



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • JUNE 29, 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 #146

City staff gave a COVID-19 update.

Reopening Update: The City's playgrounds, tot lots, spray decks, and basketball courts [have reopened](#). Parks are open, but not for events.

Small Business/Non-Profit Relief Update: Small businesses who applied to [the Small Business Relief Program](#) can expect to hear back by the end of the week. Meanwhile, applications for [COVID-19 Emergency and Recovery Grants for non-profit organizations](#) open tomorrow, Wednesday, July 1st. The deadline to apply is Friday, July 10th at noon, and the City hopes to finish reviewing applications a week or two after that date. These funds are desperately needed by our local small business and non-profit communities, and as someone who has been a leader in identifying this funding and working with these sectors on their specific needs, I am happy to see these two relief efforts move forward.

Mask Order Update: The City's [Emergency Order on face coverings has been updated](#). The changes clarify that diners are allowed to remove their masks when eating at reopened restaurants. Until Tuesday, September 22nd, masks can be temporarily removed when outdoors if at least six feet of physical distance can be maintained.

Testing Update: Due to declining demand, the East Cambridge COVID-19 testing tent has been decommissioned. Instead, [the City will be offering free mobile testing](#) in North Cambridge, Harvard Square, East Cambridge, and the Port to expand access in Cambridge's hardest-hit areas ([click here](#) to see the mobile testing schedule and locations). Anyone over the age of eight can be tested regardless of immigration, symptomatic, or health insurance status, and appointments are required at all sites (the Harvard Square location will accept walk-ins from homeless residents). [Click here](#) or call 617-665-3795 to schedule an appointment. The Public Health Department reports that these sites have already sparked

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a lot of community interest, and that mobile testing will be tweaked according to feedback. In total, more than 18,000 COVID-19 tests have been administered in Cambridge.

Public Health Update: To date, [Cambridge's COVID-19 case count](#) stands at 1,094 positive cases, a quarter coming from local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. While 15 residents are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19, that number has been steadily declining, as it was twice as high at the beginning of June. And while we have lost 97 community members as a result of this public health crisis, the Public Health Department assures us that our vigilance is helping mitigate any further deaths, with 70% of COVID-19 patients fully recovered.

Cambridge's overall positivity rate has been steadily declining as well. According to a report from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Cambridge's COVID-19 positivity rate stands at 5.6%, 1% less than it was last week. When compared to Somerville's 7.78%, Arlington's 8%, Boston's 16.8%, and Chelsea's 36%, our numbers show Cambridge's slower reopening and stringent public health guidelines are working.

As the City continues to reopen, the Public Health Department is developing an ambassador program for local playgrounds, where trained adult volunteers and staff would educate families on public health guidelines and distribute PPE. Overall, evidence suggests that children are less susceptible to COVID-19, with residents aged 19 and younger only making up 2.5% (20 total cases) of COVID-19 cases in Cambridge. However, the Public Health Department is continuing to explore options to support school staff and their families in the fall.

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the new appointment of the following persons as associate member of the Board of Zoning Appeal for a term of 5-years, effective June 29, 2020: Matina Williams and Jason Marshall

CMA 2020 #147

This communication was placed on file.

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II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the Cambridge City Council go on record in support of including a two-track Grand Junction railway crossing in MassDOT's Allston Multimodal Improvement Project plans and urges the FMCB to vote in favor of this inclusion.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY IN
COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020**

POR 2020 #144

This order, filed by Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler and Nolan, asks the City Council to go on record in support of expanding the Grand Junction Railway Bridge from a one-track crossing to a two-track crossing, which would allow more communities to be connected by a regional high-speed rail. This potential opportunity comes from the Allston Multimodal Improvement Project, which creates new planning opportunities in Cambridge. Councillor Toomey exercised his charter-right (discussion ended, no vote was taken, and it appears on the next City Council agenda) on this order last week as he was concerned about having a high-speed rail so close to the proposed [Grand Junction Multi-Use Path](#), but his concerns were allayed after a conversation with former Mayor Henrietta Davis. This order was amended to add Mayor Sidiqqui as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to obtain an itemized statement of all materials, tools, and property owned by the Cambridge Police Department.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN
COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020**

POR 2020 #146

This policy order, sponsored by Councillors Zondervan and Sobrinho-Wheeler, asks the City Manager to provide an itemized list of all materials, tools, and property owned by the Cambridge Police Department. Understanding the exact tools the CPD owns is a critical way we can promote accountability and transparency in our policing system. To further enhance the spirit of the policy order, I amended the order to ask the City Manager to include photographs whenever possible with the itemized list. The [Lenco BearCat](#) is, for instance, classified as a rescue vehicle by CPD, which may cause it to be overlooked in discussions on the militarization of police in the United States, but it's used in other municipalities against residents, so having photographs will help us understand what exactly the materials could be used for.

At last week's meeting, Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right on this order to bring forward a complementary policy order, Policy Order and Resolution List Item #3. This order asks the City Manager to work to develop a system-wide review of City government to identify and remove any racial bias. As Councillor Simmons noted during discussion, systemic racism doesn't just affect policing, but permeates our housing, workforce, schools, justice system, and more, and to

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truly be an anti-racist City, we have to ensure each part of municipal government is equitable and unbiased. This order was amended to add the entire City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

3. Policy Order Asking That Juneteenth Be Made an Official City Observance.
CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020 (Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right on the following eight policy orders at last week's meeting because they were late submissions)

POR 2020 #148

This order from Councillor Simmons asks the City Manager to make Juneteenth an official City observance. Juneteenth commemorates the official end of slavery in the United States, and is an opportunity to acknowledge the country's violent past, reflect on how far we've come, explore further anti-racist work to be done, and educate ourselves and our community. This order was amended to add the entire City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

4. Alternative Policing PO.
CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020
POR 2020 #149

When my colleagues and I passed a policy order declaring racism as a public health crisis a few weeks ago, we knew it was just a first step in dismantling institutional racism. To work towards that goal, I filed this order with Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler asking the City Manager to develop an alternative, unarmed response to non-violent 911 calls better suited for public health and human service professionals. For many of our residents, public safety doesn't feel safe, and other municipalities across the country have already successfully implemented alternative co-response programs, like [CAHOOTS](#) (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) in Oregon. Under the CAHOOTS model, calls on housing or homelessness, mental health and addiction, grief and loss, suicide prevention, and more get an unarmed response, and those involved are offered a wide range of services fit for their specific needs, like crisis counseling, first aid, resource connections, referrals, and transportation to services. By implementing a similar model, but one adapted to suit our City's needs and informed by community feedback, we can redefine public safety, and reimagine policing. Here in Cambridge, we are lucky to have a progressive Police Department that will serve as a key partner in developing this co-response alternative model. And by continuing to do this work in addressing structural racism in its many forms, we'll help ensure public safety feels safe for every resident. This order was amended to include the entire City Council as co-sponsors, and to include Nashville in the list of named cities the City could look to for inspiration as we reimagine public safety.

This order was adopted as amended.

5. Dispatching crews of hand-sweepers from the Public Works Department to Harvard Street (between Prospect Street to Portland Street) in the Port.
CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020

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POR 2020 #150

Councillor Simmons submitted this policy order to ask the Department of Public Works to dispatch crews of hand-sweepers to Harvard Street between Prospect Street and Portland Street. This neighborhood is home to three parks, three houses of worship, three recreation centers, and two schools, so the area is very dense and gets a lot of traffic, causing debris to accumulate. Hand-sweepers were previously deployed in this area to keep the neighborhood clean, and this order asks for that practice to be reinstated. This order was amended to ask the City Manager to explore further neighborhood beautification efforts through plantings.

This order was adopted as amended.

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is directed to provide the City Council with an update on the formal Anti-bias /Cultural Competency Strategic Plan.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020

POR 2020 #151

This policy order from Councillor Simmons originally asked the City Manager to both provide an update on the formal [Anti-bias/Cultural Competency Strategic Plan](#), and to ask the City Council to amend the City Council rules to hold yearly anti-bias and cultural sensitivity training for City Council and City Administration members. However, as Policy Order and Resolution Item #4 similarly requests the City Council rules be changed to hold these trainings, the order was amended to only ask for the Anti-bias/Cultural Competency Strategic Plan update.

This order was adopted as amended.

7. That the City Manager confer with the City's Housing Liaison and Multi Service Center to discuss a variety of long-term housing solutions and tenant protections and report back to the City Council on July 27, 2020.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020

POR 2020 #152

The above policy order, filed by Mayor Siddiqui, and Councillors Simmons, Sobrinho-Wheeler, and McGovern, and Policy Order and Resolution List Item #8 both seek to support long-term housing stability. COVID-19 has put severe financial strain on countless residents, and has exacerbated Cambridge's ongoing affordable housing crisis. The above order directs the City Manager, the City's Housing Liaison, and staff from the Multi-Service Center to develop long-term housing solutions and tenant protections generally. Policy Order Resolution List Item #8 asks them to implement a Tenants Rights and Resource Notification Act that would require owners to include tenant rights resource information when issuing eviction notices. These complementary orders address the potential upcoming wave of evictions when the statewide eviction moratorium ends in August by educating tenants at an individual level, while asking for systemic, City-wide relief as well.

This order was adopted.

8. That the City Manager includes the weekly COVID-19 Expert Advisory Board meeting notes on the following Monday nights City Council agenda for discussion starting on the Monday, June 29th meeting.

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CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN
COUNCIL JUNE 22, 2020

POR 2020 #153

I filed this order last week to ask the City Manager to include the COVID-19 Expert Advisory Board's weekly meeting notes on the City Council agenda. This group informs and affects many of the City's COVID-19 policies, so it is crucial that the City Council and the public stay informed on their work, and their reasoning for certain actions. As Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right last week on this order when I originally introduced it last week, the order was amended to change the date to Monday, July 27th, when we'll hold our next City Council meeting. This order was further amended to ask that meeting notes from all past meetings be made available as well, to further enhance transparency.

This order was adopted as amended.

ON THE TABLE

9. 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 IN COUNCIL JANUARY 27, 2020

POR 2019 #339

No action was taken.

10. 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 BY IN COUNCIL JUNE 1, 2020

APP 2020 #22

This application was previously tabled to allow time to gather neighborhood feedback on the proposal. As the contractor for this project has engaged with neighborhood groups, all the responding abutters were supportive, and COVID-19 has delayed this application for months, the City Council approved it.

This application was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. 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.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Coffee Bagel Brands, requesting revocation of Bond #106832755 in the amount of 3000.00 for awnings at the premises numbered 1876 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services; Awnings have been removed.

APP 2019 #69

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

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VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Council go on record in full support of the state legislation “An Act relative to saving black lives and transforming public safety” as a first step in changing law enforcement standards, use of force, and reporting in Massachusetts.

Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

POR 2020 #155

This order asks the City Council to go on record in support of the state bill HD.5128/SD2968, “An Act relative to saving black lives and transforming public safety, which would create new standards for law enforcement conduct, use of force, and incident reporting. While Cambridge already adheres to some of the bill’s proposals, like banning chokeholds and mandating a duty to intervene for police officers, this bill will help enhance police accountability and transparency. At our Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 7th, we’ll be discussing the Police Department’s use of force policy as it relates to other elements from the bill, such as banning no-knock warrants, to address these areas while the state bill is still being considered. This order was amended to include the entire City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Cambridge Public Libraries and the Cambridge Library Staff Association to develop new and expanded ways to distribute physical library materials to Cambridge youth over the summer, including possible mobile checkout sites

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan

POR 2020 #156

I filed this policy order with Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Nolan to ask the City Manager, the Director of Libraries, and the Cambridge Library Staff Association to develop additional ways to distribute books to young residents over the summer, especially by creating mobile checkout sites. Regular summer learning loss will be coupled with COVID slide this year, and while the Libraries are currently offering contactless holds pickup, we have to get creative about how we expand access to library materials for young readers who need more guidance from the Library than just using the online reservation system. By creating healthy and safe opportunities to lend library materials through mobile checkouts, book bags or other creative solutions, the Library can continue to foster relationships and provide that critical engagement, while helping mitigate learning loss, and giving kids an outlet for stress through books.

This order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City personnel to establish a plan designed to provide a thorough, system-wide review of the entire municipal government to identify and remove any vestiges of systemic racism and/or racial bias in any and all City departments, to establish clear, transparent metrics that will help further this critical endeavor, and to report back to the City Council on this matter no later than September 14, 2020

Councillor Simmons

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POR 2020 #157

See Calendar Item #2 for discussion.

This order was adopted as amended.

4. That the Chair of the Civic Unity Committee schedule hearings to discuss how to best incorporate language into the City Council's rules that will call for anti-bias, anti-racist, and cultural sensitivity trainings to be held on a yearly basis.

Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #158

This originally asked the Chair of the Civic Unity Committee to schedule hearings to discuss adding a City Council rule calling for anti-bias, anti-racist, and cultural sensitivity trainings to be held each year. As the Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee is responsible for developing the City Council rules, this order was amended to direct the Chair of the Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee to schedule this hearing instead. See Calendar Item #6 for related discussion.

This order was adopted as amended.

5. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Assistant City Manager of Community Development to determine how to best protect and preserve our commercial spaces that support our small business operators and maintain continuity in our commercial districts, and report back to the City Council with recommendations at the September 14th City Council meeting.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2020 #159

This policy order asks the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager of Community Development to develop recommendations on how to best preserve commercial spaces that support small businesses and commercial districts. Our local small business community was struggling before this pandemic hit, and we now expect more small businesses to permanently close as a result, leaving commercial vacancies, and disrupting the character and vibrancy of the City's commercial districts. Small businesses also offer residents the affordable products and services they need, so if our small businesses disappear, economic opportunities and stability could be lost for a lot of residents too. By getting these recommendations, we can better learn how to preserve commercial space, and uplift our local small business community in their time of great need. This order was amended to include the entire City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

6. That the City Council go on record in support of H. 3924, An Act Enabling Local Options for Tenant Protections, which is currently under consideration before the Massachusetts State Legislature.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone

POR 2020 #160

This order asks the City Council to go on record in support of state bill H.3924, An Act Enabling Local Options for Tenant Protections. If passed, this legislation would give municipalities more local options to address homelessness and the affordable housing crisis, but would not require the City to act in any specific way. As the statewide eviction moratorium is slated to expire later this summer, we could see a wave of evictions follow, which disproportionately affect low-income residents and people of color.

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We'll need every tool at our disposal to promote safe, stable, and affordable housing, and the local options that H.3924 would give the City can help us prepare.

This order was adopted.

7. That the City Manager work with the Department of Human Services Recreation Division and other relevant departments to determine the feasibility of identifying one evening or day per week that the Fresh Pond Golf Course can be open to the public for general use.

Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone

POR 2020 #161

Ensuring residents have equitable access to open space has always been a priority of mine. But it's especially crucial, now more than ever, that residents have the open space they need to exercise, play, or get to where they need to go while practicing physical distancing. Councillors Nolan, Zondervan, Carlone, and I submitted this policy order to potentially open up even more space by asking the City Manager to open Fresh Pond Golf Course to the public for one day or evening a week. From May 6th to May 21st of this year, Fresh Pond Golf Course was open to the public for general use, and was enjoyed by countless residents, many of whom may not typically be able to access the space, so I'm hopeful we can continue to free up more open space for residents' use, especially in the summer months.

This order was adopted.

8. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the City Manager's Housing Liaison and Multi Service Center on implementing a Tenants Rights and Resource Notification Act that would require owners and management companies to include tenant rights and resource information when issuing eviction notifications including at the initial Notice to Quit stage and report back to the City Council on July 27, 2020.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern

POR 2020 #162

See Calendar Item #7 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

9. That the City Manager confer with the Cambridge Public Health Department to discuss the feasibility of providing mobile testing at locations throughout the city for families, students and school staff. That the City Manager provide an update to the feasibility of placing mobile testing sites by July 27, 2020 in order to provide ample time to prepare for the upcoming school year and keep our students and staff safe.

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

POR 2020 #163

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact our daily lives until there is a vaccine, and although Cambridge is lucky to have a low COVID-19 positivity rate, we have to be prepared when school resumes in the fall. That's why Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan and I sponsored this policy order asking the City Manager to create mobile testing sites for students, school staff, and their families. Although evidence suggests kids are less likely to transmit or get sick from COVID-19, teachers, administrators, and other school staff members could be at-risk if classes are wholly or partially in-person, so it's critical we make testing as widely available to them as possible. The City already formed a strong partnership with the Broad Institute when we previously conducted rapid testing at local nursing homes, so

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we have an opportunity to develop cutting-edge pool testing to keep our residents safe, while ensuring students can continue to learn and grow.

This order was adopted.

10. That the Cambridge City Council goes on record showing support and solidarity with the employees of the River Street Whole Foods wearing Black Lives Matter masks.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2020 #164

During a time of great public outcry and action to dismantle racist institutions, employees at the River Street Whole Foods locations are being unfairly sent home for wearing Black Lives Matter masks, even though Whole Foods and Amazon, its parent company, have publicly supported the Black Lives Matter movement. That's why Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, and I filed this late order to express solidarity with the employees, to condemn the actions by the management of Whole Foods, and to encourage management to work collaboratively with employees to find a solution. My colleagues and I on the City Council were out protesting with employees and community members at the Whole Foods River Street location over the weekend, but this order is a way we can formally express disapproval and create a sense of urgency for their management to make this right.

This order was adopted.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councilor Simmons, Chair of the Government Operations, Rules & Claims Committee, for a public hearing held on February 19, 2020

CRT 2020 #5

These committee reports would typically include minutes of committee meetings. However, these placeholders were mistakenly added to the agenda, as the City Clerk was unable to complete the minutes as he hoped to do. As these items were improperly before the City Council, no action was taken.

No action was taken.

2. A communication was received from Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councilor Simmons, Chair of the Government Operations, Rules & Claims Committee, for a public hearing held on March 12, 2020

CRT 2020 #6

See Committee Reports Item #1 for discussion.

No action was taken.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, transmitting considerations about reopening schools this fall

COF 2020 #39

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui outlines the work she and the School Committee is doing to plan for the upcoming school year. See Policy Order and Resolution List Item #9 for further discussion, or [click here to read the full communication](#).

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Vice Mayor Alanna Mallon, transmitting the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC) Update and Outreach Project Report.

COF 2020 #40

I filed this communication to update my colleagues on the work being done by the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, the Department of Human Service Programs, Food For Free, and my office to support low-income residents. In [a communication I submitted on May 7th](#), I announced a targeted outreach campaign to connect residents receiving assistance from the Cambridge Community Food Line with other, more sustainable and long-term resources, like SNAP/WIC, rental assistance programs, grant relief, unemployment benefits, and more. Since then, this targeted outreach campaign has been an enormous success, with CEOC trained callers reaching and assisting almost every resident on the call list. This effort went far beyond the traditional mailer or flyer. And as we adapt to the new normal, this outreach campaign will evolve. CEOC will deploy staff members to food pantry sites, where they can provide face-to-face, real-time, and highly personalized resource connections to patrons. Food pantries serve as a critical resource to the most vulnerable members of our community, but they're only a band-aid to the underlying cycle of poverty. Rather than continuing to offer only temporary solutions, we can use this potentially transformative personalized assistance model to create pathways out of poverty through housing assistance, workforce development opportunities, and more. This is an opportunity to deliver human services in a humane way, and I look forward to continuing to develop this model in the coming weeks. [Click here](#) to read the full communication.

This communication was placed on file.