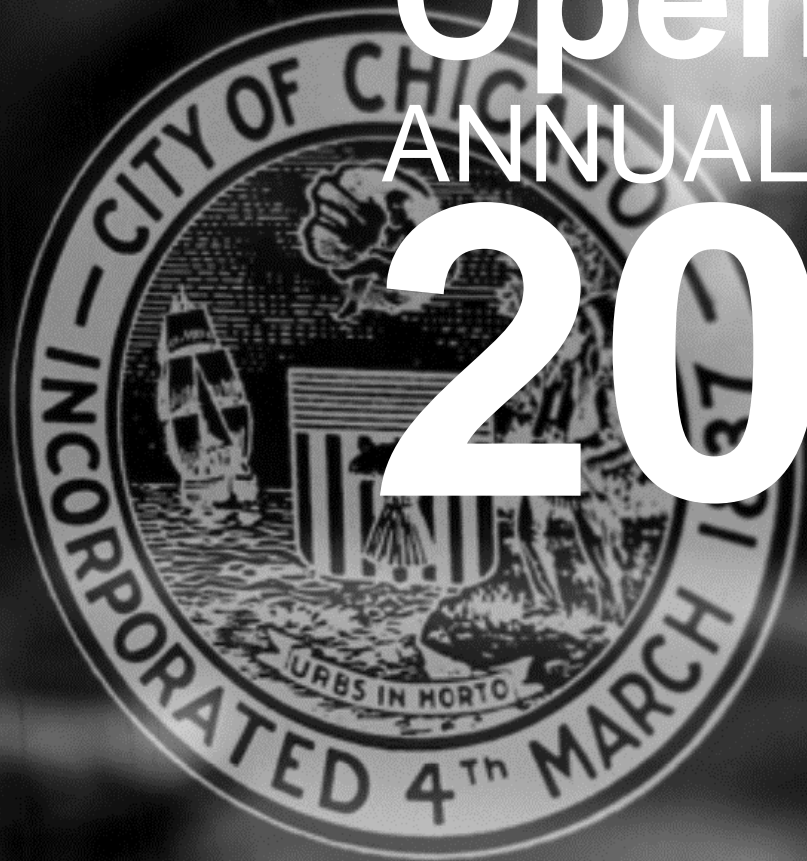


# Open Data ANNUAL REPORT 2013





A black and white photograph of a Chicago elevated train (CTA) passing between tall skyscrapers. The train is moving from left to right across the frame. The buildings are tall and modern, with many windows. The sky is visible in the background. The train has the number 22475 on its side.

# A report on the status of open data in Chicago and actions for 2014.



# 2014

## Summary

On December 10, 2012, Mayor Rahm Emanuel issued [Executive Order 2012-2](#) to codify his commitment to open data. The order requires each city agency to make reasonable efforts to publish all appropriate datasets and associated metadata under such agency's control to the data portal.

The executive order establishes an Open Data Advisory Group comprised of Open Data Coordinators from each city department. The Open Data Advisory Group assists the Chief Data Officer and Department of Innovation and Technology in creating the Open Data Annual Report.

The City of Chicago's inaugural technology plan outlines several key objectives. First, continue to release more data to the public as part of creating a more efficient government. Second, expand the use of social and digital media to communicate with the public. Finally, consolidate local IT services to improve efficiency and quality of delivery.



# 2014

## Summary

Using the aforementioned objectives, the City of Chicago will increase the presence of open data through the following key initiatives:

The City will continue to publish 311 call types to provide a deeper perspective on service requests made by Chicago's residents.

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The City will target the publication of at least 25 more datasets in the upcoming year, which are enumerated in this report.

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When contracting for goods or services that will generate data, the City will identify publishable datasets and metadata at the outset.

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The City will use advanced analytical techniques to identify frequently-requested data to target for release on the open data portal.

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The portal will contain a new, public method to solicit suggestions for new datasets.

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The city will create and maintain a new Open Data Status Blog to provide detailed feedback to portal users.

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A group of people are gathered in a room, likely for a workshop or meeting. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair and glasses is smiling and gesturing with her right hand. To her left, a man in a plaid shirt is looking at a laptop. In the background, several other people are visible, including a man in a dark jacket and glasses, and a woman in a dark sweater who appears to be speaking or gesturing. The background is dominated by a large, vibrant mural featuring a woman's face on the left and abstract colorful shapes on the right. The text "Chicago's open data has expanded beyond the portal to multiple areas of service." is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Chicago's open data has expanded  
beyond the portal to multiple areas of  
service.**

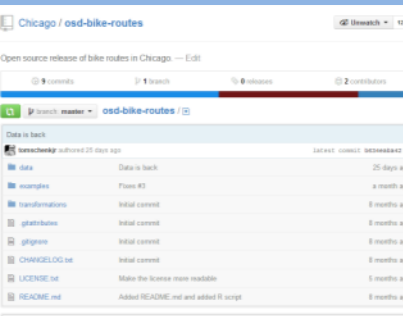


# 2014

# OPEN DATA

# OPEN DATA PORTAL

Chicago's [open data portal](#) provides user-friendly access to over 500 datasets. The public can browse data in a spreadsheet-like format and create maps, and graphs. The data portal is also used by Chicago's vibrant civic-developer community, to create helpful applications to connect the public to data.



# DATA DICTIONARY

Chicago's [data dictionary](#) will display all metadata—data about data—on each dataset. While the data portal displays actual data, the data dictionary will provide a map for every database in the city, including data not published on the portal. The data dictionary is a key step to provide full transparency to the city's data.

# GITHUB

Chicago has begun releasing select datasets on the [City's GitHub account](#). These data are provided in a business-friendly MIT license and provide the civic-developer community a chance to propose edits and detect errors





A large, illuminated neon sign spelling out 'CHICAGO' in a classic, rounded font. The letters are primarily yellow with red outlines and are covered in numerous small, glowing lights. The sign is set against a dark, textured background that appears to be a building facade at night.

**Chicago's Open Data Portal provides user-friendly access to over 500 datasets.**



# 2014 OPEN DATA PORTAL

## DATA.CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

Launched in May 2010, the portal has quickly grown in less than four years. The open data portal contains over 500 datasets on activities and information that shape the city and our lives. Visitors to the portal can get information ranging from [salaries for city employees](#) to [business licenses](#) to [energy consumption](#) in each neighborhood and where Chicagoans can [recycle their Christmas trees](#). The data portal has helped spur a vibrant software development and data science community in Chicago.

DATASETS

514

PAGE VIEWS

15.6 million

The City of Chicago has minimized expenses by using automation to maintain data on the portal. Most datasets are refreshed each night without human involvement. In addition, open data has permitted developers to create a wealth of applications to inform Chicago's residents and improve the day-to-day life. Open data also helps reduce business cost or allow new ventures. Earlier this year, Chicago published a list of authorized [public chauffeurs](#)—a list of licensed drivers for taxis, limousines, and other vehicles. Cab companies and other public chauffeurs can freely access up-to-date information on their cab drivers. Open data has permitted developers to create a wealth of applications for Chicago's residents. These applications range from browsing 311 requests, to reminding residents of street cleanings, to informing residents on the location and nuances of zoning laws. The data portal has enabled developers to meet weekly at civic hack nights and help Chicago host over a dozen hackathons this past summer.

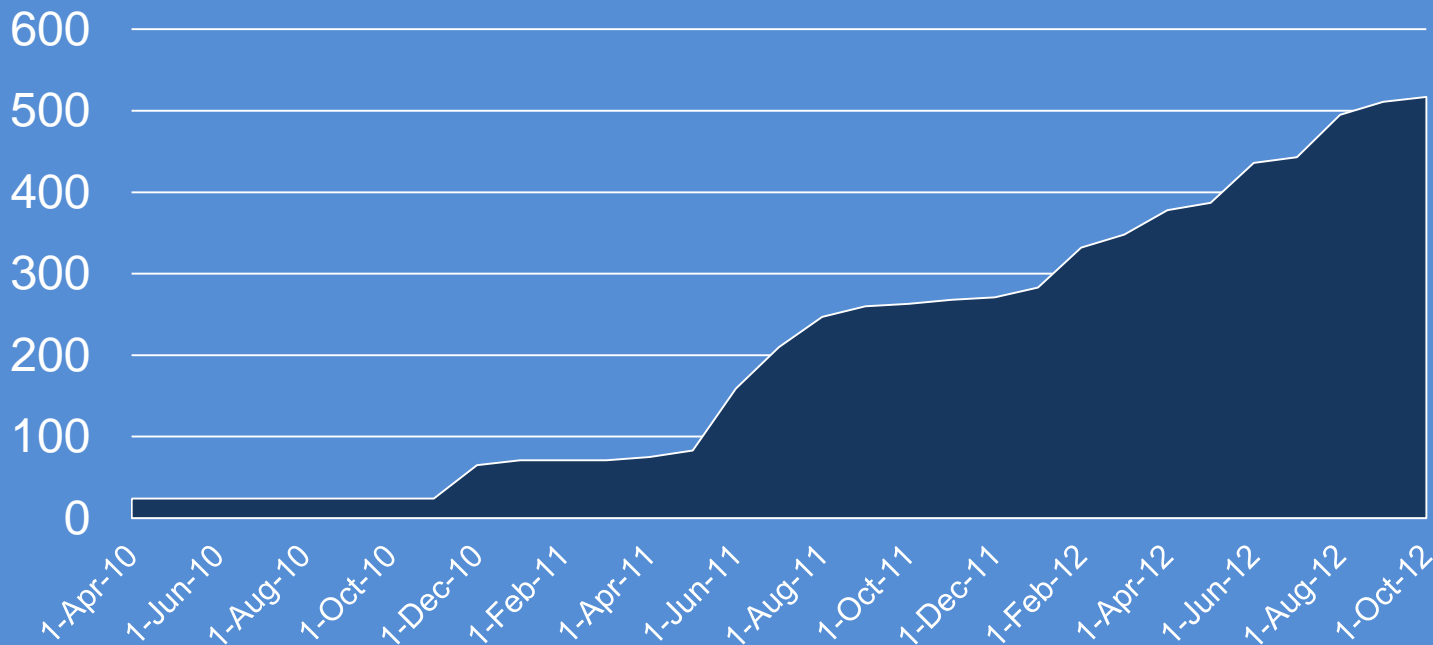


# 2014

## OPEN DATA PORTAL

# DATASETS HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED

As of December 20, 2013, the portal contains 514 datasets. Just two years prior, the portal only contained 193 datasets. [View data](#)



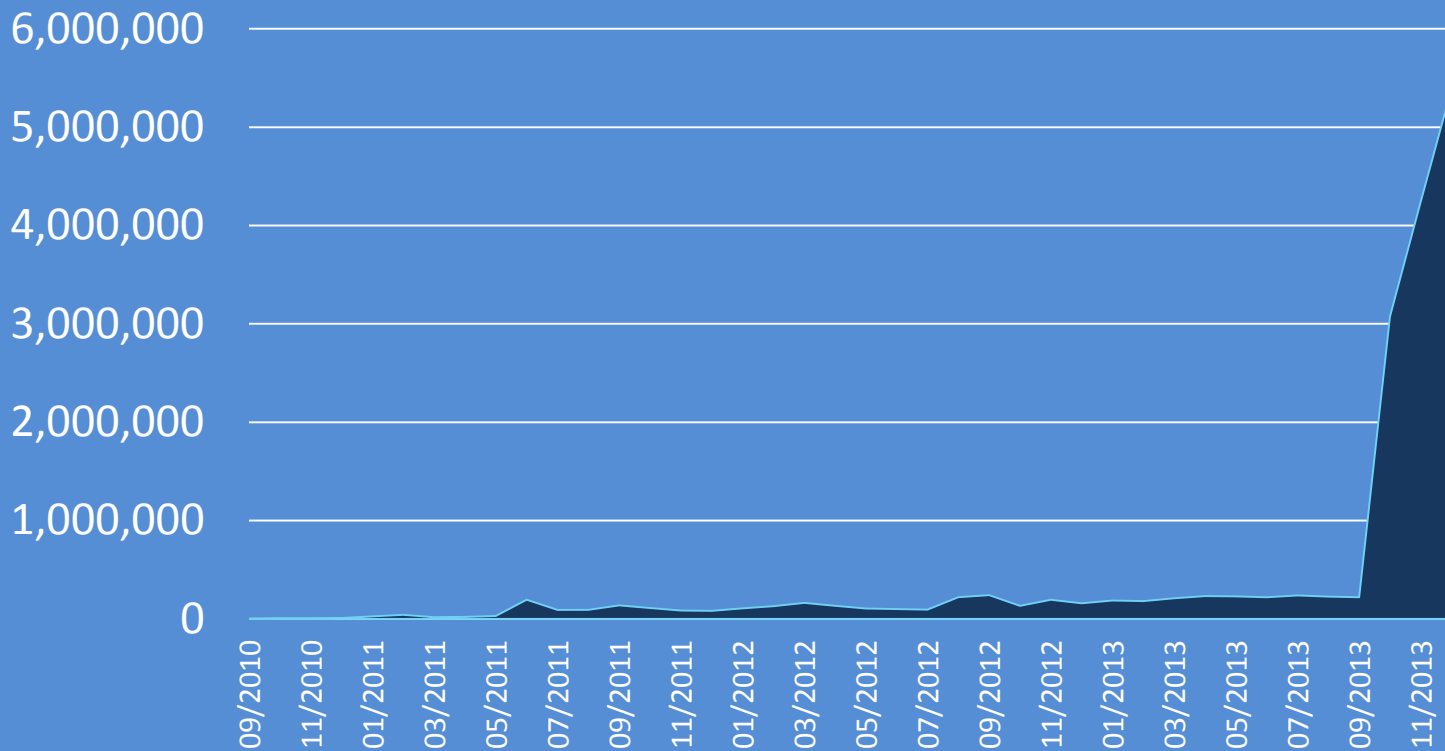


# 2014

## OPEN DATA PORTAL

## DATA PORTAL VISITORS ARE GROWING

Views have steadily increased to 102,867 in August 2013. Notable peaks occurred in past months, including June 2011 when views rocketed to 190,880 through the month. That month, City of Chicago released all crimes dating to 2011, which is still one of the most-viewed datasets on the portal.



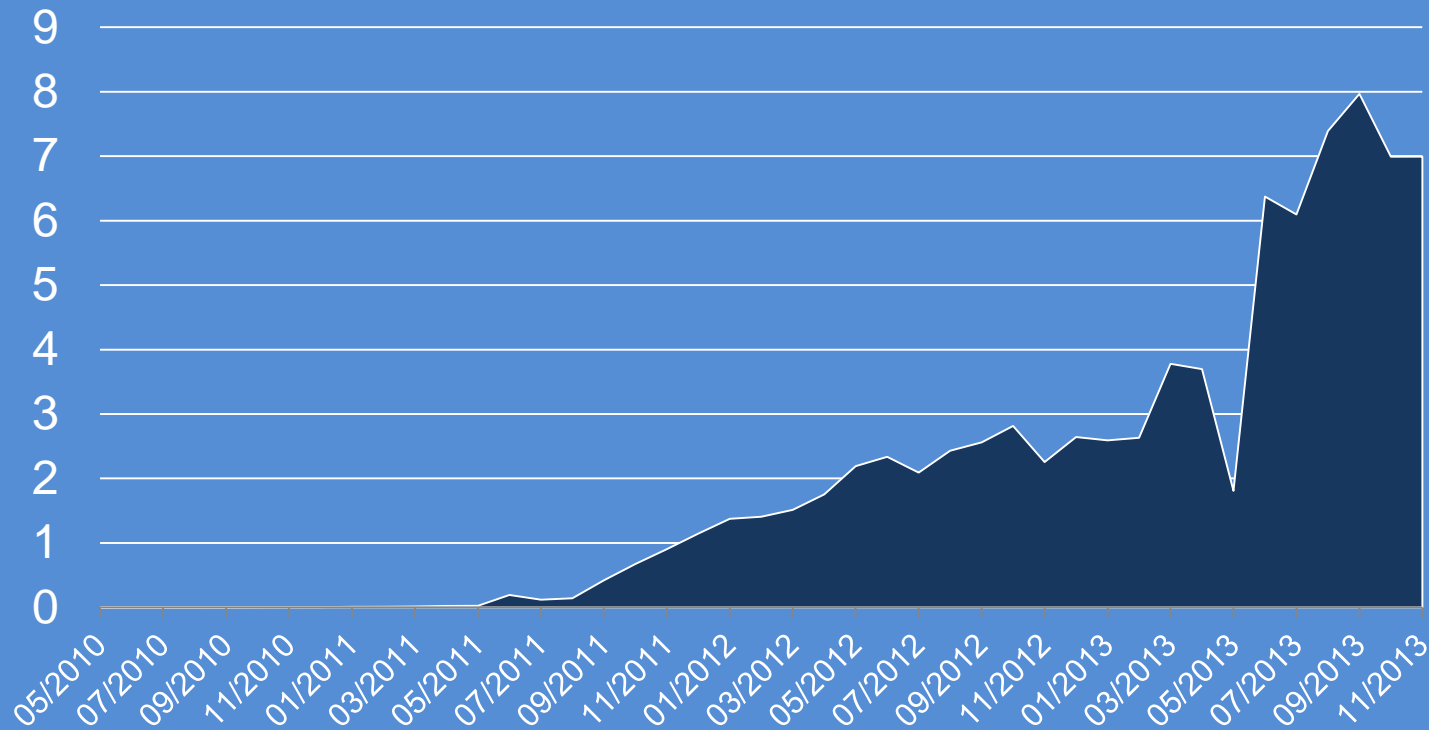


# 2014

## OPEN DATA PORTAL

## DOWNLOADS MORE THAN DOUBLED

As datasets increased, the total amount of data downloaded and viewed on the portal has significantly increased. In November 2013, 6.4 terrabytes of data were accessed on the portal. One year ago, only 2.0 terrabytes were accessed. In one year, the amount of data accessed grew over 200%.






A photograph of the Chicago City Hall building, a grand neoclassical structure with multiple stories of arched windows and columns. The building is decorated for the holidays with green wreaths and red bows hanging in the arched windows. An American flag and a Chicago flag are visible on a pole to the left. The sky is overcast. The text "CHICAGO - FOUNDED A.D. MDCCCLXXII - BUILDING COMPLETED A.D. MDCCC" is inscribed on the upper part of the building's facade.

Chicago's inaugural tech plan outlines clear objectives for the future of open data in the city.





**The city will continue to increase and improve the quality of City data available internally and externally, and facilitate methods for analyzing that data to help create a smarter and more efficient city.**

*Initiative 14, Chicago Tech Plan*



The city will expand and update its mobile, social media, and online technology to increase and improve communication and interaction with residents.

*Initiative 15, Chicago Tech Plan*





**Consolidate local government data centers.**

*Initiative 16, Chicago Tech Plan*





**To achieve these goals, the city will embark on an aggressive set of key initiatives.**



# 2014

## KEY INITIATIVES

### Open Data and City Procurements

The City will work to develop contract provisions that promote open data in procurements that contain data systems, such as the City's Divvy bike share system. These provisions will promote the City's open data policies, and, where appropriate, require that data be posted on [data.cityofchicago.org](http://data.cityofchicago.org).

### Publishing Frequent FOIA Requests

Chicago will use text mining techniques to analyze Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to identify frequently-requested datasets and post them to the data portal. In addition to making popular data available the public, this approach may also reduce FOIA requests. As an example of the success of this approach, in the 9 months after releasing environmental records, the Department of Public Health (CDPH) experienced a 65% drop in the number of FOIA requests for environmental records.



# 2014

## KEY INITIATIVES

### Improve City-County Coordination

The City and County will work together to streamline the public's access to City and County data and identify opportunities to coordinate more closely in the release of related datasets.

### Dataset Requests

The City will create a new portal to allow residents to make requests for datasets to be made public. Residents will be able to continue requesting datasets by e-mailing [dataportal@cityofchicago.org](mailto:dataportal@cityofchicago.org) or tweeting to @ChicagoCDO.

### Data Portal Status Blog

The City will launch a new blog to provide updates on the data portal. In addition to the @ChicagoCDO account, the portal will record and archive changes to datasets, explanations of outages, and responses to frequent questions.



# 2014

## UPCOMING DATASETS

The Open Data Coordinators worked with their respective departments to identify new data to release in 2014. An exciting array of datasets has been identified as targets for the upcoming year, including the release of data on additional 311 calls, city-owned vehicles, and business violations.

### **311 Calls**

Chicago currently discloses 311 data for the twelve most common service requests, which collectively account for nearly half of all calls to the 311 system. These sets include calls to fix potholes and clean graffiti. In the upcoming year, Chicago will release more 311 calls on the data portal, including rodent sightings, illegal business complaints, aircraft noise complaints, and complaints about improper heating or cooling in apartment buildings.

### **Business Violations**

The City issues citations to businesses for violations of City law, including operating without a proper license, restaurant health violations, selling deceptively marketed and outdated merchandise, and selling tobacco products to minors. This set will include all business violations filed with the City's Department of Administrative Hearings dating back to 2001.



# 2014 UPCOMING DATASETS

## **Building, Property, And Construction Violations**

The City issues citations to building owners, property owners, and construction sites for a variety of safety, maintenance, and cleanliness violations. For example, this includes: failure to maintain safety standards and secure vacant properties, failure to install or maintain proper building safety and sanitation measures, repair or replace defective doors, floors, or ceilings, and failure to maintain construction site cleanliness. This set will include all building, property, and construction violations filed with the City's Department of Administrative Hearings dating back to 2001.

## **Public Safety And Hazard Violations**

The City issues citations for violations of city law that pose a hazard to public safety, including driving while using a mobile telephone. This set will include safety and hazard violations filed with the City's Department of Administrative Hearings dating back to 2001.

## **City-owned Assets**

The City-owned asset dataset will contain a list of assets, including a list of all vehicles along with information on the type of vehicle and several other key characteristics.



# 2014

## UPCOMING DATASETS

### **Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Human Resources**

Home accessibility modifications completed by ward  
Number of accessibility permits reviews conducted  
Number of accessibility requests fulfilled

### **Transportation**

Red-light camera locations  
Speed camera locations  
Automobile Accidents  
DIVVY Bike Usage

### **Fleet and Facility Management**

City-owned assets

### **Administrative Hearings**

Building violations  
Business violations  
Property violations  
Construction violations  
Public safety violations  
Hazard violations

### **Housing & Economic Development**

Vacant Storefront Data  
Micro-Market Recovery Program

### **Family & Support Services**

Congregate Dining Sites

### **Health**

West Nile Spray locations  
CHAMPS Data

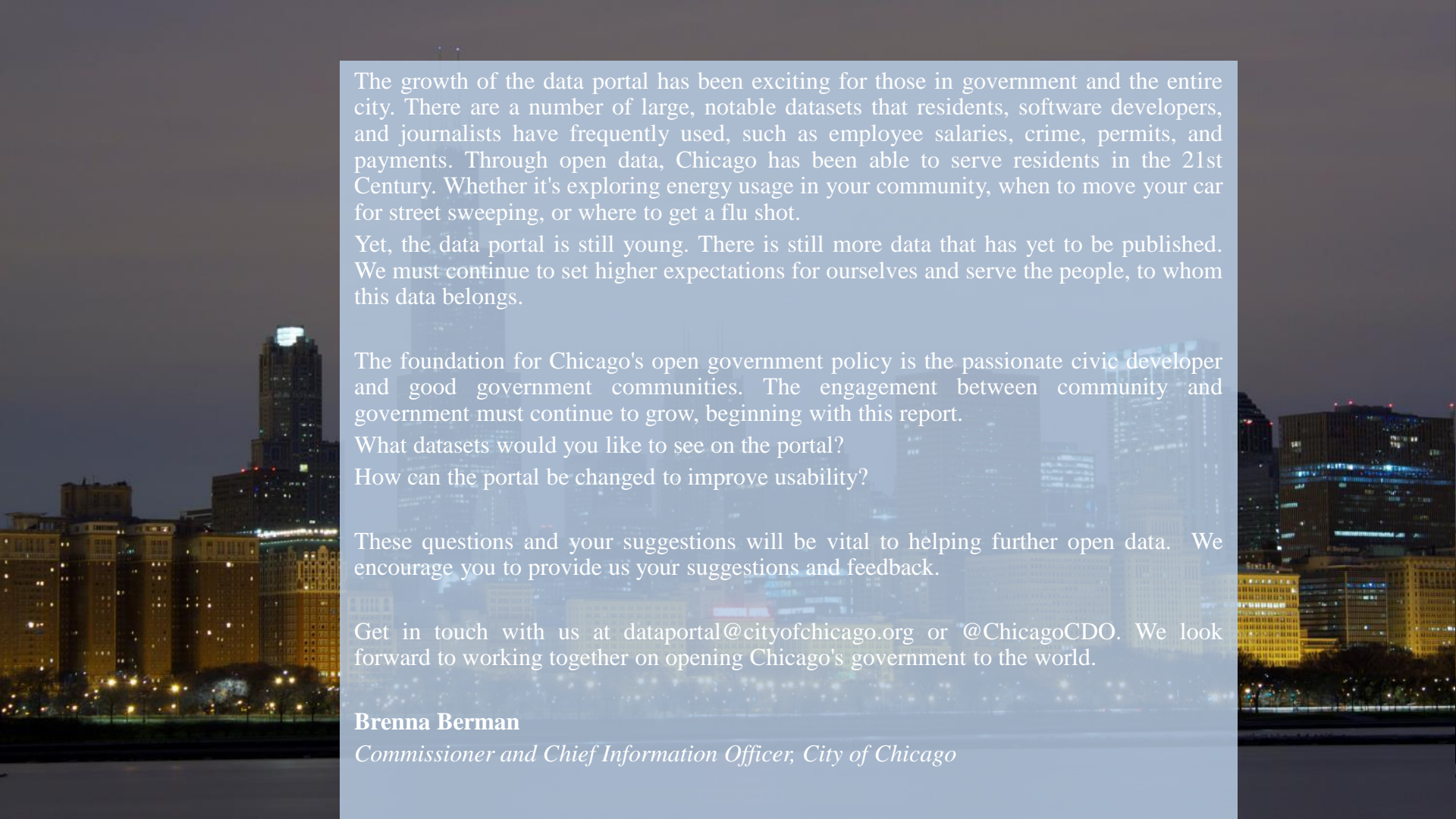
### **Cultural Affairs & Special Events**

Cultural Grant Awards

### **Business Affairs & Consumer Protection**

Sidewalk Café Permits  
Public Vehicle Licenses  
Business License Enforcement



A nighttime photograph of the Chicago skyline, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers and buildings. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The text discusses the growth of the data portal, the need for more data, and the foundation for open government policy. It also lists questions for feedback and provides contact information for Brenna Berman.

The growth of the data portal has been exciting for those in government and the entire city. There are a number of large, notable datasets that residents, software developers, and journalists have frequently used, such as employee salaries, crime, permits, and payments. Through open data, Chicago has been able to serve residents in the 21st Century. Whether it's exploring energy usage in your community, when to move your car for street sweeping, or where to get a flu shot.

Yet, the data portal is still young. There is still more data that has yet to be published. We must continue to set higher expectations for ourselves and serve the people, to whom this data belongs.

The foundation for Chicago's open government policy is the passionate civic developer and good government communities. The engagement between community and government must continue to grow, beginning with this report.

What datasets would you like to see on the portal?

How can the portal be changed to improve usability?

These questions and your suggestions will be vital to helping further open data. We encourage you to provide us your suggestions and feedback.

Get in touch with us at [dataportal@cityofchicago.org](mailto:dataportal@cityofchicago.org) or [@ChicagoCDO](https://twitter.com/ChicagoCDO). We look forward to working together on opening Chicago's government to the world.

**Brenna Berman**

*Commissioner and Chief Information Officer, City of Chicago*



# 2014

## OPEN DATA ADVISORY GROUP

### **Administrative Hearings**

Alladin Jackson

### **Budget**

Linda Hanacek

### **Business Affairs and Consumer Protection**

Jeffrey Lewelling

### **Ethics**

Jeffrey Johnson

### **Fleet and Facility Management**

Aimee Heinzel

### **Family and Social Services**

David Wells

### **Finance**

Jason Yost

### **Health**

Erica Salem

Sherri Cohen

### **Housing and Economic Development**

John Karnuth

### **Human Relations**

Iris Archilla

### **Innovation and Technology**

Jonathan Levy

Tom Schenk Jr.

### **Law**

David Rogan

### **Mayors Office for People with Disabilities**

Joe Albritton

### **Office of Emergency Management and Communications**

Jonathan Lewin

### **Procurement**

Catherine Kwiatkowski

### **Streets and Sanitation**

John Dunn

Christopher Reiser

### **Transportation**

Jeffrey Goliber

### **Water**

Barrett Murphy