

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: February 28, 2018
To: The City Manager
From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager
Tom Kureczka, Chief Information Officer

Council Action Requested:

City of Winston-Salem Open Data Policy

Strategic Focus Area: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: Expand Policy and Oversight and Reporting Mechanisms

Strategic Plan Action Item: Yes

Key Work Item: Yes



Summary of Information:

In April 2015, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched the What Works Cities (WWC) national initiative to help mid-sized American cities enhance their use of data and evidence to improve services, inform local decision-making, and engage residents. What Works Cities recently announced that it had achieved its goal of accepting 100 cities into the initiative.

In September 2017, after a rigorous assessment process, the City of Winston-Salem was accepted into the WWC initiative and began two engagements focused on open data and performance management. Over the last several months, the City has worked with WWC partners, the Sunlight Foundation and Johns Hopkins University's Center for Government Excellence (GovEx), on these engagements under the oversight of Results for America. Working with the Sunlight Foundation, City staff have developed an open data policy to provide the public greater access to public information to increase transparency and promote a higher level of civic engagement. Over time, the City will create an Open Data Portal and systematically publish datasets to better inform the public about the City's services and performance. As part of the City's Open Data Program, an internal Open Data Governance Committee has been established to develop the open data policy and create the framework for the City's program.

Committee Action:

Committee	<u>CDHGG 3/20/2018</u>	Action	<u>Approval</u>
For	<u>Unanimous</u>	Against	<u></u>

Remarks:

The Open Data Governance Committee has approved a draft policy, and City staff submitted the attached resolution and administrative policy to the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee in February for review and comment. The attached resolution and policy are presented for approval by the Mayor and Council in March.