



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NEW ONLINE DATA CATALOG GIVES ACCESS TO CITY OF ANN ARBOR INFORMATION

Visit the city's online data catalog at www.a2gov.org/data.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Feb. 16, 2010 — The City of Ann Arbor data catalog (www.a2gov.org/data) was previewed at the Feb. 16, 2010, meeting of the City Council Budget Committee and is now being launched for public use. This new online data catalog readily provides citizens with access to reports and other information (known as “datasets”), demonstrating the city's commitment to transparency and public involvement. With this effort, Ann Arbor joins other progressive municipalities which also feature online data catalogs, most notably Washington, D.C., New York City and San Francisco.

This initial release of City of Ann Arbor data catalog currently features nearly 50 datasets, including the city's General Fund report and other financial statements; construction and other permits; police dispatch calls for service; city-owned land; and many other datasets. The city is currently researching other datasets to include in the near future.

When creating the catalog's datasets, the city is careful to respect privacy and security concerns. In particular, datasets that identify the city's critical infrastructure assets will not be published. In addition, crime statistics will be aggregated to a city-block level, and data that is considered personally identifiable information will not be published.

The data catalog is designed to provide detailed information in various formats. Due to the wide-ranging nature of the information provided, it is not possible for the city to design customized data sets for each individual request. However, the city encourages interested parties to design the data as they see fit for their own needs.

The data catalog site will expand over time as additional datasets are added, requested and become available. Feedback on improving this site and how the data provided may be expanded upon is welcomed. Please e-mail your input and suggestions to datacatalog@a2gov.org.

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Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.