

Re: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

French, Jack (Mayor's Office) <Jack.French@baltimorecity.gov>

Thu 3/3/2022 3:41 PM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Hi Adam,

Please see the below statement from the Mayor's Office.

In March of 2021, Mayor Scott's administration published Open Checkbook, a data tool to view and understand the City's expenditures and the raw underlying data on Open Baltimore, the City's open data portal. This voluntary publication of the City's financial transactions was an unprecedented step towards making the City's finances and operations more transparent and demonstrated the Mayor's commitment to public accountability.

As stated on the front page of Open Checkbook, the City is also committed to improving the financial systems that the data come from by implementing Workday, a modernized enterprise resource planning platform that will enable better tracking and better data for the City's finances. The front page also acknowledges that current data are less than perfect and that the City welcomes residents and users of the tool to provide feedback.

We are constantly trying to improve the quality of what we provide. At this point, we plan to connect Open Checkbook directly to Workday to provide automated, more regular, and higher quality expenditure data. Until such time, the City will publish as much reliable data as can be given current resources, with additional notes and disclaimers on any data issues or caveats.

The City remains committed to transparency in general and Open Checkbook in particular, and we ask for our residents' patience and trust as we continue to develop this critical tool.

From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 4:37 PM

To: French, Jack (Mayor's Office) <Jack.French@baltimorecity.gov>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

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Hi Jack,

I see that some improvements have been made to the Open Baltimore website. Do you want to give a comment or offer feedback? I want to present this as fairly as possible tomorrow morning and your context is very important to give residents the full perspective.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder
OpenTheBooks.com | 312.320.1867

From: French, Jack (Mayor's Office) <Jack.French@baltimorecity.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

Thank you.

From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:20 PM
To: French, Jack (Mayor's Office) <Jack.French@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

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Hi Jack,

Please see the attached request for comment to Mayor Scott that I sent in yesterday. I've attached it as a PDF. Thank you, again.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)
CEO & Founder
OpenTheBooks.com | 312.320.1867

From: French, Jack (Mayor's Office) <Jack.French@baltimorecity.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:13 PM
To: Kelleher, KC (Comptroller) <KC.Kelleher@baltimorecity.gov>; Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Cc: Bentley, James <JBentley@baltimorecity.gov>; Shannon, Geoff (Comptroller) <Geoff.Shannon@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

Hi Adam,

Can you send me your request in a separate email? Thanks!

Best,

Jack

From: Kelleher, KC (Comptroller) <KC.Kelleher@baltimorecity.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 12:38 PM

To: Adam@openthebooks.com <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Cc: Bentley, James <JBentley@baltimorecity.gov>; French, Jack (Mayor's Office) <Jack.French@baltimorecity.gov>; Shannon, Geoff (Comptroller) <Geoff.Shannon@baltimorecity.gov>

Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

Good afternoon Mr. Andrzejewski,

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of the Comptroller.

The checkbook was created by the Mayor's Office and supporting agencies. The Comptroller's agency is not responsible for updating this website, nor do we have the data you are requesting.

I've cc'd the Mayor's Office to assist with your request.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



KC Kelleher (*she/hers*)

Director of Communication

Office of Comptroller Bill Henry

O: 410-396-4755 C: 410-804-4289

Web: Comptroller.BaltimoreCity.gov

E-mail: kc.kelleher@baltimorecity.gov

100 Holliday St., Baltimore MD 21202

From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 11:46 AM

To: Shannon, Geoff (Comptroller) <Geoff.Shannon@baltimorecity.gov>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: IMPORTANT: Request for Comment

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REQUEST FOR COMMENT -- BILL HENRY

My name is Adam Andrzejewski and I'm the CEO of OpenTheBooks.com, author the Waste of the Day column at Real Clear Politics, and a subject matter expert on transparency scheduled to interview with FOX45 on Friday.

I am exploring the open checkbook website within the city:

[https://app.powerbigov.us/view?
r=eyJrIjoiMjJjODE1ZGMtZGJlZS00NDE1LWFiNzQtYjgyMmUyYzVhMm11liwidCI6IjMxMmNiMTI2LWM2YWUtNGZjMi04MDBkLTMxOGU2NzljZTZjNyJ9&pageName=ReportSectiond854c858804b0a3816ed](https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiMjJjODE1ZGMtZGJlZS00NDE1LWFiNzQtYjgyMmUyYzVhMm11liwidCI6IjMxMmNiMTI2LWM2YWUtNGZjMi04MDBkLTMxOGU2NzljZTZjNyJ9&pageName=ReportSectiond854c858804b0a3816ed)

Our auditors at OpenTheBooks.com found that the link to download the line-by-line vendor checkbook transaction data is broken (see attached screen record). A notice on the top of the website tells of a transaction date error on data listed between the months of December 2020 and March 2021. Furthermore, the FY2021 checkbook data is incomplete -- four months of data in FY2021 isn't posted on the site yet (the fiscal year ended eight months ago).

Last week, our auditors tried to call the number listed on the site for help. **No one called us back.** Then, we sent in an open records request for the FY2021 city vendor checkbook. **Today we received a note from the officer that they might charge us a fee for the data!**

You were elected on a promise to open the books on city spending. The FY2020 city checkbook was initially posted online, and our auditors successfully downloaded it at the time. You had embraced the transparency revolution and electronic age.

Please respond to this request for comment to provide a response, context, or more information. For example, can you please fix the website problems before Friday?

On Friday, I have a scheduled interview on FOX45 to discuss this situation. Having your feedback is critical to presenting this issue in the proper context.

Our deadline for your response is 5pm ET Thursday, March 3.

Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers and those folks watching my interview on Sinclair local TV station.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)
CEO & Founder | OpenTheBooks.com | 312.320.1867