



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • JUNE 1, 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 an update on COVID-19.

CMA 2020 #109

City staff gave a COVID-19 update.

Police Update: After protests in Boston mourning George Floyd's murder turned violent, the Cambridge Police Department sent 26 officers to Boston for mutual aid to secure vandalized buildings. The Police Department is preparing for the possibility of unrest in Cambridge as well. The Commissioner confirmed that chokeholds are expressly prohibited in the Department's Use of Force policy, which can be found [here](#). Regarding questions that arose around Mutual Aid, and how our officers are deployed, where, when and how are they supervised, the Commissioner stated it is a state law under Chapter 40, but officers are always sent with a direct supervisor and are under that supervisor's supervision at all times when in another municipality.

On masks, there has been high voluntary compliance, and no fines or warnings have been issued to date. Operations at the War Memorial shelter have been running relatively smoothly, with only a few incidents requiring police intervention to date.

Transportation Update: At last week's Special Meeting, the City unveiled plans for a shared streets pilot that would close three key streets with high connectivity to non-local vehicular traffic. There will still be local access for residents of the streets, businesses, emergency vehicles, and deliveries, and there will be detour signs with alternate routes for other vehicles. With the projected start date of June 15 rapidly approaching, the City is hoping to collect community feedback on the plans, as well as gather input on possible streets to expand the pilot to in the future. As someone who has been advocating for opening our streets up to pedestrians and cyclists, I am excited to finally see these plans, and to see this pilot expand in the future. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Shared Streets Pilot.

As we look towards the future, the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department is also working with the License Commission and our local small businesses to reimagine how our public ways can be used. We've recently received [additional guidance](#) from the Governor on how restaurants will be allowed to

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reopen, so it's critical we finalize plans so they can offer outdoor dining as soon as it's safe to do so. Additionally, the second day of the pilot to close Memorial Drive was another overwhelming success. Everyone was wearing masks and physically distancing, it never felt crowded, and it was amazing to have the extra space to enjoy the nice weather and get some exercise. This is something my colleagues and I had been pushing for these past several weeks, so I'm hopeful we can expand this pilot and have Memorial Drive close regularly.

City Reopening Update: Deputy City Manager Lisa Peterson has been leading the City's internal reopening efforts. Three City buildings began reopening to employees just yesterday, with new hygiene and distancing standards in place, and with more buildings to follow in the coming weeks. To protect the health of employees and the residents they serve, each employee must self-screen before each shift, and follow health and safety guidelines, like frequent handwashing and mask use, while on the job. Other employees will continue to work from home for the foreseeable future, and as the City did not have a working from home policy prior to this pandemic, I appreciate all the efforts that have been made to keep our workers safe. However, for those unable to physically come into work and who can't work from home, I am troubled that the City only plans to provide them with ⅓ of their usual pay. They are unable to work through no fault of their own, their bills have not disappeared, and in a time when many are struggling financially, I would hope the City would use its strong fiscal position to support the workers that make Cambridge great. As many employees have been coming to me with questions on their benefits and the future, I'd also hope we could organize a virtual employee town hall as well as smaller, department specific meetings, to answer these questions and address concerns in a comprehensive way.

Public Health Update: Cambridge's current COVID-19 case count stands at 1,001 cases, ¾ coming from local nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and a devastating 91 fatalities. As we mourn these losses, the City is working to enhance contact tracing efforts, and direct resources where they're needed most. 4,000 tests have been completed in our nursing homes, for homeless residents, at the Cambridge Housing Authority's senior buildings, and at the mobile testing site in the Port neighborhood, with the most recent tests showing low positivity rates either comparable to or lower than surrounding municipalities. Using the rapid testing model developed during this prior testing, the City will be expanding mobile testing to North Cambridge as early as June 9th. As we look towards the future, the Public Health Department is providing ongoing guidance, and working with state and municipal partners to prepare for the future.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund Electrical Department Salary and Wages Account to the General Fund Electrical Travel and Training account (Judgments and Damages) to cover medical services and/or prescription reimbursement costs for personnel injured in performance of their duties.

CMA 2020 #110

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

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY20 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), Highway Safety Division (HSD),

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Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Grant for \$6,000 received from the EOPSS Highway Safety Division to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account (\$6,000) which will be for personnel/overtime services and will be dedicated to initiatives that address pedestrian and bicycle issues, coupling educational projects with enforcement of laws to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and crashes.

CMA 2020 #111

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account to support an agreement with Roca Inc., which is committed to disrupting the cycle of incarceration and poverty by helping young people transform their lives. The funds will be used to support a dedicated Cambridge outreach worker, programming, mental health counseling and other services aimed at reducing gang related violence as a part of the Department's Focused Deterrence Initiative.

CMA 2020 #112

As someone who has been working closely on this, I was thankful to see this appropriation to fund a dedicated Cambridge ROCA outreach worker. [ROCA](#) is an incredible organization based in Chelsea that works with youth recently released from prison or who are involved in gangs to reduce recidivism, and move residents away from the criminal justice system. Funding this work through a community partner helps to ensure we are not creating more areas where the Police Department is interacting with residents who have already been involved with the criminal justice system. In this way, we must shift funding to the community partners to do this critical work in our communities. I am proud to have worked on this issue for the past year, and to be connecting our residents to this critical community resource that helps them find stable housing, stable employment, mental health services, a much-needed support system, and more. [Click here](#) to learn more about ROCA's critical work.

This item was adopted.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$677,300 from Free Cash, to the General Fund Finance Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$125,000); to the General Fund Fire Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$125,000); to the General Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$208,300); General Fund Executive Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$200,000) and to the General Fund Emergency Communications Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$19,000) which will cover projected costs of materials and supplies related to the COVID-19 crisis for City departments through the end of the fiscal year. Funds will be used to purchase masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, cleaning materials and spray sanitizer, as well as communication costs.

CMA 2020 #113

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$60,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account for continued support of Homeless Shelter / Local Restaurant Community meals program through the end of the fiscal year.

CMA 2020 #114

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

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7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$2,175,000, from Free Cash, to the General Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$944,000); to the General Fund Human Services Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$770,000); to the General Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$245,000); and to the General Fund Finance Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$216,000); to cover costs associated with the War Memorial Temporary Emergency Shelter at 1640 Cambridge Street. ***CMA 2020 #115***

This appropriation will cover the costs for the City's temporary homeless shelter located at the War Memorial Recreation Center on the CRLS campus. Since it opened in April, the War Memorial shelter has served around 60 homeless residents each night, offering them a safe space to physically distance while providing them with meals, day programming, an on-site health clinic run by Healthcare for the Homeless, and more. As we look towards the future, we have to ensure we're providing these homeless residents with case management services and resources that will help set them on a path towards stable, permanent housing, which has to be the ultimate goal. And as we will be experiencing the effects of this public health crisis for months to come, much longer than we initially thought, we need to develop a comprehensive plan for the fall, when our schools may reopen, as these residents will likely need continued access to housing and services.

This item was adopted.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$150,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Finance Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account, for COVID-19 testing kits.

CMA 2020 #116

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

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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 was taken.

2. That the “2020 Cycling Safety Ordinance” be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for discussion and recommendation.

TABLED ON MARCH 23, 2020

POR 2020 #50

No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. 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.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$6,500,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of various water pollution abatement projects, including but not limited to Sewer Capital Repairs Program and climate change preparedness efforts.

ON OR AFTER JUNE 15, 2020 THE QUESTION COMES ON ADOPTION

CMA 2020 #101

No action was taken.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$5,000,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of various City streets and sidewalks.

ON OR AFTER JUNE 15, 2020 THE QUESTION COMES ON ADOPTION

CMA 2020 #102

No action was taken.

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6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$16,000,000 to provide funds for the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan which will support improvements at the Department of Public works Complex including the Ryan Garage, Lafayette Square Firehouse structural repair, and other municipal buildings.

ON OR AFTER JUNE 15, 2020 THE QUESTION COMES ON ADOPTION

CMA 2020 #103

No action was taken.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$9,000,000 to provide funds for the construction of improvements of the Lexington Avenue and River Street Firehouses.

ON OR AFTER JUNE 15, 2020 THE QUESTION COMES ON ADOPTION

CMA 2020 #104

No action was taken.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$237,000,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of the Tobin Montessori and Vassal Lane Upper School.

ON OR AFTER JUNE 15, 2020 THE QUESTION COMES ON ADOPTION

CMA 2020 #105

No action was taken.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,800,000 to provide funds for various Schools for repairs to electrical service, roof replacement, chiller replacement, floor replacement and replacement of bi-directional amplifier and antenna in various school buildings.

ON OR AFTER JUNE 15, 2020 THE QUESTION COMES ON ADOPTION

CMA 2020 #106

No action was taken.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Elizabeth Speakman, requesting permission for a temporary banner across JFK at Mount Auburn Street announcing Domestic Violence from June 1, 2020 through June 19, 2020.

APP 2020 #21

These banners are a part of a “quarantined, but not alone” outreach campaign I’ve been working on with [Transition House](#), a leader in domestic violence prevention and response. Both the number of domestic violence calls and the intensity of these situations has been increasing during this pandemic, as many victims are isolated with their abusers. I worked for several weeks to get funding for resources for survivors, but we can only provide services if we know where they’re needed, so I am hopeful this will encourage more people to come forward and escape dangerous situations.

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

2. An application was received from Duncan MacArthur, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 56 Creighton 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 #22

For curb cut applications, we ask for feedback for abutters to better understand how it may affect the neighborhood. As no response was received from the neighborhood association, this application was tabled to allow more time to receive a response.

This application was tabled (no action was taken, and it will appear on each week’s agenda until it is taken off the table for action).

3. An application was received from Fredric Wilkins, requesting permission for an internal illuminating projecting sign at the premises numbered 27 Church Street. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

APP 2020 #23

This application was approved.

IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to (1) refresh the rainbow benches outside of City Hall, (2) paint the crosswalks in colors that represent the Trans Flag, the Pride Flag, the Bi Flag and the People of Color Pride Flag, and (3) light City Hall up in rainbow colors in recognition of Pride Month

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
POR 2020 #120

Even though our celebrations may change because of COVID-19, we'll still be declaring June 2020 as Pride Month and honoring our LGBTQ+ community as always. In both celebration of diversity, and in recognition of the activism it historically and presently takes to demand equal rights, City Hall will be lit up rainbow, the rainbow benches outside the City Hall steps will be refreshed, and crosswalks will be painted in Pride flag colors. Although we can't have our usual Pride Brunch, the LGBTQ+ Commission is exploring ways to safely bring our community together.

This order was adopted.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on efforts made to ensure that at least one accessible public building, with proper safety measures for social distancing and good hygiene, can be open during the summer for residents to cool down.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Carlone
POR 2020 #121

When temperatures rise in the summer, our public buildings have typically been open to residents, giving them a much-needed place to cool down. But our City buildings are only just starting to reopen to some employees, and will only be open to residents by appointment at first to protect employees' health. To balance these needs, Mayor Siddiqui filed this policy order and, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Carlone, and I joined her in this effort to ask that at least one accessible public building be opened with comprehensive health and safety measures in place, like physical distancing and regular sanitization. Summer is rapidly approaching, so we'll have to get creative about responding to residents' seasonal needs as we build the new normal.

This order was adopted.

3. Governor Baker's Emergency Order on March 25, 2020 included a ban on reusable bags and lifted all municipal bans and fees on plastic bags

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan
POR 2020 #122

This order was adopted.

4. North Cambridge COVID19 Testing

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Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan ***POR 2020 #123***

Testing is one of the most critical ways that we can learn more about how COVID-19 is affecting our community. It helps residents get the healthcare they need, and it allows us to do contact tracing to prevent further transmission, direct resources where they're needed most, and understand the disproportionate impact this public health crisis is having on people of color. Our testing site in East Cambridge has been open for nearly a month, and we had a mobile testing site in the Port neighborhood, but some residents who want to be tested couldn't reach these areas. As North Cambridge has been identified as having a high-need, this order asks the City Manager to create a mobile testing site in North Cambridge. It was also amended to request that testing efforts in the Port be expanded as well.

This order was adopted as amended.

5. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the relevant City staff and the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority to change the name of the bus stop from "Massachusetts Avenue at Churchill Avenue" to "Matignon High School at Churchill Avenue" and report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2020 #124

This order was adopted.

6. June is national Caribbean-American Heritage Month, a time to recognize the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States.

Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern

POR 2020 #125

This order declares June 2020 to be Caribbean-American Heritage Month, and asks that City Hall be lit up in red, green, and gold in celebration. Caribbean-Americans have a rich culture, history, and tradition here in Cambridge, so we will be exploring new ways to safely celebrate. This order was amended to specifically name Nicola Williams, the dedicated President of Cambridge Carnival International who has done critical work for so many years, and who could not be more deserving of this recognition.

This order was adopted as amended.

7. That the City Council go on record in support of this resolution, as condemning police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country, and as affirming its solidarity with people of color and all marginalized individuals who have historically suffered from an unjust criminal justice system

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan

POR 2020 #126

My colleagues and I submitted this late order to ask the City Council to support a federal resolution filed by Congresswomen Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Ilhan Omar (MN-05), Karen Bass (CA-37), and Barbara Lee (CA-13), and to express solidarity with groups who have historically experienced police violence. The resolution ([read it here](#)) condemns police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and

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militarized force, and calls for police and criminal justice reform at every level of government. Our community is mourning Mr. Floyd's death acutely this week, but he is the latest in a long line of black lives that were taken by the police in instances of depraved indifference. This resolution signals a shift in how police departments across the country will be expected to treat the residents they are hired to protect and serve, to create more transparency and more accountability. When we have police departments across the country that have unbiased policies, oversight and accountability, we will have safer communities, for all of our residents. This resolution is just the first of many steps my colleagues and I are taking to uplift our communities of color, enhance accountability for police, and reform an unjust justice system. The entire City Council was added to this order to affirm that this is an utmost priority for all of us. [Click here](#) to learn more about this order.

This order was adopted as amended.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee's Regular Meeting and Subcommittee meetings.

COF 2020 #31

This communication details the critical work Mayor Siddiqui and the entire School Committee is doing. The Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee is developing a health and safety plan for September, while the Governance Subcommittee is exploring adding restorative justice practices to the School Committee's code of ethics. Tomorrow, the City Council will also be holding a budget hearing on the schools budget, which you can [watch here](#). Click [here](#) to read Mayor Siddiqui's full communication.

This communication was placed on file.