Good morning Chairman Cabrera and members of the City Council Committee on Technology. My name is Nicholas Sbordone, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, or DoITT. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on City Council Intro. 984 of 2012, which would require DoITT to create and maintain an interactive crime mapping website. With me today is Colin Reilly, DoITT's Director of Citywide Geographic Information Services (GIS).

For 11 years now, the Bloomberg Administration has been at the forefront of making New York City government more open and transparent than ever. The City provides a wealth of information and data, which every day is being made more abundant and accessible. From NYC 311, to the revolutionary Citywide Performance Reporting, to the recently-launched, interactive Mayor's Management Report, the amount of City information to which *NYC.gov* facilitates access today far exceeds anything previously available in the City's long history – and compares favorably to that of any city in the world. DoITT is proud to have played an integral role in these efforts.

The spirit of these efforts was codified in the City's Administrative Code through Local Law 11 of 2012. This seminal piece of legislation, on which we were honored to work closely with Council Member Brewer, Chairman Cabrera, and the Council's stellar Technology Committee staff, represents, by far, the most ambitious open data legislation in the country. Signed by Mayor Bloomberg last March, Local Law 11 commits City agencies to systematically categorize and make accessible in open formats their data for those to whom it belongs: the public. Importantly, that "open data" is now law means the next mayor cannot roll back, but must rather build upon, the Bloomberg Administration's historic transparency gains.

It is data, of course, from which applications are conceived and built. When it comes to mapping applications for the City, DoITT's Citywide GIS team, led by Colin here, employs technology to provide agencies with mapping and location-based information services – better equipping them to make informed decisions.

Most City mapping interfaces are built with a similar look and feel to the popular "NYCityMap," which provides a wealth of information to the public and allows other City agencies to leverage its open source platform to build mapping tools of their own. In addition to indicating the specific building requested, NYCityMap users can select additional icons to add to the map such as schools, day care centers, senior centers, libraries, hospitals and more, as well as links to websites for these facilities. This tool is also a single access point to many of the location-based applications on *NYC.gov* such as online property, building, census, statistics, and safety information for New York City.

Leveraging NYCityMap and similar technologies, DoITT has worked with agencies across the City to launch many interactive websites and applications serving a range of audiences and needs. These include:

- ✓ *PlowNYC* – delivers a new, public-facing view into the City's snow clearing operations. When activated during a snow event, this tool features a map to view snow removal activities, including color-coded street segments by time interval denoting when a street was last plowed. PlowNYC was used to great effect during the citywide snow emergency last month (February 8th -9th).

✓ *Board of Elections "Sample Balloting"* – Building upon the extant Poll Site Locator application, DoITT added a tool that enables users to enter their addresses and view online the sample ballots they will receive at their polling locations. There are thousands of variations of election ballots based on the voter's location and this user-friendly tool helps better inform the electorate before they vote.

✓ *NYC Street Closures* – Pursuant to Local Law 32 of 2011, this tool displays street closure information across the five boroughs; provides real-time information on current and future street closures obstructing normal vehicular traffic due to road work, street fairs, block parties or festivals; and allows users to conduct searches based on date, time, and location.

✓ *Digital Tax Map* – Provides the public and Department of Finance staff access to official City tax maps, tax map changes, and historical records. The City's tax maps are a critical component to numerous customer engagements, used by the general public to conduct various business with the City as well as by real estate and tax industry professionals,

✓ *Zoning and Land Use* – "ZoLa," for short, provides a new and simple way to find a wide range of land use information in interactive, highly-readable map layers pertaining to a particular property – or to the city at large. Previously, searching for the specifics of zoning regulations was a difficult, time consuming task involving searching through maps and cross-referencing official documents.

✓ *NYC Census FactFinder* – provides greater flexibility in searching for the most up-to-date population profiles for specific locations across the five boroughs. Users can now quickly examine 2010 Census data. i.e., how many people rent versus own homes in their community; the number of housing units in their neighborhoods, etc.

✓ *NYCStat Stimulus Tracker* – with this this award-winning tool New Yorkers can track the City's use of federal recovery funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

✓ *311 Service Request Map* – provides location and status information for 311 complaints filed over the past year, as well as those recently closed, across 15 categories and more than 100 subcategories, allowing users to evaluate conditions and trends from the hyper-local to citywide levels.

✓ *NYC*SCOUT Map* – The Street Conditions Observation Unit (SCOUT) is a team of inspectors who drive each City street once per month to report conditions to 311 that negatively impact quality-of-life. The NYC*SCOUT map displays each condition-specific occurrence, marking repeated conditions by a graduated circle with drill-down capability. By clicking on the circle, users can view the list of SCOUT conditions reported and, by clicking on each condition, receive its respective complaint number.

In each case above – and in all other instances when DoITT has been called upon to deliver a map-based website or application – our response was the same: Give us the data, and give us the requirements, and we will give you a map.

Turning, now, to Intro. 984, the goal of the legislation seems to fit squarely with DoITT's mission to support agency mapping needs. And more generally, the overall intent of the bill would seem to fit with the Bloomberg Administration's long-held commitment to making more City information available, to more people, in more easy-to-use ways.

Our concerns with the bill as currently drafted include foremost the effective date, and, less so, sufficient distinction in the bill's language between the proposed crime mapping website and the existing NYC Street Closures tool. Taking each in turn:

- One-hundred and eighty days from bill enactment may not necessarily be enough time to implement an interactive crime mapping website from start to finish. DoITT will require a continuous feed of data from the New York City Police Department – as we do from all agencies for which we host mapping tools – and sufficient development time to build the website's functionality.

- Next, the language proposing the interactive crime mapping website follows immediately the language mandating DoITT's creation and maintenance of the NYC Street Closures tool. While presumably clear to DoITT that there is no intention by the Council to combine the two – NYC Street Closures and NYC "Crime Mapping," as it were – we might suggest exploring language that makes clearer that distinction. This is important not only for technical and aesthetic reasons, but more importantly so that the public has an unambiguous sense of where and how to find the information for which it is looking. From NYCityMap, for example, users can easily toggle between it and other clearly-delineated map themes, and the same clarity should be afforded to users in this case.

I thank the Committee for its time this morning, and look forward to further discussing with its members some of these ideas. We are now pleased to address your questions.

Thank you.