September 30, 2020

Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Committee
1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 2005

Re: OGP Letter of Support from the City of Los Angeles

Dear OGP Local Committee:

The City of Los Angeles is excited to join the Open Government Partnership Local's network of city and community leaders. Under the leadership of Mayor Eric Garcetti, we have conducted ground-breaking work around robust open data platforms and partnerships, an open budget and checkbook, the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence for climate action, and a digital bill of rights for our citizens. We have also adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, for which we have conducted a public voluntary local review and created an open data dashboard tracking our progress. This provides a base for our open government work, but we have much to learn from our global colleagues. Our hope is that by connecting with a broader network of open data and open government leaders from around the world, we can work together to address global challenges: from the COVID-19 pandemic to uprooting embedded racism in our governments to ethical and unbiased use of new technologies and data sources.

Areas of of thematic focus would include:

- **Open data**: *Improving access and usability of open data and open budgets*
  - Improve accessibility and use of open data at the City, particularly around housing, climate, and policing through building our open data ecosystem with businesses, nonprofits, academic institutions, and citizens. This will build on work

such as the Los Angeles Data Science Federation that connects 88 cities with 18 universities in applying data science to tough urban problems.

- **Climate change**: *Taking effective climate action for a more sustainable and resilient city*
    - Building from our Green New Deal for sustainability and A Resilient Los Angeles to ensure effective climate action in partnership with other regional groups, governments, and advocacy groups.
    - Creating transparent measures of climate action related to air quality with a NASA grant and partnership on using machine learning to predict and measure the outcomes of public policies and projects on air quality. This includes creating a network of air quality sister cities and undertaking public engagement alongside health care providers and groups.
- **Racial and gender equity**: *Sharing open data and results of racial and gender equity*
    - As part of our work on uncovering and uprooting racial inequity, the City has appointed a new Chief Equity Officer and begun an effort to gather data and measure our work on racial equity, code and algorithmic bias and ethics, and a digital bill of rights.
- **Digital governance and inclusion**: *Improving digital inclusion and connectivity*
    - Improving access to affordable internet across Los Angeles in collaboration with school and community advocacy groups and the Los Angeles Unified School District.
- **Public service delivery**: *Leading forward on digital transformation, accessibility, and financial equity*
    - Deploy an integrated "Angeleno Account" that will bring together contactless and accessible City services that support an easier way for all residents, businesses, and visitors to use, pay for, and connect to City services.
    - Deploy an Angeleno banking card that provides financial services for unbanked and underbanked Angelenos working with our most vulnerable residents and the community organizations that support them.
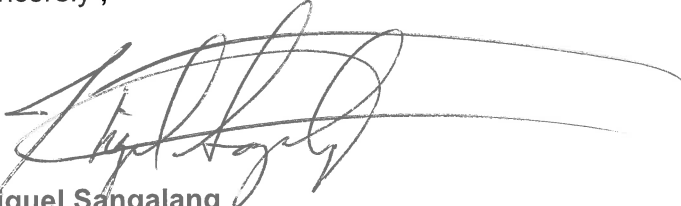
Our application highlighted our readiness to join this collaborative. The City of LA's open data portal (data.lacity.org) is ranked one of the best in the U.S. and the world. The City has also been ranked the number one Digital City for 3 of the last 4 years, and has adopted the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (sdg.lamayor.org) as a framework for transparency and accountability.

The civil society application highlighted our willingness to work with community organizations to accomplish shared goals around equity and transparency. One example of our commitment to working with community organizations is our SEED Scholars Program. The City of Los Angeles has partnered with Cal State LA (a public university serving an extremely diverse student body) and Community Partners, a local nonprofit advisory firm, to train university students and nonprofit organizations to leverage open data for the good of our LA communities. In the two years of this National Science Foundation-funded program, we've trained nearly 300 students, produced over 100 data projects, and partnered with over 40 local nonprofits.

The civil society application also brought together organizations from the civil rights and legal communities, as well as open community engagement space. Our hope is that with these partners at our side, we can advance transformational initiatives to combat racial inequities in the City and make LA a more liveable, safe, and equitable city for all Angelenos.

We welcome your consideration on the City's application and are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely ,

Miguel Sangalang
Deputy Mayor, Budget and Innovation
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles