

Permitting Project | Group F

Weekly Scrum Report, Deliverable Zero

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Status Update:

The team has arranged a weekly meeting time amongst its members, gotten everyone on slack, github, and google drive, put in a PR for our team members file, and so on. We have also taken the time to read over the project requirements and have started looking over the data.

Problems/Issues:

We cannot edit the doc in which we're supposed to put our contacts. Made a copy for now.

What is the project focus/overall goal?

The overall goal of this project is to understand the data around approvals and denials for permits, and to analyze how the outcomes of permitting requests have (a) changed over the last 5 years and (b) are causally linked to geography, income, ethnicity, etc.

Why is this project important?

This project is important because it helps the City of Boston better understand how the permitting process actually manifests itself in real world data, which would help the city create fairer housing/permitting policies.

What type of data will you collect or be analyzing?

We will be analyzing data that pertains to building type, valuation, square footage and occupancy type, as well permitting records by location (zip code and zone), and the voting records of each corresponding location. We will also be analyzing why certain properties were approved while others were denied permits.

What are potential limitations of the project?

A potential limitation of the project is building data that encompasses every approval or denial type. There are 5 permit types: Approved, Approved with Proviso, Denied, Denied without Prejudice, and Withdrawn, that do not provide very much context to the approval/denial of each permit. There is also fairly limited resolution to the geographic data, with much of the data being only available to the nearest zone or zip code.

What are your next steps? Divide tasks amongst the team

- 1) Pull available data into the git repo from wherever it is now. See project google doc for hyperlinks to datasets.
- 2) Start looking over and cleaning data
 - a) **Tim:** Approved Building Permits Dataset
 - b) **Aidan:** Article 80 Development Projects Dataset
 - c) **Akhil:** Zoning Board of Appeal Dataset
 - d) **Zachary:** Census Data
 - e) **Andre:** Voter File Data