



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA • JUNE 15, 2020

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Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

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

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## I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an update on COVID-19.

***CMA 2020 #124***

City staff gave a COVID-19 update.

**Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Update:** Although [the Shared Streets Pilot](#) was expected to begin on Monday, June 15th, it's been pushed back with an anticipated start date of mid-next week due to a delay in procuring signage. Postcards have been sent to abutters explaining the Pilot, and a webinar will soon be available for residents. The City is also working with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to expand [the pilot closing Memorial Drive to vehicular traffic](#), which was an enormous success, and which could be back by this Saturday, June 20th. Parking regulations, including parking meter payments, are also now in effect. Street cleaning with mandatory car removals will resume July 1st.

**Reopening Update:** The City has continued with its reopening efforts, with employees at the 51 Inman Street location and at the Water Department returning to work this week. [Dog parks and tennis courts have also reopened](#), and playgrounds, tot lots, and basketball courts will follow soon. The Main Library is also offering [contactless holds pickups](#), and [in-person appointments](#) have resumed for the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, the Clerk's Office, the Finance Department, the Inspectional Services Department, and the Historical Commission. The License Commission will begin accepting in-person appointments next week as well.

**Small Business Update:** Funding for the [City's program partnering with local restaurants](#) to provide meals to homeless residents has been extended through September. This funding was originally going to run out at the end of June, so I was happy to [work with Councillors McGovern and Sobrinho-Wheeler](#) to extend this critical program that offers 2,700 meals each week to unhoused residents in need. Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Affairs David Kale also shared an update on the [Small Business Relief Program](#). Applications closed last week, and the City is working to ensure each application is complete and has the necessary documentation. Although we do not have an anticipated

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date when small businesses may hear back, the City will be working urgently to complete the review process as soon as possible.

The City has also been working with neighborhood business associations on outdoor dining options, and will be expanding the patio heating pilot to extend the outdoor dining season. Last year, I worked with the Fire Department to create a safe pilot using kerosene lamps that overwhelmingly successful in Harvard Square, so I am glad to see this expansion, and I look forward to continuing to work with City staff to develop creative ways to uplift our struggling small business community.

**Police Update:** Police Commissioner Branville Bard shared that the 16 Cambridge protests on police brutality and racial justice have largely been peaceful, and that no fines or warnings have been issued to date for the City's [emergency order](#) on the use of masks.

**Testing Update:** [COVID-19 testing](#) will be available this Wednesday, June 17th, and Thursday, June 18th, for anyone who has recently attended a protest or large gathering at the Cambridge Health Alliance East Cambridge testing site at 163 Gore Street. Additionally, [mobile testing in the North Cambridge neighborhood](#) wrapped up last week, with 354 tests administered. Testing will continue to be available at the East Cambridge site, and there are plans to provide rotating access to testing in different neighborhoods hardest hit by the pandemic.

**Public Health Update:** The [Cambridge COVID-19 case count](#) currently stands at 1,055 positive cases, with 17 COVID-19 patients currently hospitalized. Cambridge has also experienced a devastating 95 death,  $\frac{3}{4}$  coming from area nursing homes or assisted living facilities. As we mourn those we have lost, the Public Health Department is beginning to see positive outcomes, with no new reported fatalities in the past week, and declining positivity rates. Overall, Cambridge is seeing lower positivity rates than other municipalities; our positivity rate sits at 7%, while Somerville's is 9%, Arlington's is 11%, Boston's is 19%, and Chelsea's is 38%. Although it is too soon to tell which public efforts were worthwhile, and which fell short, Chief Public Health Officer Claude Jacob warned that there is still work to be done, and that residents should remain vigilant, and not succumb to COVID fatigue. Moving forward, the Public Health Department is planning for the summer heat and looking at alternatives to traditional mitigation efforts, developing a more robust communication strategy, and mobilizing employees for vulnerable communities.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Surveillance Technology Impact Report for A to Z Databases requested by the Library.

**CMA 2020 #125**

This item was received on the consent agenda (no discussion)

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of Kaija Langley as a new member of the Library Board of Trustees effective June 15, 2020 for a term of three year.

**CMA 2020 #126**

This item was placed on file on the consent agenda.

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4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$60,000 received from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program income to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Extraordinary Expenditures Account which will increase funds available to continue the development of affordable housing for residents.

***CMA 2020 #127***

*This item was adopted on the consent agenda.*

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in the amount of \$15,000 to the Grant Fund Human Rights Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used for Fair Housing outreach efforts.

***CMA 2020 #128***

*This item was adopted on the consent agenda.*

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Cambridge Food Pantry grant received from the Cambridge Health Alliance for \$15,000 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to support the Cambridge Food Pantry Network.

***CMA 2020 #129***

*This item was adopted on the consent agenda.*

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$228,505 to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$17,137) and to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$211,368) which will be used for shelter operating costs, providing essential services to homeless persons outside of the shelter setting; rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention case management; short and medium-term rental assistance; and financial assistance needed to gain or retain permanent housing.

***CMA 2020 #130***

*City Manager's Agenda Items #7 and #8 will provide financial support to programs supporting unhoused and at-risk-of-homelessness residents. Most of this funding will go directly to shelters and for continuum of care efforts, while some will be used for rental assistance, and for agencies providing housing support services.*

*This item was adopted.*

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$4,994,743 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$339,527), and to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$4,655,216) and will be used to contract with homeless services providers and cover the costs related to serving homeless persons in Cambridge.

***CMA 2020 #131***

*See City Manager's Agenda Item #7 for discussion.*

*This item was adopted.*

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9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a response to the City Council forwarding the ITD budget with an unfavorable recommendation.

***CMA 2020 #132***

During our May 26th Budget Hearing, the Finance Committee voted to refer the Information Technology Department (ITD) to the City Council with an unfavorable recommendation. While the ITD serves as an invaluable resource to both City staff and the broader community, my colleagues and I were frustrated to see that no funding was allocated for a municipal broadband feasibility study. Cambridge has always had problems with promoting digital equity, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made bridging this digital divide even more crucial as the way we work, learn, and communicate has shifted to mainly virtual platforms. Filling in this critical resource gap for low-income residents being left behind in a rapidly changing world has to be a priority, so I was glad to see that the City Manager has finally agreed to move forward on a municipal broadband feasibility study, which was a recommendation of the Cambridge Broadband Task Force. Over the summer, City staff will draft a scope of work, and the City Manager will request an additional appropriation for the feasibility study in the fall. Although we don't know when to expect this work to be completed, this is a crucial first step in creating a municipal broadband system, expanding access and improving internet quality for everyone. Learn more about the Cambridge Broadband Task Force's recommendations [here](#).

This item was placed on file.

10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to the Grant Fund Executive Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to support the City's digital equity efforts to support qualifying families during the COVID19 pandemic who do not have internet access at home.

***CMA 2020 #133***

With this appropriation, the City will be working with Comcast to provide twelve months of free internet service to 400 qualifying low-income households. The COVID-19 public health crisis has only exacerbated the growing digital divide, so the City has to follow in the steps of Somerville, Salem, and Holyoke to make the internet available for low-income residents who would normally lack reliable internet access. Families taking part in Department of Human Service Programs offerings, or who have students in the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) will be prioritized with this program. While some CPS students are using City issued hotspots to complete schoolwork, these hotspots only work with one school-issued computer each, and parents or other family members aren't able to use the hotspots, so transferring these households off of hotspots and onto a free internet subscription is a less clunky and more accessible way to promote digital equity.

This item was adopted.

## II. CALENDAR

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### CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to report back to the Council on how some, or all, of the \$4.1 million dollar increase in the Police Department budget between FY20 and FY21 may be redirected towards measures that promote public health and safety in other departments.

#### **CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER IN COUNCIL JUNE 10, 2020**

##### **POR 2020 #133**

This order, filed by Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler and Zondervan last week, originally asked the City Manager to examine how some or all of the Police Department's budget increase could be reallocated. The order also asked the City Council to go on record with the intention to only approve an FY21 budget that included significant reallocations from policing to public health. However, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler exercised his charter-right (no vote was taken, discussion was ended, and it appears on the following week's agenda) to allow for more conversation and collaboration after some disagreement last week. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler and Councillor Simmons worked together to amend the order to affirm that any funding changes should not result in layoffs, or in cuts to community-building programs like Youth and Family Services, Community Relations, Procedural Justice, and School Crossing divisions. Their amendments also struck out the original requests for the City Manager and the City Council. Instead, the City Manager was asked to commit to a temporary hold on filling CPD vacancies, and instead use the funds to fill other positions put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as a social worker for the Central Square Library, a case manager for the Housing Liaison's Office, and additional Birth to Third early childhood workers.

While I am disappointed that our conversation was cut short last week, I appreciate the work that was done this past week to bring more voices into this conversation. There are a diversity of feelings on potential budget cuts, and while we are lucky here in Cambridge to have a progressive PD headed by a Police Commissioner committed to restorative justice, it does not mean that we are perfect, and that we shouldn't seize this opportunity to take a deep look at policing and how we fund it. This reallocation helps us be more intentional about helping our vulnerable residents, and reflects our shared values as a Council. But this is only the tip of the spear. Institutional racism permeates our housing, zoning, schools, and workforce as well, and these inequities will not be solved with only a budget cut. Instead, we must take a collaborative and intentional approach at reform. Traditional public safety doesn't feel safe for everyone, and we need to explore what that means and address it at its' roots. We need to carefully examine what our PD has been asked to do in order to fill in gaps in social services, mental health services, addiction issues, and why they've been asked to take on a human services role. We need to ask what resources don't exist, and how can we fund those priorities; how we can reimagine those services so we broaden the definition of what we call public safety to include people who don't carry a gun and wear a police uniform.

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The order was later amended to also name Eurie Stamps, who was born in Cambridge and who was murdered by Framingham Police in 2011, as a victim of police brutality, and to affirm that no cuts should jeopardize efforts to increase Cambridge residency and diversity in CPD hires.

This order was adopted as amended.

### ON THE TABLE

2. 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.

3. 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.

**TABLED IN COUNCIL JUNE 1, 2020**

**APP 2020 #22**

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**

No action was taken.

5. 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**

Calendar Items #5-10 are loan orders for major City projects that require City Council approval before the City can borrow the necessary funds. [Click here](#) to learn more about these projects.

This order was adopted.

6. 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

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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**

See Calendar Item #5 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

7. 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**

See Calendar Item #5 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

8. 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**

See Calendar Item #5 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

9. 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**

See Calendar Item #5 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

10. 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**

See Calendar Item #5 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

### III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

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1. An application was received from Central Square Business Improvement District requesting permission for 45 temporary banners along Inman Square, Central Square, Kendall Square and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School along Broadway. Celebrating the graduating class of 2020 from June 16, 2020 through August 16, 2020.

***APP 2020 #25***

This application from the Central Square Business Improvement District (BID) requests permission to place temporary banners celebrating the graduating CRLS class along the City's business squares and CRLS campus. These past few months have been especially difficult for our graduating seniors, who not only lost a chunk of their education, but missed out on coming-of-age rituals like prom and in-person commencement ceremonies, so it's important we celebrate them and their achievements in any way we can.

This application was approved.



## IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

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1. The City Manager is hereby requested to find the appropriate City staff to raise the Juneteenth Flag on June 19th at City Hall.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2020 #135***

This late order from Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Simmons asks the City Manager to ensure the Juneteenth Flag will be raised on June 19th. Juneteenth commemorates June 19th, 1865, the day when slavery was abolished in Texas, marking a formal end to institutional slavery in the United States. Although the City Council has already adopted an order recognizing Juneteenth, raising the flag is an additional way to acknowledge our country's shameful history, celebrate how far we've come, and examine what further work needs to be done. Learn more about Juneteenth [here](#).

This order was adopted as amended.

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### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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1. A communication was received from Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor E. Denise Simmons and Councillor Dennis J. Carlone, Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee, for a public hearing held on May 26, 2020, June 2, 2020 and on June 3, 2020 to discuss the General Fund Budget

***CRT 2020 #2***

These communications outline where the City is in its budgeting process. During our budget hearings on May 26th, June 2nd, and June 3rd, the Finance Committee reviewed, asked questions on, and referred all budgets to the City Council with a favorable recommendation (except for the Information Technology Department Budget, which was referred to the City Council with an unfavorable recommendation, see City Manager's Agenda Item #9 for discussion). In a series of affirmative votes, the City Council adopted the budget, finalizing the FY21 budget. [Click here](#) for a brief overlook of the FY21 budget, or [click here](#) to find the entire budget.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor E. Denise Simmons and Dennis Carlone, Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee, for a public hearing held on June 2, 2020 to discuss the Water Fund

***CRT 2020 #3***

See Committee Reports Item #1 for discussion.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor E. Denise Simmons and Councillor Dennis Carlone, Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee, for a public hearing held on June 2, 2020 to discuss the Public Investment Fund

***CRT 2020 #4***

See Committee Reports Item #1 for discussion.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the FY2021 submitted budget appropriation orders.

***CMA 2020 #98***

See Committee Reports Item #1 for discussion.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

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**VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS**

1. A communication was received from Councillor Zondervan, transmitting Amendments to Policy Order 2020 #133.

***COF 2020 #36***

See Calendar Item #1 for discussion.

This communication was placed on file.