

§ 1061. Commission on public information and communication.

a. There shall be a commission on public information and communication which shall consist of the public advocate, as chair, the corporation counsel or the delegate of such officer, the director of operations or the delegate of such officer, the commissioner of the department of records and information services or the delegate of such officer, the commissioner of information technology and telecommunications or the delegate of such officer, the president of the WNYC communications group or the delegate of such officer, and one council member elected by the council, all of whom shall serve on the board without compensation.

In addition, there shall be four other members, each appointed for a four-year term, who shall not hold or seek public or political party office or be public employees in any jurisdiction, except the representative of the community board as set forth herein, to be appointed as follows: two by the mayor, one of whom is or has been a representative of the news media and one of whom shall be a member of a community board; one by the public advocate; and one by the borough presidents acting as a group. Such members shall receive a per diem compensation for each calendar day they perform the work of the commission. No such members shall serve for more than two consecutive four-year terms. All initial appointments shall be made by the first day of March, nineteen hundred ninety.

b. Members may be removed by the mayor for cause after notice and opportunity to be heard. Members shall serve until their successors have been appointed.

c. The commission shall appoint an executive director, a general counsel and such other officers, employees, and consultants as are necessary to fulfill its duties, within appropriations available therefor.

d. The commission shall:

- (1) undertake, by itself, or in cooperation with other entities, activities to educate the public about the availability and potential usefulness of city produced or maintained information and assist the public in obtaining access to such information;
- (2) review:
 - (i) city information policies, including but not limited to, policies regarding public access to city produced or maintained information, particularly, computerized information;
 - (ii) the quality, structure, and costs to the public of such information;
 - (iii) agency compliance with the various notice, comment, and hearing provisions of the charter and other laws applicable to city agencies; and
 - (iv) the usefulness and availability of city documents, reports, and publications;
- (3) assist city agencies in facilitating public access to their meetings, transcripts, records, and other information, and monitor agency compliance with the provisions of the charter, and other laws which require such public access;
- (4) hold at least one public hearing each year on city information policies and issue at least one report each year with such recommendations as the commission deems advisable;

- (5) on the request of any member of the public, elected official, or city agency, render advisory opinions regarding the application of those provisions of the charter or other laws which require public access to meetings, transcripts, records and other information. Such advisory opinions shall be indexed by subject matter and maintained on a cumulative basis;
- (6) make recommendations regarding:
 - (i) the application of new communications technology to improve public access to city produced or maintained information;
 - (ii) the distribution of information to the public about the purposes and locations of the city's service delivery facilities; and
 - (iii) programming for the municipal cable channels and broadcasting system.

§ 1062. Public data directory.

- a. The commission shall publish annually a directory of the computerized information produced or maintained by city agencies which is required by law to be publicly accessible. Such directory shall include specific descriptions of the contents, format and methods of accessing such information, and the name, title, office address, and office telephone number of the official in each agency responsible for receiving inquiries about such information.
- b. The mayor shall transmit to the commission such information as the commission requires to compile and update the public data directory. The mayor shall also ensure that all agencies provide the commission with such assistance and information as the commission requires.

The Tenets of NYC Open Government

NYC Digital and DOITT have identified the following strategic goals that will guide our definition and implementation of open government in New York City:

1. Open Government democratizes the exchange of information and public services, inviting all citizens to participate and engage.
2. Open Government connects citizens to one another, supporting more efficient collaborative production of services over the traditional mode of citizen consumption of government-produced services.
3. Open Government information is more valuable when it is collected at the source, and published in near-real-time.
4. Open Government data is machine-readable.
5. Open Government invites all information consumers – inside and outside government – to correct, improve, and augment data.
6. Open Government uses open standards, formats, APIs, licenses, and taxonomies.
7. Open Government is accountable and transparent, perpetually self-evaluating, iterating, and exploring new ways to solve old problems.
8. Open Government makes as much information as possible available to as many actors as possible and is designed to minimize financial and technological barriers to accessibility.
9. Open Government enables efficiency, cost savings, and the streamlining of government services.
10. Open Government is compatible, nimble, and mashable; it fosters collaboration, coordination, and innovation with other governments, academic institutions, and organizations.