



**Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner
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City Council Committee Supports Open Data Policy

SAN DIEGO (July 2, 2014) -- The City Council's Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee today approved an Open Data Policy that will increase efficiency and transparency in local government, and enhance access to public information.

Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner, who chairs the City Council's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED&IR) Committee, said the policy will help transform the City's technology operations and make public information and government data available in more user friendly formats.

"Today's action is an important step forward in creating an open data portal and providing city residents and businesses easy access to select data while still respecting security and privacy concerns," said Lightner. "Modern and innovative technology will ensure that San Diego becomes a 21st century, world-class city that uses data-driven solutions to deliver public services."

The committee-approved policy recommends hiring a chief data officer and modernizing the city's website.

"It's time for San Diego to join the open data movement – to get data out of silos at City Hall and realize its potential to spur economic development, improve municipal operations, and enhance public participation in government," said Councilman Mark Kersey, Vice Chair of the ED&IR Committee.

In December of 2013, the full City Council approved a resolution in support of creating an Open Data Policy and directed the ED&IR committee to seek more public input and work with City staff to finalize a draft.

According to Lightner, open data advocates, technology experts, and council and mayor staffs along with the City's Independent Budget Analyst collaborated to bring forward the draft policy.

"We are making our government more open, transparent and accountable while tapping into the potential of open data," said Lightner. "It will have great benefits for the city, our residents, entrepreneurs and the local economy."

The proposed Open Data Policy will be heard by the full San Diego City Council later this year.

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