



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

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

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a recommendation in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) that the Cambridge City Council adopt an order for the Statement of Interest Form for the replacement of windows at the Cambridgeport School Building located at 89 Elm Street.

CMA 2020 #19

This item was adopted on the consent agenda (no discussion).

2. 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 upgrades to the Department of Public Works (DPW) Simard building which will be used for space reconfiguration and HVAC improvements on the second floor of the building, and will address ongoing heating, cooling and ventilation issues, which have become more prevalent with the addition of staff related to expanded programs and initiatives.

CMA 2020 #20

This item was adopted.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Recycling Dividends Program grant in the amount of \$97,500 to the Grant Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used for various of the City's recycling programs including the mattress recycling program.

CMA 2020 #21

This grant will be used to support various recycling programs in Cambridge, most notably the mattress recycling program conducted by UTEC in Lowell. Recycling mattresses allows 85% of each mattress piece by weight to be diverted from landfills and be reused for other purposes. Apart from the environmental benefits of mattress recycling, this program also offers the City a unique opportunity to support the at-risk youth that UTEC employs. Click [here](#) to learn more about mattress recycling and the important work UTEC does.

This item was adopted.

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4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$250,000 in additional projected sewer revenues to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account to provide funds for the purchase of a Catch Basin Cleaning Truck.
CMA 2020 #22

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$300,000 from the Parking Fund balance to the Public Investment Fund Finance Extraordinary Expenses Account, to be used for a new Hybrid Vehicle Lottery Program for owners of Cambridge taxicab medallions.
CMA 2020 #23

This appropriation will fund a new Hybrid Vehicle Lottery Program for taxicab owners in Cambridge. Apart from having a positive impact on the environment, as these high-use taxicabs will be taken out of service and replaced with more environmentally-conscious models, this funding will also offer crucial financial support to the taxi industry. The recent rise and underregulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) have hit the taxi industry hard, so it is crucial that the City step up and support this industry during hard times, and help it evolve for future success. This is just one of many ways the City has supported the needs of the taxi industry in our ever-changing economy. Notably, the Waave app will be launched soon, and can be used by taxi drivers and riders alike to streamline the process of requesting a taxi, and to allow riders to pay their fare in-app.

This item was adopted.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a home rule petition to the state legislature that would lower the voting age to sixteen (16) in municipal elections.
CMA 2020 #24

This communication includes a Home Rule Petition prepared by the City Solicitor that will, if approved by the State Legislature, allow 16 and 17 years olds to vote in municipal elections in Cambridge. This Home Rule Petition corresponds with a growing movement across the Commonwealth to lower the voting age; alongside several Home Rule Petitions submitted by other municipalities, the Empower Act, which would allow 16 and 17 years old to vote, is currently being considered at the State House. Massachusetts implemented a robust civics education curriculum last year, ensuring our students understand the inner-workings of government and the importance of civic engagement. After poring over candidates' websites, writing impassioned op-eds for school newspapers, hosting debates, and even running their own mock-election during our municipal election cycle last fall, our high school students have proven they are ready, and eager, to fully participate in our elections. The Cambridge Youth Council has tirelessly advocated for lowering the voting age, and it is heartening to know all of their hard work has begun to pay off.

This item was adopted.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, recommending the appointment of the following person as a member of the Cambridge Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a term of 5-years, as recommended by the Greater Boston Labor Council: Louis Bacci, III.
CMA 2020 #25

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

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8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the Mayor's recommended appointments of the following member of the Family Policy Council, effective February 3, 2020 for the 2020-2021 Council term: Vice Mayor Alanna Mallon and School Committee Member Ayesha Wilson.

CMA 2020 #26

This communication announces the appointment of School Committee Member Ayesha Wilson and myself to the Family Policy Council. I have been a member of the Family Policy Council since 2014, and I am excited by this opportunity to continue with all of the crucial work the Family Policy Council does. By working closely with the Cambridge Youth Council, which has spearheaded efforts to lower the municipal voting age, give free MBTA passes to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, and more, the Family Policy Council has made empowering families and young people a top priority for the City.

This item was placed on file on the consent agenda.

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II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. Report of the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee - Committee Meeting - Dec 19, 2019 5:30 PM **CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN ON JANUARY 27, 2020**

After the Cambridge Carnival was canceled last year following safety concerns, the City Council has worked to ensure such a cancellation will not happen again. The Carnival is a pivotal community event that is enjoyed by many, allowing the City to celebrate Caribbean heritage and culture while partaking in the many artistic offerings available. The order below instructs the City Manager to develop a robust public safety plan to ensure the Cambridge Carnival will happen this year.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

2. 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. **CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN ON JANUARY 27, 2020**
POR 2020 #17

See Calendar Item #1 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

ON THE TABLE

3. 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. **TABLED ON JANUARY 27, 2020**
POR 2019 #339

No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. 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

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No action was taken.

5. TPO Extension PO
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON JANUARY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR
AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 2020**
POR 2020 #4

No action was taken.

6. 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
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON JANUARY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR
AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 2020**
POR 2020 #14

No action was taken.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from MIT Visual Arts requesting permission for (32) thirty two temporary banners on poles on Ames Street, Main Street and Broadway announcing MIT List Visual Arts Center on February 5, 2020 thru April 28, 2020.

APP 2020 #5

This application was approved on the consent agenda

IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to review the roles, responsibilities, and compensation of City Council Aides with an eye toward designating this as a full-time position.

Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone

POR 2020 #18

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, the Community Development Department and any other relevant City departments to work in conjunction with the MBTA to provide an update on the Lechmere Station closure, the replacement bus services and the community outreach they plan on executing.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2020 #19

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Public Works and any other relevant City departments to update the Council on the plans for the Cambridge Recycling Center.

Councillor Toomey, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2020 #20

This order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Director of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to work with the residents in the vicinity of Eustis Street to implement traffic calming measures on this street.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2020 #21

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. Improvements to STR Ordinance to Enhance Compliance

Councillor McGovern, Councillor Carlone

POR 2020 #22

Short term rentals have had a devastating impact on our community, as housing units where residents would typically reside have instead been used as short term rentals at alarming rates. This order would

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attempt to explore ways to strengthen our current ordinance. It is hoped that by looking at various ways to strengthen our current regulations, unlawful short term rentals will be removed and returned to the housing market. This was a recommendation made by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Tenant Displacement, which can be read [here](#).

This order was adopted.

6. Thanking Charlotte Moore and Eileen Caves for their Art Exhibition titled "The Olive Trees are Weeping: Visions of Occupied Palestine through Fiber Art and Photographs" and City Council solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #24

This order thanks fiber artists Charlotte Moore and photographer Eileen Caves for their exhibit documenting the unique struggles of Palestinians through artwork. This order was amended to instruct the City Clerk to forward a copy of the order to the artists responsible for this exhibition.

This order was adopted as amended.

7. Recognizing February 2020 as Black History Month in the City of Cambridge, and that the City Council encourages residents across the community to delve into the many contributions that African-American citizens have made in Cambridge since this city's earliest days.

Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #23

This order recognizes February as Black History Month in the City of Cambridge, and encourages residents to delve into the many contributions made by African-American Cantabridgians. Cambridge has been home to countless groundbreaking African-Americans, including Maria Louise Baldwin, Clement G. Morgan, Sandra Graham, and it is fitting that their accomplishments are celebrated by our community. As Councillor Denise Simmons noted during discussion, black history is American history, and it is crucial that our celebration of African-Americans extends beyond the end of February.

This order was adopted.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting a memorandum regarding the School district will be offering a Halal meat option to students at all Elementary and Upper School sites.

COF 2020 #6

This communication announces that Cambridge will join a handful of schools across the country that offer halal meat options to students. After months of hard work on Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui's part to accommodate religious dietary restrictions, it is heartening to know there is expanded access to our Public Schools' meals. Click [here](#) to read more about the halal meals that will be offered.

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Councillor Simmons, transmitting a letter from City Manager Louis A. DePasquale, who is serving formal notice of his desire to enter into formal negotiations with the City Council to extend his contract with the City beyond January 2021.

COF 2020 #7

This communication was referred to the Government Operations Committee.

3. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, transmitting information from the January 28, 2020 School Committee Budget Retreat.

Mayor Siddiqui

COF 2020 #8

This communication from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui provides an update on the work being done in the School Committee. Mayor Siddiqui has demonstrated a dedication to keeping the City Council updated and informed on all that is being done in the School Committee, and I would like to express my appreciation for her hard work in this regard. Although the City Council does not have the authority to approve line items from the School Committee budget, these updates serve as a great opportunity for Council engagement early on in the school budgeting process. Raw notes from community meetings on budget priorities can be read [here](#), and the School Committee Budget Retreat presentation can be viewed [here](#).

This communication was placed on file.