

DR. AMEN RA MASHARIKI, CHIEF ANALYTICS OFFICER**TESTIMONY BEFORE NYC TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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Good morning. My name is Dr. Amen Ra Mashariki, and I'm the Chief Analytics Officer for the City of New York, as well as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics. Some of the public debate around the proposed rules has been about what information would be made publicly available. I'm here to talk about how Open Data helps New Yorkers by making City government more transparent, more efficient, and more equitable.

There is no other open data policy as comprehensive as New York City's. While in many other cities, Open Data an IT policy or an executive order, in New York City, it's the law. Local Law 11 of 2012, more commonly known as the "Open Data Law," mandates that the City release ALL of its public data by the end of 2018.

The promise of Open Data is it that equips *anyone who wants it* with knowledge that allows them to take action on their own behalf. This is why in July 2015, DoITT Commissioner Anne Roest and I committed to *Open Data for All*, a vision that every New Yorker – not just the tech savvy – can benefit from Open Data.

The Taxi and Limousine Commission has been a one of our strongest agency partners in *Open Data for All*. Consider a few benefits of Open Data, and how TLC has been a standout model for realizing them.

- **Open Data drives efficiency:** In August 2015, TLC published over six years of records on rides taken in green and yellows taxis. Previously, TLC would respond to requests for this data by loading it onto physical hard drives – but publishing it to Open Data has cut down on the time and resources it takes to fill one-off requests.
- **Open Data spurs community data science:** We don't always know what's valuable in our data – but users often do. TLC datasets are some of the most popular on the Portal, and are a staple to those in the civic hackers in New York City and beyond. Just this week, MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab published a study using TLC data to suggest that all of New York City's demand for rideshares could be serviced by 3,000 carpooling vehicles and a computer algorithm, with wait times averaging less than 3 minutes.
- **Open Data encourages good data stewardship:** High-profile data breaches in the public and private sector have rightly elicited unease. But municipal governments in general, and New York City in particular, have sustained a good track record so far. Security and privacy is a top priority for Open Data. Before the initial public release of for-hire trip data, TLC consulted my office and other data experts to determine what should be released, ultimately deciding to aggregate trip locations to the neighborhood level rather than release exact pick-up locations.

Open Data lies at the nexus of 21st Century digital services, public transparency, and cutting-edge civic analytics – and we are constantly trying to empower all New Yorkers with new, high-quality data. I'd like to thank TLC for the invitation to testify today and for its continued partnership on Open Data.