



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA JANUARY 27, 2020

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

### I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the recommendation to reappointment of Gerard Clark as a member of the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners for a term of 5-years.

***CMA 2020 #7***

*This item was referred to the Housing Committee.*

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following person as a new member of the Affordable Housing Trust Board for a term of three years, effective January 22, 2020: Elaine DeRosa

***CMA 2020 #8***

*This communication appoints Elaine DeRosa as a new member of the Affordable Housing Trust Board. Elaine has served as the dedicated Executive Director at the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee for over 30 years, and is a fierce advocate for affordable housing and tenants' rights. She is taking over a seat vacated by the late Cheryl-Ann Pizza-Zeoli, who was a longtime activist for affordable housing. Cheryl-Ann left big shoes to fill, and I am confident Elaine will serve faithfully in this position.*

*This item was placed on file.*

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of the following members of the LGBTQ+ Commissioner for a term of three years, effective February 6, 2020: Mal Malme, Robert Parlin, Aren Stone, Catherine Grams, Noelani Kamelamela, Gregory MacDonough and Britt Huhmann

***CMA 2020 #9***

*This item was placed on file.*

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$46,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Elections Department Salary and Wages account (\$6,145) and to the General Fund Elections Department Other Ordinary

Maintenance account (\$39,855) which will be used to cover the additional costs associated with recently approved early voting for the Presidential Primary, March 3rd, 2020.

***CMA 2020 #10***

This appropriation will support early voting measures for the 2020 Presidential Primary, which will be held on March 3rd, 2020 in Massachusetts. Early voting in Cambridge will be held from February 24th-28th, and you must be registered to vote by February 12th to vote in the Primary. Click [here](#) for more information on early voting, early voting locations, and to see if you're registered to vote.

This item was adopted.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY2020 Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the amount of \$12,100 to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Salaries and Wages account (\$11,000), and Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,100) which will continue to support part-time archives assistants, who maintain the public archive of Cambridge history, as well as archival storage supplies.

***CMA 2020 #11***

This appropriation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) will help support the efforts of our archivists preserving Cambridge history. However, Governor Charlie Baker recently announced spending recommendations for the state budget that suggest a 9.455% decrease in funding for the MCC. Totalling a \$1.7 million funding reduction, this budget will result in devastating cuts to agency services and programming. As our next budget process approaches, it is crucial that the City work to fill in any gaps caused by this reduction, and ensure our already underserved Arts and Culture community is given the financial support it deserves.

This item was adopted.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Cambridge Community Foundation to support the Agenda for Children Out of School Time Initiative to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$5,000) and to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$45,000).

***CMA 2020 #12***

This appropriation will fund both out of school time programs for our students, as well as part of the salary for one of the two Youth Connectors who work within our Upper Schools and Youth Centers. These Youth Connectors serve a vital function for our students, whether it be connecting them to a STEAM summer camp, or placing them in an after-school enrichment program. In the future, it could be beneficial to fund additional Youth Connectors positions, so one can be associated with each Middle School and Youth Center. As expanding access to academic support at after-school programs can be crucial to a student's success in school, creating additional homework help support networks should also be considered.

This item was adopted.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-118, regarding a report on senior scams and fraud.

***CMA 2020 #13***

This report comes as a response after Councillor Simmons and I submitted separate policy orders asking what the City is doing to protect seniors from phone scams and fraud. Measures taken have included creating a consumer information and public assistance hotline, bringing educational programming to elders living in Cambridge Housing Authority buildings as well as those frequenting senior centers, and airing a “Scams Targeting Seniors” workshop on CCTV. However, since I submitted [my order](#) last December, two more seniors have fallen victim to phone scams, and have lost more than \$20,000 each as a result. While these measures are certainly a step in the right direction, additional action must be taken to ensure no Cambridge resident is negatively impacted by fraud again.

This item was placed on file.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-120, regarding idling vehicles enforcement.

***CMA 2020 #14***

This item was placed on file.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$400,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account for the design of improvements at the River Street Firehouse.

***CMA 2020 #15***

This appropriation, alongside the two following items, stem from a firefighter ride-along and firehouse tour I took early in my first term on the City Council. After seeing how dire the need for firehouse improvements was, I worked with then-Mayor McGovern to advocate for additional funding. Improvements range from the installation of AC units, which are crucial to helping firefighters return to a normal body temperature after a fire, especially in the hot summer months, to new mattresses for firehouse bedrooms to ensure our firefighters are well-rested during overnight shifts. Other than the River Street, Lexington Avenue, and Lafayette and Inman Square Firehouses addressed in these appropriations, renovations at the East Cambridge Firehouse have been completed, a full renovation at Taylor Square is underway, and Headquarters has planned improvements as well, although the City Manager advised finding a temporary space for HQ firefighters and apparatus is proving challenging at this point.

This item was placed on file.

10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$300,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account for the design of improvements at the Lexington Avenue Firehouse.

***CMA 2020 #16***

This item was placed on file. See City Manager’s Agenda Item #9 for discussion.

11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$500,000 from Free Cash, to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account for interior floor concrete slab repairs at Lafayette and Inman Square Firehouses.

***CMA 2020 #17***

**This item was placed on file. See City Manager's Agenda Item #9 for discussion.**

12. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$300,000 from Free Cash, to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account to support the completion of Clarendon Avenue Playground.

***CMA 2020 #18***

**This item was placed on file.**

## II. CALENDAR

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### ON THE TABLE

1. An application was received from Scott Kenton, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 9 Pine Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.

**APP 2019 #94**

This application was previously placed on the table because no response had been received from abutters expressing either approval or disapproval of this proposed curb cut. The City Council has since received responses from abutters, and a vote was taken.

This application was approved.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections. PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE

**CMA 2018 #286**

No action was taken.

3. Fuel pump warning labels

**POR 2019 #327**

This order would mandate that gas stations place labels on gas pump nozzles warning consumers of the negative impacts fossil fuels have on the environment. Serving as an educational tool, it is hoped that these warning labels may discourage the use of fossil fuels. During the 2016-2017 City Council term, when a similar order was introduced, the City Solicitor opined that a label that contained strictly factual information would likely be legal. The label would be approved by the City Manager, and labels will be provided to gas stations by the City.

This item was ordained.

### III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

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1. An application was received from Patrick Barrett, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 907 Main Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.

***APP 2020 #2***

**This application was approved on the consent agenda (no discussion).**

2. A petition was received from MIT List Visual Arts Center, requesting permission for fifteen banners on poles along Ames Street to promote the Galleries and their programming from February 5, 2020 thru September 31, 2020.

***APP 2020 #3***

**This application was approved on the consent agenda.**

3. A petition was received from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, requesting permission for (189) one hundred and eighty-nine banners on poles along Massachusetts Avenue on existing wires at Norfolk and JFK Streets, poles in Harvard Square, poles along Massachusetts Avenue from Vassar Street to Harvard Square, poles along Broadway from Ellery Street to Felton Street, poles along Cambridge Street from Trowbridge to Hovey Streets and poles in Kendall Square to publicize the upcoming Cambridge Science Festival from March 16, 2020 thru April 27, 2020.

***APP 2020 #4***

**This application was approved on the consent agenda.**

## VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

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1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works on updating the department's maintenance plan with an emphasis on cleaning open-trash receptacles more frequently.

**Councillor Toomey**

***POR 2020 #6***

In Cambridge, there are two types of trash cans: big bellies, and open tops. Big bellies are closed trash cans that compact waste inside using solar power, but are more expensive. Open tops, on the other hand, have open faces. While they are less expensive, they can cause rodent problems and emit unpleasant smells. This order asks for the open tops to be cleaned more often to help mitigate these problems until the City transitions to have only big bellies.

This order was adopted.

2. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to confer with the Cambridge Police Commissioner and other relevant departments to determine the feasibility of purchasing sensory bags for Police vehicles as a pilot program

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern**

***POR 2020 #7***

This order, which I sponsored alongside Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor McGovern, would fund a pilot program for placing sensory bags in Police vehicles. Many individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) find that sensory items can help keep them calm during stressful times, such as those that require Police attention; therefore, having these sensory bags ready may make for better interactions between Police Officers and individuals with ASD. These sensory items will include objects that would help an individual stay calm, stay occupied, and communicate with First Responders. Items in these sensory bags may include objects like noise-canceling earmuffs, a dry erase board and markers for non-verbal communication, fidget toys, a weighted blanket, and more. As police interactions with individuals with ASD are notorious for having poor outcomes, it is integral that our City and Police Department be proactive in ensuring our ASD community feels safe when engaging with Police Officers.

This order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager is requested to work with all relevant city and state departments to amend the Do Not Enter sign at the entrance of Whittemore Avenue from Alewife Brook Parkway to include an exception for abutters.

**Councillor McGovern**

***POR 2020 #8***

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

4. Cancellation of the Regular City Council Meeting March 9, 2020

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2020 #9***

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City Departments, and, where relevant, the MBTA and counterparts in other municipalities for routes not wholly in Cambridge, on the feasibility of instituting and funding a fare-free pilot bus program.

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2020 #10***

This order, sponsored by Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, and myself, will create a pilot program making one bus route with high ridership and connectivity, such as the #1 or #69 routes, fare-free. As 28% of Cambridge residents rely on public transportation to get to work, and over a quarter of a million public transportation rides begin or end in Cambridge every day, making public transportation fare-free has the potential to have a tremendous impact on our community; this is especially true for our low-income neighbors, for whom the \$3.40 fare for a round trip bus ride could present a large barrier. Apart from enhancing transit equity, making public transportation fare-free could also reduce noise pollution, shorten boarding time, and help buses stay on time for their routes. The positive impact it would have on our climate crisis is also undeniable. Each full capacity bus takes as many as 36 cars off the roads, which could substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As a City, we need to be intentional about the intersection of climate justice and racial and economic justice when it comes to transit equity. A fare-free public transportation system simultaneously addresses our climate crisis while uplifting our low-income community. This order was amended to add Councillor Zondervan as a co-sponsor, and to include the #68 bus in the suggested bus routes list to be made fare-free.

This order was adopted as amended.

6. That the Mayor is requested to schedule a Roundtable/Working Meeting for members of the City Council and School Committee for Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2020 #11***

This order was adopted.

7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Director of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department on the potential for implementing sufficient traffic-calming solutions on Upton Street.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern**

***POR 2020 #12***

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

8. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City departments regarding the acquisition and implementation of interpretation services for City Council meetings and other public City meetings.

**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler**

***POR 2020 #13***

This order asks the City Manager to create an interpretation service to allow residents who are not confident in their English Language abilities to better participate in City meetings. Research has



shown that participation at public meetings is dominated by older, white individuals, so this order hopes to increase diversity in those participating. Translation services would be available both for the public comment portion of meetings, as well as regular discussion. Councillor McGovern had previously submitted an order with the same goal, but the technology was not advanced enough at the time to support this endeavor. Hopefully, this initiative will help encourage underrepresented communities to participate in local government, and help them have a seat at the table for all City decisions. This order was amended to include Councillor McGovern as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

9. That the Cambridge City Council amend the Municipal Ordinances of the City of Cambridge to insert a new Chapter 2.129, entitled WELCOMING COMMUNITY ORDINANCE  
**Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***POR 2020 #14***

The Welcoming Community Ordinance would prohibit the Cambridge Police Department from engaging with ICE on cases concerning undocumented immigrants. ICE often locates undocumented immigrants when their names are entered into police systems, so by blocking ICE from receiving identifying information, our immigrant community will be better protected from the Trump Administration's cruel and inhumane agenda. There is an exception that would also the Police Department to collaborate with ICE on matters concerning human trafficking. While the Police Department has expressed they already do not work with ICE, it is crucial that an institutional measure to prevent collaboration is created. Upon its ordination, Cambridge would join a number of other cities that have created their own Welcoming Community policies to support their local immigrant communities. This order had been originally introduced during the previous legislative session, but had to be delayed when the City Solicitor was unprepared to give a legal opinion on the item during an Ordinance Committee meeting last October. As it has now been reintroduced, I am hopeful that the City Council will be able to efficiently pass a Welcoming Community Ordinance after continued collaboration between the Council, the Police Department, and the ACLU to safeguard our undocumented residents from harm.

This order was passed to a second reading.

10. Declare January 31, 2020 as "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day" in the City of Cambridge.  
**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toomey**  
***POR 2020 #15***

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

## VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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1. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui communicating information from the School Committee Regular Meeting on January 21, 2020.

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***COF 2020 #4***

Click [here](#) to see the presentation from this School Committee Meeting.

This communication was placed on file.

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 1. Report of the Ordinance Committee - Committee Meeting - Dec 11, 2019 2:00 PM

This report was accepted and placed on file.

- A. That the City Manager is requested to direct the City Solicitor, Community Development, Public Works, Inspectional Services and any other related departments to review the proposed amendments regarding the prohibition of Natural Gas Infrastructure in New Buildings.

**POR 2019 #339**

**Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Devereux**

This order was tabled as amended.

- B. That the city manager convene stakeholder meetings to make comments on the implementation of banning gas.

**POR 2020 #16**

**Mayor Siddiqui**

This order was adopted.

This item seeks to ban the use of natural gas in new construction, as well as in buildings undergoing significant renovations. While this ban has, so far, been pushed through quickly, it has now been tabled to allow the City Manager to convene stakeholder meetings on the natural gas ban, in the hopes it will grant the City Council meaningful insight on how it could affect groups, especially underrepresented individuals and organizations. I was the only City Council member who had voted against this order during its committee hearing, as I felt it needed further discussion and investigation, especially with stakeholder groups. Other municipalities that have banned natural gas in new construction had significantly longer and inclusive exploration processes, so I am glad that this has been tabled until we can bring affected groups to the table. It is especially crucial that we have these conversations given that the only two exemptions to this ban would be public-good constructions, such as a new hospital, and buildings where using natural gas is unavoidable, while other communities, such as Brookline, Massachusetts, have more comprehensive exemptions, such as those for restaurants, home kitchens, and back-up power generators, etc.

### 2. Report of the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee - Committee Meeting - Dec 19, 2019 5:30 PM

- A. That the City Manager work with the Carnival Committee to enhance the Cambridge Carnival event, allocate the necessary funds, and develop a comprehensive public safety plan, including contingency plans so that the event can take place in a secure time and place, even in the presence of significant threats that can be anticipated.

***POR 2020 #17***

**Councillor Zondervan**

Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right (no vote was taken and it will appear on next week's agenda).

3. Report of the Health & Environment Committee - Committee Meeting - Jan 22, 2020 2:30 PM

This report was accepted.

- A. Motion presented by the Health and Environment Committee to insert the words " or until a new city wide tree protection ordinance is passed "after the first appearance of the words "December 31, 2020" in the proposed ordinance.

This item was adopted as amended.

- B. TPO Extension PO

***POR 2020 #4***

**Councillor Zondervan**

This order was passed to a second reading.

This item regards the tree moratorium that was placed on the City last year to restrict the removal of "significant" trees on private property. The included policy order extends the tree moratorium to give the City Council more time to review the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force Report, which came out later than expected, and to consider the Report's recommendations. The order was slightly amended to end the tree moratorium by "December 31, 2020, or sooner if amended."