



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • MARCH 16, 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 second Annual Surveillance Report concerning City departments' use of Surveillance Technology or Surveillance Data.
CMA 2020 #57

This item was referred to the Public Safety for discussion.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-20, regarding a response on coronavirus preparedness.

CMA 2020 #58

This communication provides information on how the City is addressing the outbreak of COVID-19, commonly known as Coronavirus. Steps the City has taken so far include quarantining affected individuals, holding preparedness meetings for City staff, closing municipal buildings, including Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Public Libraries, and City Hall, cancelling all events requiring a permit, and more. Click [here](#) to read the full report prepared by Claude Jacob, the City's Chief Public Health Officer. During the City Council meeting, Dr. Assaad Sayah, CEO of the Cambridge Health Alliance, also shared plans to prevent the spread of infection in our hospitals, and to increase our capacity to test for the Coronavirus. The City has been hard at work to mitigate the effects Coronavirus is having on our community, particularly for our most vulnerable residents. The City has been working with Food For Free to establish food distribution sites at our public schools to ensure no child goes hungry during school closures (click [here](#) to fill out a Cambridge Public Schools meals request form). A mobile food pantry is also being used to get food to public housing residents, including buildings for elderly and disabled tenants (click [here](#) for information on volunteering with Food For Free during the COVID-19 outbreak). As college students displaced due to university closures is also a key concern, click [here](#) to find a list of resources specifically for college students. Additionally, the City Council adopted a series of policy orders during this meeting to help alleviate both health and financial concerns caused by the Coronavirus. Ranging from an order I co-sponsored with Councillor McGovern and Mayor Siddiqui to create a comprehensive plan to protect our homeless population, to supporting legislation being considered in the State Government, we are taking every step to ensure each part of

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this complex and multi-faceted issue is being properly addressed. As this situation is rapidly evolving, and as staying informed is vital to staying healthy, I encourage all residents to take advantage of all of the informational resources the City has to offer. Click [here](#) for more information from the City, or click [here](#) to find information specific to Cambridge Public Schools. You can also click [here](#) to listen to a

podcast hosted by Mayor Siddiqui and I, where we will be providing updates on Coronavirus. To have CodeRed alerts sent directly to your phone or email address, sign up [here](#). I understand that these are challenging times, but I am hopeful in the ability of our City staff and our Cambridge community to successfully flatten the curve of infection.

This item was placed on file.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of the following person as a Constable With Power for a term of three years, effective the first day of January, 2020: Philip Sciandra

CMA 2020 #59

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

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$40,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Cable Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used for the purchase of a production van for 22-CityView, Municipal Cable Television.

CMA 2020 #60

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an update on the Children's Savings Account Program.

CMA 2020 #61

This communication announces that the City has partnered with the East Cambridge Savings Bank to create the Children's Savings Account Program. With \$50 of seed money available for each Children's Savings Account, and financial literacy training provided, the ~640 eligible Cambridge Public Schools students will be set on a path towards post-secondary education. Whether it be attending university or receiving job training, having as little as \$500 in a savings account makes a student three times as likely to achieve post-secondary education, so this is an incredible step forward! I am grateful to have had the partnership of Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor McGovern for the past two years as we have painstakingly researched programs in other cities and states, joined a CSA consortium at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and have actively sought a local bank partner in this work. This also could not have been achieved without the generosity of the East Cambridge Savings Bank, which exemplifies our local business community's strong commitment to our residents. Click [here](#) to read the full City Manager's report.

This item was placed on file.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of

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\$4,000,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account to support the Complete Streets Reconstruction Program and for repaving portions of streets that are part of the separated bicycle network.

CMA 2020 #62

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$7,250,000 for the reconstruction of Glacken Field and playground with an update on lighting. This is also in response to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-17.

CMA 2020 #63

This communication reports back on a policy order I co-sponsored alongside Councillors McGovern, Toomey, and Nolan asking for lights to be installed on Glacken Field. This appropriation comes from an influx of community engagement from the players and families of the West Cambridge Little League team, who tirelessly advocated for these lights. By installing these lights, the Team will be able to safely play after dark, allowing them to continue to play their beloved sport and continue building their baseball skills and their friendships with each other. This item also includes other improvements to be made to Glacken Field and playground, such as a Huron Avenue bike/pedestrian connection, and bleacher removal.

This item was adopted.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$139,080 from Free Cash to the General Fund Fire Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$6,080) and to the General Fund Fire Department Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$133,000) to cover the cost of the replacement of 18 sets of bunker gear for present members and to cover the cost of protection equipment for 10 new firefighters.

CMA 2020 #64

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,500,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account which will fund the replacement of a 2002 Pierce Tower Ladder for Ladder 2 in East Cambridge.

CMA 2020 #65

This item was adopted.

10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY20 STEP Grant in the amount of \$59,875, received from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Highway Safety Division, to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account, which will be used to supplement sustained, high visibility, year-round traffic enforcement.

CMA 2020 #66

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Shannon Grant in the amount of \$33,585.19 received from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition's

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Community Safety Initiative through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account (\$25,875.19) and the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$7,710.00), which will be dedicated to hot spot patrols, Metro Gang Task Force participation, and the Focused Deterrence program.

CMA 2020 #67

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

12. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-66, regarding establishing a Young Adult Civic Unity Committee.

CMA 2020 #68

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

13. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as Public Weighers for the calendar year 2020, to operate scales at Boston Sand & Gravel Co., located at 118R Industrial Park Road, Cambridge: Alan Bishop, Wei Li, Kyle Patterson, Walter Staples, Sam Magna, John Ehrenkranz, Mike Denahy, Mike Gilroy, David Kelley, Jason Pianpiano, Wilfred Charles

CMA 2020 #69

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

II. CALENDAR

ON THE TABLE

1. 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 taken.

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 taken.

3. That section 11.202(b) of Article 11.000, entitled SPECIAL REGULATIONS, of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge, be amended the table as follows: January 28, 2020 (Annual Adjustment) \$19.10 per square foot

PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020, TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER MARCH 8, 2020.

POR 2019 #387

This item was ordained.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from MIT Museum requesting permission for 59 temporary existing banners along Massachusetts Avenue, from Memorial Drive to Sidney Street announcing Polaroid Project remain from April 1, 2020 thru June 21, 2020. The Original Adopted Application was in City Council September 9, 2019.

APP 2020 #14

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

2. A Zoning Petition has been received from Salvatore Zinno Vice President, BMR-Third LLC, to Amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance by adding section 13.200 Planned Unit Development at Canal District Kendall PUD-CDK Amendment

APP 2020 #15

This petition was referred to the Ordinance Committee for discussion on the consent agenda.

3. An application was received from BL 27 Brattle MA LLC, requesting permission for an A Frame Sign, 2 tables, 6 chairs and planters in front of the premises numbered 27 Brattle Street thru November 26, 2020.

APP 2020 #16

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

4. An application was received from Fomami Harvard Square LLC, requesting permission for 5 tables and 15 chairs in front of the premises numbered 33 Brattle Street from April 1, 2020 thru November 30, 2020.

APP 2020 #17

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

5. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Tom Hartingson, requesting that the City Council Ordain the Zoning language set forth relative to the Alewife Quadrangle Northwest Overlay District.

APP 2020 #18

This petition was referred to the Ordinance Committee for discussion on the consent agenda.

IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. Coronavirus mitigation.
Councillor Simmons, Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2020 #49
This order was adopted. See City Manager’s Agenda Item #1 for discussion.
2. That the “2020 Cycling Safety Ordinance” be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for discussion and recommendation.
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, Vice Mayor Mallon
POR 2020 #50
This order and its accompanying ordinance, sponsored by Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler, McGovern, Zondervan, and myself, creates a timeline during which the City must build dedicated bike lanes on certain key streets. Click [here](#) to read an explanation of the ordinance prepared by Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler. As the Cycling Safety Ordinance will have a profound impact on the many cyclists who call Cambridge their home, it is crucial that as much community feedback is given before this ordinance is forwarded to the Ordinance Committee, and, hopefully, ordained. That is why Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler exercised his charter-right, ensuring a robust public comment period could be had, as the COVID-19 outbreak has affected the way the City Council holds its regular meetings.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler exercised his charter-right (no action was taken, and it will appear on the agenda for next week’s City Council meeting).
3. That the City Council approve a Real Estate Transfer Fee Home Rule Petition.
Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler ***POR 2020 #51***
This order was amended to include Councillor McGovern as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended, and referred to the Ordinance Committee for further discussion.
4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Inspectional Service Department to increase the fines for absentee property owners who continue to have violations stemming for rodent infestations.
Councillor Toomey
POR 2020 #52
This order was adopted on the consent agenda.
5. That the City Council go on record stating its intent to have Cambridge be one of the pilot communities if Senate Bill 2553 passes
Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone
POR 2020 #53

This order, which I co-sponsored alongside Councillors Nolan and Carlone, expresses support for Senate Bill 2553, which is currently being considered in the Massachusetts State Legislature. By calling for a pilot program of automated traffic enforcement in ten municipalities, this bill hopes to decrease the number of dangerous road incidents occurring. As Cambridge had 1,454 vehicle crashes in 2019 alone, it is crucial that we encourage the State Legislature to take any steps possible to help keep our roads safe for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. This policy order also establishes that Cambridge will be one of the pilot communities, if S2553 passes.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take all necessary actions to protect the population, including, but not limited to, cancelling all non-essential events and gatherings, allowing staff to work from home when possible, providing visitor screening at senior living facilities, and preparing emergency medical facilities for treating respiratory infections.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan
POR 2020 #54

This order was adopted. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.

7. That the City Council calls on the state government to mandate paid sick-leave policies and a moratorium on utility shutoffs during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2020 #55

This order was adopted. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.

8. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Water Department to avoid all non-essential water shutoffs during the course of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
POR 2020 #56

This order was adopted. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.

9. That the City Manager is requested to work with all relative City Departments to develop a comprehensive plan on how to best support our homeless residents, shelters and the programs that support them, including, but not limited to, reaching out to area hotels and colleges about opening space for Cambridge's homeless to have shelter, issuing emergency funds to shelters so they can stay open during the day, and including our homeless population in any food outreach being organized by the City.

Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon
POR 2020 #57

This order was adopted. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.

10. Support for HD.4935, An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID-19 Emergency

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

POR 2020 #58

This order was adopted. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Councillor E. Denise Simmons transmitting Coronavirus Preparation
COF 2020 #16
This communication was placed on file. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.
2. A communication was received from Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, transmitting comments on the 2020 Cycling Safety Ordinance.
COF 2020 #17
This communication was placed on file. See Policy Order and Resolution List Item #2 for discussion.
3. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui regarding COVID-19 Student Supports and Resources List
Mayor Siddiqui
COF 2020 #18
This communication was placed on file. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for discussion.