EveryBlock

Intergovernmental Advisory Board Webinar:
The Value of Open Data Sharing for Government

OCTOBER 16, 2008

In the next hour

- Introductions

- About EveryBlock

- About Open Government Data

- Some current practices

- Examples on EveryBlock

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Introductions

- Dan O'Neil, EveryBlock People Person

    - Responsible for working with municipal governments to obtain the best possible data feeds

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About EveryBlock
THE SITE

‣ Pulls together public records and local news

‣ Offers a one-stop way of finding news and information that is geographically relevant

‣ Includes news coverage, crime reports and other government data

‣ Helps people connect more deeply to their communities

‣ Launched January 2008; we're now in nine cities

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EveryBlock & Data

- We seek to make public data more widely available and easier to use

- Cooperation with government is key

- We want to add value to the work they've been doing for years at no cost to the government

- The software that manages our data will be open-sourced in June 2009 under the terms of our grant from the Knight Foundation

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EveryBlock & Data

▸ We seek formal feeds for all the data we're using on the site, rather than screen-scraping or using other unofficial methods

▸ We can parse any format, including XML, RSS, Atom

▸ We prefer highly structured and defined data with a scheduled connection over the Web

▸ We seek deltas that are refreshed daily

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About Open Government Data

▸ An emerging standard: 8 Principles of Open Government Data

▸ http://resource.org/8_principles.html

▸ It would be great if more people in government -- on both policy and technical sides -- joined this dicussion

▸ http://groups.google.com/group/open-government/

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Request for Comments

December 7-8, 2007—This weekend, [30 open government advocates](#) gathered to develop a set of principles of open government data. The meeting, held in Sebastopol, California, was designed to develop a more robust understanding of why open government data is essential to democracy.

The Internet is the public space of the modern world, and through it governments now have the opportunity to better understand the needs of their citizens and citizens may participate more fully in their government. Information becomes more valuable as it is shared, less valuable as it is hoarded. Open data promotes increased civil discourse, improved public welfare, and a more efficient use of public resources.

The group is offering a set of fundamental principles for open government data. By embracing the eight principles, governments of the world can become more effective, transparent, and relevant to our lives.

[Your comments are welcome!](#)

Open Government Data Principles

Government data shall be considered open if it is made public in a way that complies with the principles below:

1. [Complete](#)
   All public data is made available. Public data is data that is not subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations.

2. [Primary](#)
   Data is as collected at the source, with the highest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate or modified forms.

3. [Timely](#)
   Data is made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data.

4. [Accessible](#)
   Data is available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes.

5. [Machine processable](#)
   Data is reasonably structured to allow automated processing.

6. [Non-discriminatory](#)
   Data is available to anyone, with no requirement of registration.

7. [Non-proprietary](#)
   Data is available in a format over which no entity has exclusive control.

8. [License-free](#)
   Data is not subject to any copyright, patent, trademark or trade secret regulation. Reasonable privacy, security and privilege restrictions may be allowed.

Compliance must be *reviewable*.

Definitions

1. *"public" means:*

   The Open Government Data principles do not address what data should be public and open. Privacy, security, and other concerns may legally (and rightly) prevent data sets from being shared with the public. Rather, these principles specify the conditions public data should meet to be considered "open."

2. *"data" means:*

Some notes

‣ Primary: "not in aggregate or modified forms"

‣ Timely: "as quickly as is necessary to preserve the value of the data"

‣ Privacy: always an issue of government holders of data, but not insurmountable

‣ Machine processable: "reasonably structured". Staying away from PDF is a good idea

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Make data sharing a strategic objective

▸ We've focused thus far on the responsibility of government to publish data

▸ But for government, the advantages of publishing high-quality raw data are huge

▸ Savings in the long run on software development, number crunching, FOIA responses, and so on

▸ Think long and hard before attaching fees to data

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Some current practices

▸ XML data feed published over the Web -- official and unofficial

▸ Excel spreadsheets -- common for building permits

▸ Text files -- often downloadable via subscription

▸ Constantly updated HTML -- common for 911 calls for service

▸ Web-based lookup tools

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Charlotte Police calls for service

▸ http://charlotte.everyblock.com/police-calls/

▸ They publish data out of their 911 system to Web

▸ http://maps.cmpdweb.org/cfs/

▸ Practically real-time

▸ With no extra effort on the part of the agency

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10/16/2008 10:37:44 AM	FREEDOM	1200 LUCKY PENNY ST	VEHICLE RECOVERY	CASE REPORT

◀ Police calls for service

Disturbance

Police call for service details

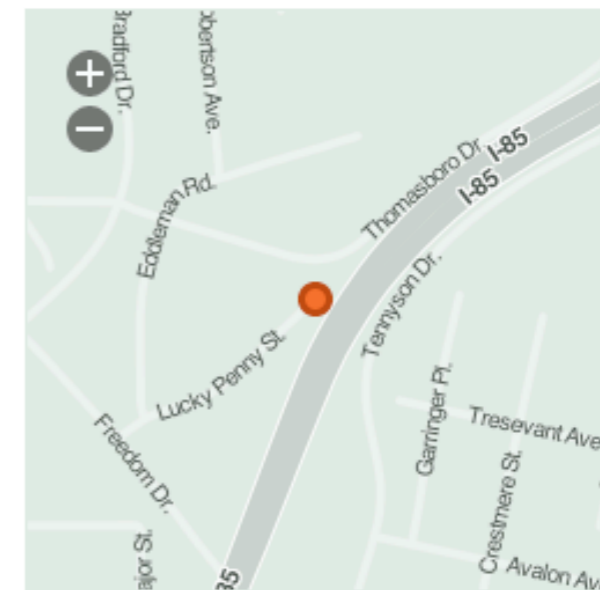|	
Location	**1200 Lucky Penny St**
Date	**October 16, 2008**
Division	**Metro**
	The Metro Division comprises 13.3 square miles of historic and older communities with diverse populations, including a strong commercial and industrial presence in northwest Charlotte. There are 92 officers, eight sergeants, one investigative technician, and a captain assigned to the division.
Disposition	**Not available**
Event	**Disturbance**

Added to EveryBlock on October 16, 2008.

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Seattle Land Use Bulletins

‣ http://seattle.everyblock.com/land-use-bulletins/

‣ Web-based lookup tool

‣ http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/Default.aspx?BID=336

‣ We get the information from them and link users directly to their records

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LAND USE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Notice of Design Review Early Design Guidance Meeting

Bulletin Home | Print | Search

Project:	3008612
Address:	4106 DELRIDGE WAY SW
Area:	West Seattle
Zone:	NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL1-40
Contact:	TREVOR SIMPSON
Contact phone:	(206)932-2423
Planner:	Michael Dorcy
Planner phone:	(206)615-1393
Conditions:	The Director of DPD is convening the Design Review Board for **an early design guidance meeting**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposal is for a five-story building with 30 residential units located above (4,000 sq. ft.) of retail. Parking for 39 vehicles to be located within the structure.

PROCESS

◀ Land use bulletins
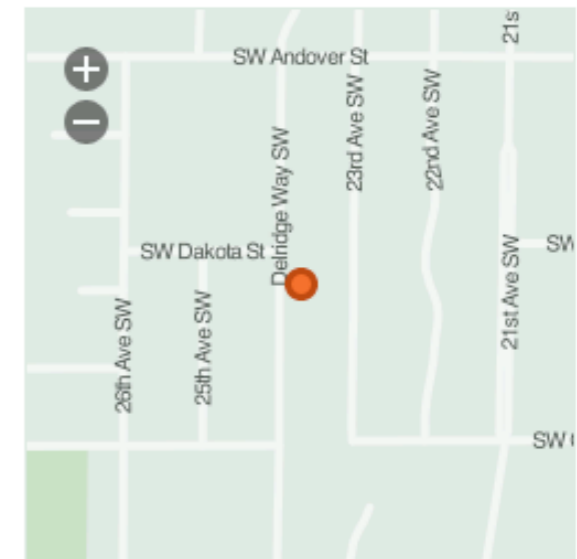
Notice of design review early design guidance meeting

Land use bulletin details

Location	**4106 Delridge Way Sw**
Bulletin date	**October 2, 2008**
Application date	N/A
Project number	3008612
Zones	**Neighborhood commercial 1-40**
Date deemed complete	N/A
Description	N/A
Bulletin type	**Notice of design review early design guidance meeting**

The design review program and its boards review private development projects in Seattle. Only commercial and multifamily development that exceed a certain size threshold in certain land use zones are reviewed. Meetings of the review board can be held before the permit applications to encourage better design and help ensure the development fits into neighborhood.

Added to EveryBlock on October 3, 2008.

See more information about this bulletin on seattle.gov

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Chicago Bike rack installations

▸ http://chicago.everyblock.com/bike-racks/

▸ They provide an XML feed with a subset of data that is available on their site

▸ http://www.chicagobikes.org/bikeparking/index.php#zip

▸ We get an index of data we're interested, and link to the government source for more information

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Chicago Bike Parking
Chicago Department of Transportation
Homepage - Contact Us - Privacy Policy - FAQ - Links

RackID 6247

Info

Original Rainbow Cone

9233 S Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60620

Rack Installation:

Type B: 2

∩

Chicago Community Data:
Ward: 19, Virginia Rugai
Community Area: Beverly

STATUS

Bike rack(s) installed, post-installation inspection passed.
This requested rack location had 2 bike racks intalled on 08-09-2002, and passed the post-installation inspection on 08-09-2002!

Map of Bike Rack Location

Bike rack installations in 60620   More: 📊 **Citywide stats**

Latest bike rack installations in 60620

Bike rack installed near Original Rainbow Cone
Installed on August 9, 2002.   ● 9233 S. Western

Bike rack installed near Morgan, Garrett A.
Installed on July 11, 2002.   ● 8407 S. Kerfoot

Bike rack installed near St. Sabina
Installed on May 9, 2002.   ● 7800 S. Throop

Bike rack installed near Fontano's Subs
Installed on July 21, 2001.   ● 2151 W. 95th
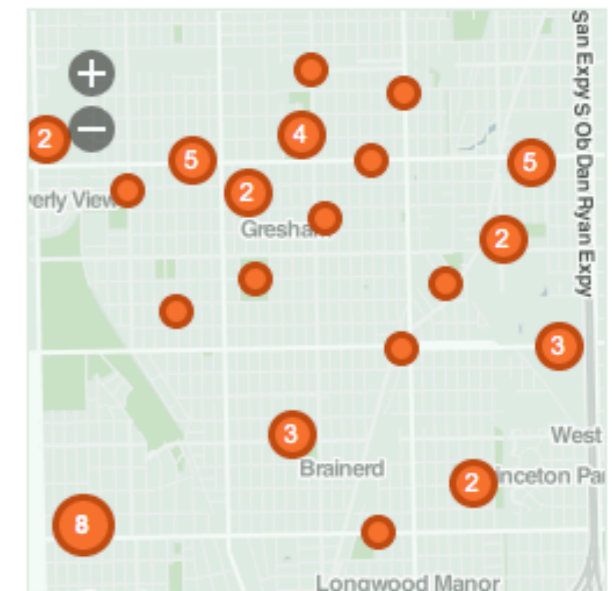
Bike rack installed near Kipling, Rudyard
Installed on April 18, 2001.   ● 9351 S. Lowe

Bike rack installed near Kellogg Elementary
Installed on March 30, 2001.   ● 9241 S. Leavitt

◁ **Wider map**

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Questions?

Thank You

▸ Please do not hesitate to call or write with questions (or data!)

▸ **Daniel X. O'Neil**
danx@everyblock.com
(773) 960-6045

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