

## **BEGA Board Meeting: November 13, 2014**

**Update: Office of Open Government/Traci L. Hughes, Director** <sup>1</sup>

### **Open Government Advisory Group**

On October 29, 2014, Mayor Gray announced the appointment of a 15-member Open Government Advisory Group, the re-launch of data.dc.gov and the redesigned track.dc.gov. As part of the announcement, the administration released 237 datasets on data.dc.gov. The release of the dataset is the first concerted push of data in machine-readable formats by the Executive Office of the Mayor since 2006.

The Open Government Advisory Group is chaired by Brian Flowers, the general counsel to the mayor, and is made up the director of the Office of Open Government and the following members:

- Rob Mancini, Chief Technology Officer, OCTO
- Dervel Reed, OCTO Chief Data Officer
- Robert Becker – Attorney/Board Member of D.C. Open Government Coalition
- Justin Grimes – Institute of Museum and Library Services Statistician; Code for DC Co-Founder
- Kathryn Pettit – Urban Institute Policy Researcher
- David Zvenyach, General Counsel to the Council of the District of Columbia
- Ayesha Abbasi, representative of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
- Scott Burrell, representative of Office of the City Administrator
- Jennifer Comey, representative of Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
- Brian Flowers, Executive Office of the Mayor General Counsel
- Rachel Joseph, representative of Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
- Ariel B. Levinson-Waldman, representative of Office of the Attorney General
- Treva Saunders, representative of Office of the Chief Financial Officer
- Keith St. Clair, representative of Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

The text of the full release may be found here:

<http://www.bega-dc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Press%20Release%20-%20Mayor%20Gray%20Announces%20New%20Open%20Government%20Initiatives%2010-29-14%20%282%29.pdf>

The first meeting of the group will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The group will establish its goals at that meeting.

### **Open Government Reports**

Also as part of the Mayor's Transparency and Open Government initiative, agencies are required to submit open government reports for review by the Open Government Advisory Group. More than half of all agencies, both subordinate and independent have submitted reports to the Executive Office of the

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<sup>1</sup> The written report will be submitted as part of the detailed record of the 11/13/14 meeting. Ms. Hughes is attending the *Urban Institute Challenges and Choices for the New Mayor: Open Data*.

Mayor. The deadline for submission was October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The reports are continuing to trickle in. The reports received to date are posted on the BEGA website under the Office of Open Government tab and are posted by agency cluster: <http://www.bega-dc.gov/documents/agency-open-gov-reports>

### **Rulemaking**

The proposed rulemaking that will establish the OOG filing, presentation and handling of complaints was published in the DC Register on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The comment period for the rulemaking is 30 days, and may be found on the BEGA website here: <http://www.bega-dc.gov/rules/proposed-rulemaking-chapter-104-office-open-government-filing-and-presentation-complaints>

### **Best Practices Symposium**

To date, the Office of Open Government has received two public comments for consideration for the 2014 Best Practices Report: Fritz Mulhauser, representing the Open Government Coalition; and Brian Flowers, on behalf of the EOM. Generally, the feedback I have received regarding the Open Government portion of the symposium is positive. Audience members really enjoyed hearing from Waldo Jaquith.

### **Free Law Founders**

As part of my ongoing effort to expand the District's civic engagement option, I have joined the Open Gov Foundation's Free Law Founders – a nationwide coalition of government leaders, citizens and technologists seeking to upgrade how governments make laws and how citizens access them across a spectrum of digital tools. Locally, members include Councilmembers Grosso and Wells, Dave Zvenyach, General Counsel to the Council; and elected and civic leaders from NY; San Francisco Montgomery County, MD; Cambridge, MA; MIT Media Lab; Chicago; the Sunlight Foundation; and the Participatory Politics Foundation.

### **OPEN-DC.GOV Site Launch**

We are now back on track with the site. Work was on hiatus for a few weeks during the procurement transition between fiscal years. We anticipate launching the site the first week in December.

### **Trainings/Formal Advice**

Since the last board meeting, the Office of Open Government has conducted one FOIA training with the DC Office of Zoning, and an Open Meetings Act training of the Commission on the Selection and Tenure of Administrative Law Judges and the Office of Administrative Hearings. There is also an Open Meetings Act Training scheduled this evening with the Office of Veteran Affairs.

The Office of Open Government has received one formal request for advice regarding compliance with the Open Meetings Act.