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MOTION

Open data is the idea that certain data should be freely available to everyone to use and re-publish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. The philosophy behind open data is not a new one, but the term "open data" is gaining popularity with the rise of the Internet and World Wide Web. The information accessed through an open data website can be manipulated by the user for any purpose and used in conjunction with other applications.

Open data is also becoming increasingly prevalent in government, particularly with the launch of initiatives such as the U.S. national data.gov and opengovernmentdata.org. In addition, several foreign national goverments have created websites to distribute a portion of the data they collect, including the U.K., Canada, France, Kenya, Italy and Uruaguay.

Open data is often focused on non-textual material, such as maps. Examples of data sets could include crime statistics, bus timetables, WiFi hotspot locations and maps of local parks. In fact, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) provides GIS data, trip planner information and bikeways data that is accessible to the public through its developer.metro.net website. Similarly, the City of New York has developed nycopendata.socrata.com to house datasets, files/documents, charts, maps, calendars and forms that are generated by various city agencies and local organizations for public use.

The City of Los Angeles could benefit from an open data website in many ways. Companies, individuals and not-for-profits could utilize the free, existing data produced by the City and other governmental agencies to create valuable problem solving applications and services. An open data initiative would improve the accessibility, transparency, and accountability of our government while empowering citizens with new tools and solution for problems.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Information Technology Agency (ITA) to report on the feasibility of developing an open data website for the City of Los Angeles, similar to the City of New York, and the potential for partnering with other local governmental agencies.

PRESENTED BY: _____

ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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