

## Information Item

**Date:** January 31, 2018

**To:** The City Manager

**From:** Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager  
Tom Kureczka, Chief Information Officer

**Subject:**

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



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.

The Open Data Governance Committee has approved a draft policy, and City staff will present the attached resolution and administrative policy to the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee in February for review and comment. City staff will incorporate the feedback from the Mayor and Council Members into the final version and present the resolution and policy for approval by the full Council in March.