



November 15, 2013
Council Member Domenic Recchia
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Council Member Recchia:

We write today as active supporters of New York State's open data efforts to support the creation of transparency sites and databases that increase spending and fiscal transparency by New York City and State agencies. Accordingly, we think creating such a database for Sandy-related spending contracting expenditures is publicly beneficial.

We recommend that such a database:

- Comply with NYC Administrative Code, Title 23, Chapter 5: Accessibility to Public Data Sets (i.e. NYC's Open Data Law). The datasets that are accessible through the database interface should also be fully available on the NYC Open Data portal in disaggregate form.
- Be updated every time the Sandy-related spending database is updated, or with reasonable frequency.
- Be created with input from NYC's technology community, with particular attention to usability.

Thank you for considering our request, and thank you for taking up this important issue for discussion.

Sincerely,

Noel Hidalgo
Executive Director
BetaNYC, a Code for America Brigade

Dick Dadey
Executive Director
Citizens Union

Susan Lerner
Executive Director
Common Cause NY

Ashton Stewart
Executive Director
NYC League of Women Voters

Gene Russianoff
Senior Attorney
NY Public Interest Research Group

Frank Hebbert
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OpenPlans

John Kaehny
Executive Director
Reinvent Albany