

Testimony of  
Dominic Mauro, Staff Attorney, Reinvent Albany

Before the

**New York City Council Committee on Technology  
Hearing on Open Data on November 23, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Vacca and Members of the Technology Committee, I am Dominic Mauro, Staff Attorney at Reinvent Albany. My organization helped draft the Open Data Law in 2012 as part of the NYC Transparency Working Group.

We applaud the City Council and the Mayor's Office for agreeing on this package of five bills, which strengthen and improve NYC's landmark Open Data Law. We greatly appreciate Technology Chair Jimmy Vacca and his colleagues for listening to the public and taking pragmatic steps to get city agencies to publish accurate, usable, timely, agency data.

Put simply, this is what opening up government looks like. Together, these bills give an important boost to open data, and help make city government more transparent and effective. In 21st century New York City, this digital information helps all of us understand what is happening in our city and what our city government is doing for us.

Detailed data—about how long it takes to get help at a traffic crash, or where rats are running around or how well buildings are maintained help— helps us understand where government is working and not working, and which services need to be improved.

In closing, we thank City Council, Committee Chair Vacca and Mayor de Blasio for efforts to continuously improve the Open Data Law. Looking forward past this package of bills, we would like to see Council amend the Law to include a private right of action, like the state's Freedom of Information Law. When government ignores FOIL, the public can ask a judge to enforce the law, the public needs to be able to do the same with the Open Data Law.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Dominic Mauro

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Reinvent Albany

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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