disclosure is consistent with the City's Open Data Policy, technical standards, and with applicable law, including laws related to privacy. Each department will conduct quarterly reviews of their progress on providing access to data sets requested by the public through the designated web portal beginning six months after the appointment of the CDO. To further the goals of the City's policy, each department shall appoint a Data Coordinator (DC) to implement the City's Open Data plan within the department.

The DCs shall identify and enable the delivery of data sets for potential inclusion on the portal, and meet with the CDO as needed to achieve these goals. The DCs will also prepare a Department Open Data implementation plan and respond to public feedback regarding the Department's public data sets. DCs will display their contact information on DataSF alongside any of their published data sets.