



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA NOVEMBER 2, 2020

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30PM

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

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a COVID-19 update.
CMA 2020 #247

City staff provided a COVID update.

State Update: The Baker administration issued new guidelines to address the spike in COVID cases across the Commonwealth and the country. Residents are advised to stay at home between 10pm and 5pm except to go to work, run essential errands, and to take a walk. Certain businesses and activities will have to close between 9:30pm and 5am. Residents must wear a face covering at all times in public spaces, even if physical distancing is possible. Indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to ten people, and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. All of these guidelines will go into effect on Friday, November 6th. For more information, [click here](#).

Arts Update: Last week, the City committed \$500,000 to [the \\$600,000 Cultural Capital Fund](#) being administered by the Cambridge Community Foundation. Mayor Siddiqui and I have been fiercely advocating for this critical grant program that will provide immediate financial relief to the Arts organizations that make up the heart and soul of our community. Under this program, eligible Arts organizations can receive up to \$25,000 to make capital improvements necessary due to COVID, and up to \$10,000 for operations and programming. CCF is also hoping to raise \$5 million over the next five years to support Cambridge's long-term cultural richness. When I spearheaded the Mayor's Arts Task Force, I heard time and time again from our creators that one of the key ways the City could support the Arts community was to give them meaningful financial support, and I am so excited that we, as a City, stepped up and did just that.

Homeless Shelter Update: Construction at Spaulding Hospital [to relocate the temporary emergency homeless shelter](#) there is continuing, and it is expected to be ready for occupancy on November 19th. The City is working with Bay Cove Services to ensure services offered to residents will be carried over to the new site.

Halloween Update: The City Manager reported that the Halloween holiday was uneventful, and that CPD received no significant complaints for large gatherings.

Flu Update: The City is offering one final community flu clinic on Saturday, November 14th at the Cambridgeside Parking Garage. For more information, [click here](#). At the five flu clinics the City has

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already hosted, 1,912 flu vaccines have been given. First responders, homeless residents, and those living in senior housing were vaccinated through targeted flu campaigns earlier this fall.

Testing Update: Throughout the month of November, the City will be [offering free COVID testing each day](#) to those who work and live in Cambridge. Testing is a critical way we can track the impact COVID has on our community and ensure those who are sick receive treatment, so I'm grateful to see we've expanded our testing program. As we have many more appointments available now, I hope the Public Health Department and the City's communications team can develop a communication strategy explaining to residents when they should get tested. We've also started to see [cases re-emerge in among staff and residents in long-term care facilities](#), and since most of Cambridge's COVID deaths have come from nursing home residents, we must proactively develop a targeted testing strategy to protect these vulnerable members of our community. [Click here](#) to make an appointment to get tested.

To date, 236,296 tests have been administered to Cambridge residents, including 16,478 administered at the City's mobile testing sites. Over the past two weeks, Cambridge has a .16% positivity rate, lower than other Massachusetts municipalities with similar sizes. In our Public Schools, free testing is offered to all staff twice a week, and any educators or scholars who develop symptoms during the school day are tested as well. As of October 15th, 1,913 tests have been administered to asymptomatic CPS staff, and 32 tests have been given to symptomatic staff and students. The Public Health Department has partnered with our local charter schools to provide them with their own testing kits.

Public Health Update: Cambridge's COVID case count currently stands at 1,581 cases, and remains steady with a devastating 100 deaths in our community. 1,118 of those cases have thankfully recovered, while 118 cases remain active. As COVID cases are on the rise across the country, the Public Health Department is examining the nature of transmission, mainly from increased time spent indoors because of the colder weather, and the reopening of workplaces, indoor dining, and universities.

The Public Health Department has formed the Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative to coordinate testing, and eventually, vaccination. The Cambridge Community Corps have also recently launched a new initiative in Harvard Square handing out 'courtesy cards' reminding residents to wear masks. Results from the new local wastewater testing program, which serves as an early-warning signal for COVID spikes, should be available later this month.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000, from Free Cash to the General Fund Executive Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account to support the City's Patio Heater Reimbursement Program.

CMA 2020 #248

This communication announces the appropriation of \$100,000 to fund [the Patio Heater Reimbursement Program](#) I advocated for to support our local restaurants as they extend the outdoor dining season into winter. Under this program, each restaurant can receive up to \$1,250 to reimburse the cost of up to five patio heaters, helping winterize their spaces. I've heard from restaurants that the cost of propane is another financial burden since patio heaters need new fuel roughly each ten hours, so I hope the City will explore further expanding this program to meet this critical need for our local small business community.

This item was adopted.

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3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-46, regarding a report on traffic measures on Concord Avenue.

CMA 2020 #249

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-55, regarding a report on visitor parking in permit Area 14.

CMA 2020 #250

This item was placed on file.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-42, regarding enforcement of illegal parking in front of LBJ Apartments on Erie Street.

CMA 2020 #251

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

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative draft alternative language to the Green Energy Analysis Zoning Petition.

CMA 2020 #252

Earlier this year, Councillor Carlone proposed an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would require certain large developers to conduct and submit an analysis comparing the costs of using fossil fuel and renewable energy sources for their projects, in the hope it would encourage developers to opt for the greener option. His proposal received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board, and, he has since worked with the Community Development Department (CDD) to develop new language that fits more cohesively into the Zoning Ordinance while keeping the original spirit of the ordinance. This communication contains CDD's proposed language, while Calendar Item #3 had its language substituted to include CDD's language with a few changes from Councillor Carlone. As Councillor Carlone noted that there was time to reconcile the differences between his language and CDD's language before ordination, the City Council voted to pass the Ordinance to a second reading.

This item was referred to Calendar Item #3.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a request for approval to increase of the fee for a Resident Parking Permit/Pass, which is currently \$25.00, to \$40.00, by amending the provisions of Chapter 10, Section 10.17.070 of the Municipal Code.

CMA 2020 #253

This communication asked the City Council to approve a \$15 increase for next year's parking permit fees, as parking meter revenue has gone down this year. During a 2018 [Ordinance Committee meeting](#), the City Council discussed increasing the fee and asked the City to develop a means testing system, through which low-income residents already accessing other government benefits like SNAP could avoid an increased fee. Despite asking for that over two years ago, the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department and the City Manager never worked towards creating that system. Although it may not seem like much to some, \$15 makes a huge difference for a lot of low-income residents, especially with widespread layoffs and business closures earlier this year. During discussion, staff from the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation stated that they couldn't develop a means testing system before this fee increase would be rolled out, and our low-income residents shouldn't have to face an increased burden during a global pandemic due to the City's inaction, so I, alongside the majority of my colleagues, voted against approving this fee increase.

This item failed to be passed to a second reading.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Council adopt a municipal ordinance to reduce or limit campaign donations from donors seeking to enter into a contract, seeking approval for a special permit or up-zoning, seeking to acquire real estate from the city, or seeking financial assistance from the city;

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL
OCTOBER 26, 2020
POR 2020 #240**

This order from Councillors Carlone, Nolan, Sobrinho-Wheeler, and Zondervan asks the City Council to adopt an ordinance limiting campaign donations from donors with an invested financial interest in the City. Last week, Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right (discussion ended, no vote was taken, and it appears on the next agenda) as she shared my concern that the School Committee hadn't been adequately involved in this process, as this ordinance would impact their campaigns as well. During discussion, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, and I proposed alternative language that would cap all campaign donations at \$200 per individual, per candidate, per year, and would limit candidate loans to \$3,000 each election cycle. Our proposed language is simpler, and therefore easier to enforce, and offers more meaningful campaign finance reform. Capping donations at a lower amount helps mitigate the disproportionate impact wealthier residents have on politics, and capping candidate loans levels the playing field for candidates of different socioeconomic backgrounds (some candidates loaned their own campaigns \$20,000 or more in the last few last election cycles). As some other Councillors felt that the original order and our suggested language should be kept separate, we instead submitted our proposed alternative language as a late policy order that will be discussed alongside the original order at an Ordinance Committee meeting. The original order largely copies and pastes from [Somerville's "Pay to Play" ordinance](#), but has some amendments that must be addressed during that committee discussion.

This order was referred to the Ordinance Committee as amended.

2. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Solicitor to draft Ordinance language to prohibit the use of tear gas in Cambridge.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL
OCTOBER 26, 2020
POR 2020 #241**

This order, submitted by Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler, Zondervan, and Nolan, and Mayor Siddiqui, asks the City Solicitor to provide draft language for an ordinance banning the use of tear gas in Cambridge. Last week, Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right, as she felt the order should recognize that Cambridge police haven't used tear gas for over thirty years. This order was amended to state that CPD hasn't used tear gas in recent years, while also acknowledging that CPD previously used tear gas against Cambridge residents protesting for peace and racial justice, with documented instances in 1970 and 1972. In a lot of ways, CPD serves as a national model for progressive policing, but that doesn't mean we, as a City, shouldn't reimagine public safety and government administration as a whole to better protect and serve our community.

This order was adopted as amended.

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ON THE TABLE

3. Green Energy Analysis Zoning Amendment.

TABLED ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR CARLONE IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 5, 2020

POR 2020 #147

This item was passed to a second reading as amended. See City Manager's Agenda Item #6 for discussion.

4. An application was received from Charles Doty, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 810 Main 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 COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 26, 2020

APP 2020 #41

Councillor Simmons previously exercised her charter-right on this application because she had concerns over the level of feedback from abutters the petitioner had gathered, along with their overall level of community engagement. After she discussed the matter further with the petitioner and abutters, the City Council voted to approve this application.

This application was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. 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.

6. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the City of Cambridge Law Department to review the above changes to the language of the Domestic Partnerships Ordinance and report back to the Council.

PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JULY 27, 2020.

TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

POR 2020 #180

No action was taken.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a response to Policy Order O-13 of October 5, 2020, regarding a draft Truck Safety Ordinance.

PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 19, 2020 TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 9, 2020

CMA 2020 #234

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No action was taken.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Jesse Aguilar, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 87 Cambridge Park Drive; 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 #43

Councillor Carlone expressed some concerns over the drawings as submitted, Councillor Nolan exercised her charter-right.

Councillor Nolan exercised her charter-right.

IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. Policy Order Seeking Suitable Dedication For Eurie Stamps, Sr.

Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #245

This order asks that Eurie Stamps, an unarmed, black Cambridge native who was murdered by Framingham police in 2011, be given a street corner deviation to honor his legacy and mourn his loss in our community. This order was adopted to add the entire City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department to commence the public process with the Port neighborhood and surrounding communities to determine the future use of the 35 Cherry Street parcel for affordable housing, and in conjunction with the community, determine the type of housing that would meet the most pressing needs in the area

Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #246

As a part of a 2013 rezoning petition, MIT gave the City a parcel of land located at 35 Cherry Street. The use of the property has to be decided through a public process, and, originally, there was a lot of community excitement over what the land could be used for, but no meaningful progress has been made towards developing the site. This policy order, therefore, asks the Community Development Department to initiate that public process to create affordable housing. This order was amended to add Mayor Siddiqui as a co-sponsor. However, as Councillor Zondervan was concerned that this policy order focuses only on affordable housing, and doesn't acknowledge other potential uses, like open green space or a community kitchen, that were proposed years ago, he exercised his charter-right.

Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right.

3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Public Information Office, the Housing Liaison, the Multiservice Center, the School Department, and other relevant City departments to create a comprehensive digital, postal, and traditional media outreach campaign educating residents on the Cambridge eviction moratorium, tenants' rights, and resources available to at-risk tenants

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

POR 2020 #247

I filed this policy order with Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Simmons, and Mayor Siddiqui to ask the City's housing leaders to develop a comprehensive outreach campaign educating residents on the Cambridge eviction moratorium, tenants' rights, and resources available to at-risk tenants. Even though the statewide eviction moratorium expired on October 17th, Cambridge residents are protected under our [municipal eviction moratorium](#), which prevents tenants from being forced to leave their homes. Still, a lot of residents may not be aware of or fully understand that right, or may not know where they can go to for help with housing issues, which is why we need an extensive, City-wide outreach campaign using all different forms of media and communication to get the word out. Evictions have always posed a public health risk, but that risk is even higher now, so we need to do everything we can to ensure our residents are informed, empowered, and able to seek assistance if they need it. If you need help with a housing issue, contact Maura Pensak, Housing Liaison, at mpensak@cambridgema.gov or Maria Melo, Case Manager, at mmelo@cambridgema.gov for free assistance.

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This order was adopted.

4. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request for a suitable dedication in the vicinity of CCTV's office located at 438 Massachusetts Avenue in honor of retiring CCTV Executive Director Susan Fleischmann

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #248

Susan Fleischmann has served as CCTV's devoted Executive Director for over thirty years, and under her leadership, CCTV has achieved recognition for its work, supported efforts to bridge the digital divide, worked tirelessly to disperse accurate, important information to residents during this public health crisis, and so much more. Susan intends to retire from her position in early 2021, and while her legacy will live on through the love of media she's instilled in young people, and the permanent mark she's left on community media in Cambridge, Mayor Siddiqui and I thought it only fitting to honor her hard work by commemorating a space for her near CCTV's Central Square headquarters. This order was amended to add Councillors Simmons and Toomey as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

5. That the City Manager is hereby requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light up City Hall teal on Thursday, November 5, 2020, to raise awareness and support for those affected by Alzheimer's Disease.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #249

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

6. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the relevant departments about the feasibility of posting all applications for building permits online as soon as available.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern

POR 2020 #250

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. That a Joint Roundtable for members of the City Council and School Committee be held on Tuesday, November 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for the purpose of discussing the impact of COVID-19 on Cambridge Public Schools.

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2020 #251

Next Tuesday, November 10th, the City Council and School Committee will be holding a joint roundtable discussion on the impact COVID is having on our scholars. Although the City Council isn't necessarily responsible for school administration, it's in our scholars' and educators' best interest to bring City leadership together, exchange ideas, and foster understanding on why certain decisions are being made, especially as we plan for the spring semester.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

8. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department about analyzing eviction data from 2018 through 2021 and come back with a plan on how to use this data to inform our next action steps.

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

POR 2020 #252

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This policy order, filed by Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, and I, asks the Community Development Department to analyze eviction data it has collected across the past few years, and develop a plan on how to use that analysis moving forward. As a City, we pride ourselves in taking a data-driven approach to policy making, and understanding this data will help us make more informed decisions as we address the waves of housing instability and evictions that could hurt our community.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

9. That the Cambridge City Council direct the City Manager to work with the City Solicitor's Office to draft a Home Rule Petition that would cap campaign contributions to any City Council candidate to \$200 per person, per year, per candidate and limit candidate loans to \$3,000 per election cycle.

Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons

POR 2020 #253

This late policy order, filed by Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, and I, was originally offered as alternative language to the proposed campaign finance reform ordinance. See Calendar Item #1 for discussion.

This order was adopted.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Councillor Simmons, transmitting a memorandum regarding Cambridge Brands Curb Cut.
COF 2020 #62
This item was placed on file. See Calendar Item #2 for further discussion.
2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, Communicating information from the School Committee.
COF 2020 #63
This communication from Mayor Siddiqui outlines the work she and the School Committee are doing to support our CPS scholars and educators inside and outside the classroom. [Click here](#) to read her full update.

This item was placed on file.
3. A communication was received from Councillor Simmons, transmitting a memorandum Mass Housing Coalition Pledge
COF 2020 #64
This item was placed on file.