



# THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK COUNCIL MEMBER GALE A. BREWER

CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
[www.council.nyc.gov](http://www.council.nyc.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2009

**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\***

Contact: [Kunal Malhotra](#)  
Office : (212) 788-6975  
Mobile : (347) 461-4329

## BREWER INTRODUCES MAJOR OPEN DATA LEGISLATION

*The City Council Technology Committee takes the first steps on pioneering new levels of government transparency*

**CITY HALL**, June 24, 2009 – The New York City Council Committee on Technology in Government will be holding an important hearing on open data standards for all city agencies at **1:00pm June 29<sup>th</sup> at 250 Broadway in the 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Hearing Room**. This bill, Introduction 991-2009 (available here [Open Data Standards Legislation: Int. 991-2009](#)), is an effort to increase government transparency and access to public data. Beyond the ‘good government’ benefits of this legislation, the bill will also unlock City data to enable web developers and entrepreneurs to interact with City government in new and unforeseen ways.

The bill will require the City to create a centralized online repository of all publicly available information that is either produced or retained by the City. Furthermore, data published under this legislation will be readable by any computer device, whether that is a laptop or a phone. Not only will this collection of information be invaluable to elected officials, other government agencies and public advocates, but it can also be used by private citizens who could use the information in ingenious and unforeseen ways. New York could be a pioneer in an increasingly popular and competitive field: Int. 991, when passed, could place New York ahead of any other major city or state in the nation because our legislation is more comprehensive.

The spirit of this legislation parallels initiatives taken in Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C., but we have introduced legislation that surpasses their efforts in both its scope and organization. Intro. 991 would create the first central location for all City data, a “[www.datanyc.gov](http://www.datanyc.gov)” of sorts, much like the Obama Administration’s recently launched [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov) and [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov). The Committee is expecting testimony in support from good government groups, web developers, the New York State Senate CIO, and the CIO’s of Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Boston.

Furthermore, the data requirements of Int. 991 would publish data in formats allowing the tech community to interact with City government in a new and exciting manner. Just imagine looking at a restaurant’s ratings (and violations) on your computer or mobile device based on your search or GPS location. On the academic side, students can research legislation and statistics instantly. Open access to information ensures government accountability to provide the most detailed and user-friendly data format, while maintaining user privacy. Essentially, government transparency generates greater collaboration between the people and the government, as it fosters awareness for the local community.

If you want to attend the hearing and/or testify at this hearing, please contact Kunal Malhotra, Director of Legislation and Budget, at [kmalhotra@council.nyc.gov](mailto:kmalhotra@council.nyc.gov) or (212) 788-6975.

###