

The Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Charter Amendment

This amendment, proposed by the NYC Geospatial Information Systems and Mapping Organization (GISMO) calls for the following elements to be added to the DOITT section of the Charter (Chapter 48).

Contact: Alan Leidner, President, NYC GISMO: aleidner@nyc.rr.com; 917-455-2834

- **Recommendation: Require appointment of a Deputy Commissioner for Geospatial Information Systems who would serve as the City's Chief Geospatial Information Officer**
Current Law: Calls for 4 Deputy Commissioners one of whom is to be designated as 1st Deputy Commissioner
Justification for Proposed Change: A City Geospatial Information Officer (CGIO) at the Assistant Commissioner level existed from 2002 – 2004, but that position was abolished. Currently, the City does not have a CGIO or anyone else designated as the Citywide GIS leader. Yet many major cities across the US and Europe, and almost all U.S. States have CGIO's.
- **Recommendation: Require that DOITT form a GIS steering committee composed of City agency GIS managers and outside experts.**
Current Law: The Charter currently provides for DOITT to engage in interagency coordination activities (1072h)
Justification for Proposed Change: The power of GIS depends upon collaboration and sharing. Agencies need to meet regularly to coordinate activities, develop policy and share data. City agency GIS Directors have consistently spoken out for a GIS Steering Committee.
- **Recommendation: Require the development and maintenance of a GIS strategic plan**
Current Law: The current Charter provides for long range telecommunication planning (1072b), and computer systems and data communications strategic plans (1072g).
Justification for Proposed Change: The GIS field is very dynamic with new applications, data types and technologies regularly being rolled out by developers. Without a strategic plan it is impossible to properly plan for best use of existing and new GIS resources and capabilities.
- **Recommendation: Require that DOITT act to ensure that spatially enabled open data is interoperable and easy to use**
Current Law: The current Charter provides for simplified access to shared information (1072L)
Justification for Proposed Change: Thousands of open datasets, available on the City's Open Data Portal, are an enormous resource for everyone. Most open data sets have a location attribute which makes it possible for the datasets to be used together, vastly increasing their value. DOITT must work to standardize its spatial open data and ensure that open data is made easy to use.
- **Recommendation: Require the formation of an underground utility data steering committee composed of representatives of government and private utility companies.**
Current Law: The current Charter makes extensive reference to telecommunications, appropriately identifying it as a critical component of IT.
Justification for Proposed Change: Underground infrastructure data is in the hands of City agencies, State organizations like the MTA and the Port Authority, and private utilities like Con Edison. These organizations are reluctant to standardize and to share their data. Creating an underground utility steering committee will motivate strategies to improve the sharing of quality underground infrastructure data for operations support and public safety.