



City of San Diego

**MARK KERSEY**

CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

Contact: Elizabeth Spillane  
(619) 236-6655

### **City of San Diego in the Dark Ages on Open Data**

*Kersey calls for development of an Open Data Policy by the end of the year*

SAN DIEGO, California, July 10 – Today the Rules Committee held a hearing on the City of San Diego’s failure to make data available in a way that can transform the way the public connects with government. Councilman Kersey called for immediate action toward a permanent City policy on Open Data and Open Government.

**“When we have a group of volunteers willing to give the City hundreds of hours to clean up our beaches, bays, and open space, we find a way to tap into that. Here we have highly-educated, skilled volunteers, and the City has dragged its feet.”**

San Diego is behind the curve on the way it creates, stores, and makes data available to the public—particularly for coders, app developers, and open data advocates—despite its renowned high-tech work force. San Diego has been ranked as one of America’s top ten cities for start-ups by the National Venture Capital Association. Last year, Forbes ranked the region third best in the nation for tech jobs.

According to *Atlantic Cities* “Best Open Data Releases,” other cities across the country are doing great things through open data practices: crime data in Philadelphia, bike share in Boston, blight in New Orleans, public transit in Atlanta. New York even released data on rat sightings. San Diego is nowhere to be found.

**“The Council needs to show it’s not afraid of this issue. Let’s get on the right side of history when it comes to government transparency and engagement through Open Data.”**

In the months since he took office, Councilman Kersey has engaged on this issue with San Diego’s vibrant tech community, including the local Code for America brigade, app developers, civic engagement volunteers, and community planning groups.

###