Office of the City Manager

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Kevin Fong, Director, Information Technology

Subject: New Contract: Tyler Technologies, Inc. for Open Data Portal (ODP) Hosting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a new contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc., for the purposes of hosting the City's Open Data Portal, in an amount not to exceed $171,323 for the period commencing on July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for the hosting services for $171,323 is available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2027 IT Cost Allocation Budget as itemized below, and funding for future years is subject to Council's approval of future budgets and Annual Appropriation Ordinances.

$54,345	FY 2025: Fund 680 Software Maintenance (IT Cost Allocation, Software Renewal/Maintenance)
$57,062	FY 2026: Fund 680 Software Maintenance (IT Cost Allocation, Software Renewal/Maintenance)
$59,916	FY 2027: Fund 680 Software Maintenance (IT Cost Allocation, Software Renewal/Maintenance)
$171,323	**Total FY 2025-2027 Software Maintenance**

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley's Open Data Portal (https://data.cityofberkeley.info) is a web-based presence established to serve as a single point of access for Open Data (non-confidential, public data provided in searchable formats for unrestricted use to increase transparency and civic engagement). The portal is loaded with datasets directly from city systems and ready for download in numerous formats. The portal also provides a set of basic tools to create charts, graphs, maps and other visualizations so visitors who do not want to download the data can explore it in place.

New Contract: Tyler Technologies, Inc. For ODP

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 29, 2025

The Department of Information Technology (IT) manages the City of Berkeley's Open Data Portal. Staff throughout the City, in coordination with IT and the City Manager's Office, upload city business data to the portal for public consumption. City information is now easily accessible without requiring a Public Information Act request. The information that was regularly requested is now online on the City of Berkeley Open Data Portal, freeing staff to do other tasks.

The Open Data Portal aligns with Berkeley's strategic goal to "Be a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily-accessible service and information to the community".

BACKGROUND
In August 2013, staff began researching and testing open data platforms to determine which would most efficiently support a pilot program for the City of Berkeley in Fiscal Year 2015, given existing citywide fiscal and staff constraints. This included Open Data Portal research, design, and documentation by interns of the Presidio Graduate School (http://www.presidio.edu/).

In November 2013, Council issued a referral requesting the creation of an Open Data Policy, citing the Federal Memorandum for Transparency and Open Government.

In June 2014, the Department of Information Technology executed a contract with Socrata, Inc. (http://www.socrata.com/) to provide an Open Data platform and cloud hosting. At the time, Socrata, Inc. was the only company whose primary focus was providing open source data services to the public sector in the United States. Also in June 2014, the Department of Information Technology partnered with UC Berkeley's School of Information (http://www.ischool.berkeley.edu/) to identify and onboard a volunteer intern Team Lead.

In November 2014, Staff provided an update to Council in City Council Information Report #45. In December 2014, the Open Data Portal pilot project went live after more than 1,500 hours of combined staff, intern, and student volunteer work. The core objective of the pilot program was to collect metrics around ODP performance, community use, and feedback from both community members and staff. During this pilot program, the City prioritized publishing datasets that community members frequently requested via Public Records Act requests, resulting in 24/7 access to this data, improved service to our community, and improved government transparency.

In 2018, Tyler Technologies, Inc. purchased the Socrata platform. Under Tyler Technologies, Socrata has kept its name and branding. In 2019, staff assigned the contract from Socrata, Inc. to Tyler Technologies, Inc. In 2025, a new contract was created with Tyler Technologies, Inc., for the purposes of hosting the City's Open Data Portal, assuming the same terms and conditions as the previous contract it superceded.

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Since 2015, the City added about 77 datasets and 20 map layers on various City functions and operations, including crime incidents, 311 service requests, salaries, parcels and energy use.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
By publishing the most frequently requested dataset requests, community members can now access this information at home and electronically, thereby decreasing contributions to global warming emissions and waste, respectively. This supports the Digital Strategic Plan goal of providing more online services and the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions of the City's Climate Action Plan.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
Tyler Technologies, Inc. offers the Socrata platform as a user friendly and cost-effective solution for sharing the city's business data across departments and with the public. This contract will enable the Department of Information Technology to continue to offer this valuable tool for an additional three years.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
Staff considered not renewing licenses for the Socrata platform, but doing so would yield operation inefficiencies that would affect the quality of service delivered to City staff and the community.

CONTACT PERSON
Kevin Fong, Director, Information Technology, 510-981-6525

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

NEW CONTRACT: TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR OPEN DATA PORTAL (ODP)
HOSTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Open Data Portal provides community members with access to data that is non-confidential and public provided in searchable formats for unrestricted use; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013, staff researched and tested multiple open data platforms and in November 2013, Council issued a referral requesting the creation of an Open Data Portal; and

WHEREAS, in June 2014, the Department of Information Technology executed a contract with Socrata, Inc. to provide professional and hosting services for an Open Data Portal; and in November 2014, Staff provided an update to Council with Information Report #45; and in December 2014, the Open Data Portal went live; and

WHEREAS, more City information is now easily accessible without requiring a Public Information Act request; and

WHEREAS, government transparency is improved because the portal provides members of the public with the same access to raw data that governments have; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Tyler Technologies, Inc. purchased the Socrata platform and, in 2019, staff assigned the contract from Socrata, Inc. to Tyler Technologies, Inc. and in 2025 executed a new contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc. that supercedes the Socrata contract, but assumes the same terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, funding for the additional hosting services for $171,323 is available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2027 IT Cost Allocation Budget, and funding for future years is subject to Council's approval of the proposed citywide Fiscal Year FY 2025-2027 Budget and Annual Appropriation Ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a new contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc., for the purposes of hosting the City's Open Data Portal, for a contract amount not to exceed $171,323 for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.