

Municipality launches new data website for Anchorage

By Cameron Mackintosh | Posted: Wed 4:47 PM, Feb 08, 2017 | Updated: Wed 7:56 PM, Feb 08, 2017

ANCHORAGE (KTUU) - The city of Anchorage on Wednesday launched a new website aimed at making important data more accessible to residents, businesses and public officials.



The municipality's new 'open data portal' can be viewed [HERE](https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Municipality-launches-open-data-portal-for-Anchorage-413232383.html).

So far the site includes data on crime, homelessness and property appraisal as well as inspection results for restaurants and childcare facilities. Brendan Babb, the city's Chief Innovation Officer, says the project is still a work in progress and will likely have new features added in the future.

"This is just the beginning, we're going to be adding data throughout the year and adding additional data sets," Babb told reporters Wednesday morning. "I'm very excited that we're launching this open data portal. It will be an essential place for people to find data that the city has."

According to APD Captain Justin Doll, crime data provided by the new portal includes statistics compiled by the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report. Interactive charts show users how different crime rates have changed over the past few decades and the department plans to add more in the future.

"APD has been providing data to the public for quite some time but it's not in a format that is easily readable so this is a step towards making that data more accessible," said APD Captain Justin Doll.

Nancy Burke, Anchorage's Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator, said the homelessness data provided by the portal will help non-profits and other organizations coordinate their efforts more efficiently.

"It's really the first time that we've been able to have all of our resources aligned," she said. "With coalitions and nonprofit partners relying now on a database that will provide information about homelessness and how people are accessing housing, this portal will allow us to report that data out to the community."

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