

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
RE: INTRO. 0984-2012 / CREATION & MAINTENANCE OF AN INTERACTIVE CRIME MAPPING WEBSITE
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013

Good morning Chairman Cabrera and members of the City Council Committee on Technology. My name is Nicholas Sbordone, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, or DoITT. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on City Council Intro. 984 of 2012, which would require DoITT to create and maintain an interactive crime mapping website. With me today is Colin Reilly, DoITT's Director of Citywide Geographic Information Services (GIS).

For 11 years now, the Bloomberg Administration has been at the forefront of making New York City government more open and transparent than ever. The City provides a wealth of information and data, which every day is being made more abundant and accessible. From NYC 311, to the revolutionary Citywide Performance Reporting, to the recently-launched, interactive Mayor's Management Report, the amount of City information to which *NYC.gov* facilitates access today far exceeds anything previously available in the City's long history – and compares favorably to that of any city in the world. DoITT is proud to have played an integral role in these efforts.

The spirit of these efforts was codified in the City's Administrative Code through Local Law 11 of 2012. This seminal piece of legislation, on which we were honored to work closely with Council Member Brewer, Chairman Cabrera, and the Council's stellar Technology Committee staff, represents, by far, the most ambitious open data legislation in the country. Signed by Mayor Bloomberg last March, Local Law 11 commits City agencies to systematically categorize and make accessible in open formats their data for those to whom it belongs: the public. Importantly, that "open data" is now law means the next mayor cannot roll back, but must rather build upon, the Bloomberg Administration's historic transparency gains.

It is data, of course, from which applications are conceived and built. When it comes to mapping applications for the City, DoITT's Citywide GIS team, led by Colin here, employs technology to provide agencies with mapping and location-based information services – better equipping them to make informed decisions.

Most City mapping interfaces are built with a similar look and feel to the popular "NYCityMap," which provides a wealth of information to the public and allows other City agencies to leverage its open source platform to build mapping tools of their own. In addition to indicating the specific building requested, NYCityMap users can select additional icons to add to the map such as schools, day care centers, senior centers, libraries, hospitals and more, as well as links to websites for these facilities. This tool is also a single access point to many of the location-based applications on *NYC.gov* such as online property, building, census, statistics, and safety information for New York City.

Leveraging NYCityMap and similar technologies, DoITT has worked with agencies across the City to launch many interactive websites and applications serving a range of audiences and needs. These include:

- ✓ *PlowNYC* – delivers a new, public-facing view into the City's snow clearing operations. When activated during a snow event, this tool features a map to view snow removal activities, including color-coded street segments by time interval denoting when a street was last plowed. *PlowNYC* was used to great effect during the citywide snow emergency last month (February 8th -9th).

- Next, the proposed language in New York City Charter requiring the interactive crime mapping website follows immediately the language mandating DoITT's creation and maintenance of the NYC Street Closures tool. While presumably clear to DoITT that there is no intention by the Council to combine the two – NYC Street Closures and NYC "Crime Mapping," as it were – we might suggest exploring language that makes clearer that distinction. This is important not only for technical and aesthetic reasons, but more importantly so that the public has an unambiguous sense of where and how to find the information for which it is looking. From NYCityMap, for example, users can easily toggle between it and other clearly-delineated map themes, and the same clarity should be afforded to users in this case.

I thank the Committee for its time this morning, and look forward to further discussing with its members some of these ideas. We are now pleased to address your questions.

Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 984 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nicholas Spadone

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I represent: Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications

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◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆