



**Executive Office of the Mayor
Vaughn D. Spencer**

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MEDIA ADVISORY

City of Reading to Open Books with Launch of OpenGov Platform

New tool will provide instant access to Reading's finances in an interactive, digital format

June 11, 2015 – [Reading, PA] – Mayor Vaughn D. Spencer and his administration will be announcing the launch of a financial analysis platform on Monday, June 15, 2015 in the Penn Room on the first floor of City Hall at 11:00 AM.

This platform, powered by OpenGov.com, provides residents, elected officials and staff unprecedented access to the city's finances. The powerful web-based platform transforms volumes of raw financial data into an interactive, digital format. The intuitive interface makes it easier to explore how taxpayer money is collected and spent.

The platform may be accessed at <https://readingpa.opengov.com>.

Since he took office, Mayor Spencer has been leading initiatives to make the city's finances more transparent and understandable. On February 21, 2015, he signed Executive Order 1-2015: Open Data and Transparent Government which declares the principles of transparency, participation and collaboration as the cornerstones of an open government.

"The Executive Order empowers the citizens of Reading to participate in their government with greater understanding and impact and promotes a culture of data sharing and cooperation among City departments," Mayor Spencer commented. "The launch of this Open Gov platform promotes transparency in government and gives our citizens a new way to help us solve our toughest challenges."

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