

**From:** Eric Jackson <ejackson@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** 1/11/2018 5:02:06 PM  
**To:** Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>  
**Cc:** IT Services Help Desk <helpdesk@ashevillenc.gov>, Scott Barnwell <sbarnwell@ashevillenc.gov>, Frances Ruiz <fruiz@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Simplicity / Crime Data Feed

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Hi, Patrick,

Thanks for bringing this to our attention!

Yes, this is mostly a transition issue. Updating the current version of SimpliCity to use the new crime feed would be a lot of work to put into a system being retired, so we've been trying to accelerate work on the new version (SimpliCity II). We pushed the next-to-last bit of functionality literally today - the only thing missing is the download button for the data on each page (that would, of course, be a critical feature for you).

For the immediate future, you can get a [JSON dump of the data](#) from the GraphQL API used by SimpliCity II. I'm assuming you don't have a GraphQL client lying around, so that link will take you to the interactive query tool - just hit execute and you can then copy-paste the result.

Also, would you mind being beta user #1 for [SimpliCity II](#)? We would strongly prefer that you not publish the URL for now. Nobody except me and Frances has tried it yet! We'd prefer to get the we're-idiots bugs out of the way before bringing on the masses :). We'll officially roll out the beta in the next 2-3 weeks, but I'd love to start getting feedback from you. At this point we've just tried to replicate existing SimpliCity functionality (but with city-wide dashboards integrated). Once we have that baseline, we can start doing more interesting things (we can chat about that tonight if you're at the Code for Asheville meeting).

On your last point, completely agree that neighborhood should be part of every dataset where relevant. I'll let you know when we get it added to the open data feed.

Eric  
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On Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 2:45 PM, Patrick Conant <[patrick@prcapps.com](mailto:patrick@prcapps.com)> wrote:

Hi City of Asheville HelpDesk,

I'm emailing to alert you to an issue (which you may already be aware of), and possibly start a wider discussion around the crime data feed that is part of the City's Open Data Portal.

First, I wanted to point out the Simplicity no longer shows crime incidents past June 2017. I'm on the board of EWANA (East-West Asheville), and I used to provide monthly crime stat updates to our neighbors from Simplicity, and I'm no longer able to do so.

I also used the same data source as Simplicity to build my site, AVLCrime (<http://avlcrime.com>), and I'm no longer able to pull updated information.

At the same time, I noticed that the City's Open Data portal has a new format for Crime Data - I assume the feed switched, but Simplicity doesn't use the new feed.

The new feed has additional fields that I find useful, but I have a few concerns with the new feed:

- 1) It no longer includes the "Neighborhood" as a field, which was essential to how I was using the previous feed for AVLCrime.
- 2) The previous feed had data all the way back to 2004, while the new feed only goes back a few years.

Sorry to create more work! I know there's ongoing work towards new dashboards for the City, and perhaps we're just in transition here. However, I do think it would be really useful to retain historical information in the updated feed and, if possible, for as many City feeds as possible to include a "Neighborhood" field as it's really useful to localize the data.

I could write a microservice to do the neighborhood calculation, but it sure makes it easy when it's already in the feed!

I'm copying Scott and Eric because I've worked with them on Open Data items in the past, and because I wasn't sure if this is really a Helpdesk issue or something I should reach out to IT Services directly about.

Thank you,

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