From: Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>
Sent: 8/28/2017 1:35:47 PM
To: cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com
Cc: gjackson@ashevillenc.gov,Scott Barnwell <sbarnwell@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Re: [#83254] Re: Public Safety Committee Agenda

Cecil, Gary, and Scott,

Thank you for the quick action - I can confirm the link on the City website now works correctly, and I appreciate Scott passing along a PDF just in case.Â

I'm not sure what happened, but when I clicked the link on Friday, it just loaded an empty document - most likely a technical glitch.Â

I would typically contact the City IT Helpdesk with these types of issues, but due to the tight window before the meeting, I wanted to reach out at a higher level in the hope that my request would get routed to someone with the document itself.Â

In any case - I greatly appreciate the quick response, and allowing me to review the document before the meeting. It seems that the technical issue with the Open Data feed has been resolved. I had hoped the report may contain information about enhancements to the feed, so I want to repeat my request / inquiry about those efforts:Â

Are there any active efforts to improve the information provided by the Crime Data feed? It is my understanding that the data the City publishes is "filtered" to a few categories. For both my advocacy work, and for a site I build called AVL Crime (http://www.avlcrime.com), I would greatly appreciate additional information provided by that feed.Â

There's a few parts to my request - first, I would like to see the feed include all categories of crime. There are certain categories that have justified privacy concerns, such as sexual assaults - I would recommend that those incidents are provided without an exact location, but with an indication of "neighborhood" where the incidents occurred. For all other categories without those concerns, they should simply be included in the feed.Â

Beyond additional categories, it would benefit both the public and City staff to include more information about each incident. For example, right now we have data on where and when an incident occurred, and what category of crime occurred. However, there is no demographic information included about individuals involved.Â

It seems to me that the City's Open Data feed should match information I can receive by making a public records request - it seems like a waste of resources to require me to take up staff time to fulfill a request for information that should be publicly available.Â

From my experience, when I make a request for crime incident data, it typically takes several months for APD to release that data to me - it occupies staff time from the analyst to do the query, and then a whole organizational effort to review the information before it is provided to me.Â

I am not clear if the inaction of this feed is due to technical or organizational challenges, and I would appreciate any insight that can be provided. Also, if there's any way I can assist with these efforts, please let me know.Â

Thank you,

Patrick Conant
patrick@prcapps.com
PRC Applications
www.prcapps.com

On Mon, 28 Aug at 10:44 AM , Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
Patrick:
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Thanks for the heads up and sorry for your difficulties.Â Do you have somebody with our IT department you normally would contact with related questions?
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Gary
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From: Patrick Conant [mailto:patrick@prcapps.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com>; Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Public Safety Committee Agenda
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Cecil and Gary,Â
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I wanted to contact you to alert you to an issue with the documents posted on the City Website for tomorrowâ€™s Public Safety Committee meeting - I didnâ€™t see another member of staff listed on the City Website so I wanted to reach out to both of you.Â
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The document for **Staff Memo: Crime Open Data Accessibility**Â does not load - and Iâ€™m particularly interested in that report since Iâ€™ve advocated for improvements to that Open Data feed for months.Â
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I will be at the meeting tomorrow, but I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to review the staff memo ahead of time.Â
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Thank you,
Patrick Conant