

Financial Transparency

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A long time ago
in a galaxy far, far away....

2014 – Major Transparency Initiatives Begin

- **Executive Staff Desired “Financials People Can Understand”**
 - 4A Board Updates
 - 4B Board Updates
 - CVB Updates
 - City Council Budget Updates

- **Open Records/FOIA Requests on Financial Data more and more prevalent**
 - Payroll History
 - Check/AP History
 - CIP Financial Information
 - Detailed Budget Information

Transparency Implementation

- **Technical: McKinney's Finance/Budget Teams Implemented OpenGov**
 - Software solution that saved time and energy on monthly public facing reports
 - If the knowledge exists in your departments to pull data from your legacy systems, you can create innovative transparency reports
 - Don't let perfect be the enemy of good
- **Political: Brief Your Council & Boards Early, and Then Often**
 - Know the goal from your elected and appointed bodies
 - Be straightforward about what can, cannot, and may not be technically easy to share
 - Do create a value proposition
 - *Software costs money, and spending money on transparency isn't always intuitive*

From Then To Now



McKinney becomes first city to earn five stars from Comptroller's transparency program

Texas Comptroller makes visit to city



TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2017

**Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar Recognizes
McKinney for Milestone Transparency
Achievement**



2019 – What Transparency Means Today & Tomorrow

- **Everything from 2014 is a given**

- Open records are treated proactively as opposed to a slate of requests
- If it has a \$ in front of it in McKinney, it's likely already disclosed
- Setting the standard can be difficult

- **Going forward**

- Evaluate non-financial data for transparency appropriateness
 - *Data relationships in your systems is vastly more important than we acknowledge*
- Incremental change is your friend
 - *Disclosing \$1.5 billion in AP transactions is hard to roll-back*
- Have a policy in place on when, what, and how you share information proactively
 - *Don't rely on your ORR/FOIA procedures to serve as this policy*

Thank You!

