



Legislation Text

File #: 21-6944, **Version:** 1

Department: County Administration

Department Head/Elected Official: David Berry, County Administrator

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Policy

Project ID (if applicable): N/A

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): N/A

MWDBE Participation (if applicable): N/A

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request for approval of an Open Data Policy for Harris County.

Background and Discussion:

On August 10, 2021, Commissioners Court approved the Office of County Administration (OCA) Transition Plan, which outlined a vision to effectively implement the Court's countywide goal: to build a more dynamic, vibrant, and resilient community while being inclusive, equitable, and transparent in all that we do. As an Early Initiative to contribute to the execution of the principles of inclusiveness and transparency, the OCA committed to drafting a countywide Open Data Policy.

Developed by an interdepartmental workgroup of Harris County employees, the resulting Open Data Policy outlines Harris County's open data goals including the creation of an Open Data Portal, descriptions of the Open Data Team's and County Departments' roles in governing Harris County's open data, guidelines for reporting, a phased timeline for open data policy implementation, and the definitions that cover open data.

Expected Impact:

This policy will codify Harris County's commitment to transparent government and provide clarity on its governance of open data. To implement the policy, the creation of an online Open Data Portal is described in addition to the creation of a role of Chief Data Officer (CDO) to manage this and other data related projects. The CDO role will initially be fulfilled by a new Chief Technology Officer position, which will be funded through conversion of an existing position within the Office of County Administration. The Open Data Portal will be built by the Universal Services department utilizing existing funds of approximately \$43,000.00, per a rough-order-of-magnitude-estimate completed by the department.

Alternative Options:

Harris County's process for open data governance could remain undefined. In addition, Commissioners Court could alternatively choose to pursue a Request for Proposals path for the creation of the Open Data Portal rather than utilizing Universal Services to build the site. This would increase project timelines and decrease departmental ownership of countywide open data goals.

Alignment with Goal(s):

- Justice and Safety
- Economic Opportunity
- Housing
- Public Health
- Transportation
- Flooding
- Environment
- Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
08/10/21	13	Court approved OCA Transition Plan

Location:

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name			
	FY 21-22	FY 22	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$	\$	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			

Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Implementation Date: December 14, 2021

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department: Traci Buttram, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of County Administration

Attachments (if applicable): Open Data Policy