



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • MARCH 8, 2021

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 the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

CMA 2021 #38

City staff gave a COVID update.

Homeless Services Update: Since the start of the pandemic, the City has invested \$15.5 million in supporting our unhoused community. Programs have ranged from funding [the temporary emergency homeless shelter](#), the [shelter meals program](#), and [the Y2Y shelter](#), to offering over 40 housing vouchers to homeless residents and contracting with local non-profits to support them as they get on a path towards stable, permanent housing. CPHD's mobile team also visited neighborhoods around the City to vaccinate shelter guests and staff onsite, administering 632 first and second doses.

Small Business Update: The Inspectional Services Department is continuing to provide local small businesses with updated guidance, and performs routine inspections. The City has allowed outdoor dining through the winter, and is preparing for an expansion of outdoor dining in the upcoming warmer months.

Open Space Update: The City Manager's Office and the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department (TPT) has begun reaching out to the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation to explore the possibility of closing Memorial Drive to cars and opening it up for pedestrians and cyclists early this year. Memorial Drive would typically close on the last Sunday in April, but given the popularity of its expanded closures last year, I hope we can get this effort up and running again as soon as possible. I want to thank Councillor Nolan for her tireless efforts on this! TPT is exploring the possibility of having a modified [Shared Streets Pilot](#) in the spring, and while no official decision has been made yet, I'm hopeful that we can have an updated program that encompasses community feedback, and gives residents the space they need to safely practice physical distancing while getting outside.

Schools Update: CPS staff and students returned to campuses last week for the start of expanded learning, and CPHD is reporting very low rates of transmission. Through CPS' seven pool testing pilots, no cases were identified among 1,380 staff members, while four cases were identified among 679

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students. To date, CPS staff has been tested 16,683 times since October 15th as part of their voluntary testing program. Last week, Governor Baker announced that educators would be pushed up in vaccine priority, following a directive from President Biden. Educators can now make appointments at CVS, and can make appointments at mass-vaccination sites starting Thursday, March 11th. CPHD stands ready to offer a vaccine clinic specifically for CPS staff if the state provides the necessary doses, but that seems unlikely. The state is expected to release specific dates reserved for educators to get vaccinated as mass-vaccination sites. **Mayor Siddiqui and I have created the Cambridge Vaccine Volunteer Corps to help residents who need help making appointments, and you can contact us for assistance by emailing aklein@cambridgema.gov.**

Vaccine Update: Across the Commonwealth, 1.4 million residents have been vaccinated, including 2,200 people who have received at least a first dose at one of CPHD's vaccine clinics. Vaccine sites maintain waitlists of those seeking to be vaccinated in the event that there are extra doses, as the Moderna vaccine needs to be used within six hours of the vial being opened. CPHD hasn't wasted a single dose, and is working to continue vaccinating senior housing residents onsite. The state has received a limited number of doses of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, but isn't expecting to receive more until late March or early April at the earliest. City J&J

Vaccine uptake among communities of color has been higher in Cambridge than across the Commonwealth, and the City is continuing with its multifaceted outreach campaign to reach vulnerable populations. With daily outreach through [the City's website](#), emails, door-knocking, social media, and the Clinicians Speakers Bureau, CPHD is working to expand communication and community knowledge about the vaccine's safety and efficacy. A number of community forums targeting vulnerable populations have already been held, and more are in the works.

Testing Update: The City continues to offer free, daily testing to every who lives or works in Cambridge. Appointments are recommended, but not required, and can be made [by clicking here](#) or by calling 617-349-9788. 5,693 tests were administered through this program in the first week of March, and CPHD is examining demand and employee's capacity moving forward. Cambridge's positivity rate stands at .39%, with an average of 16.3 cases per 100,000 residents, compared to 1.67% statewide. This represents a slight uptick in case numbers in Cambridge, and CPHD attributes it to indoor activities without masks, like indoor dining.

Public Health Update: Cambridge's COVID case count currently stands at 4,994 cases and a devastating 121 deaths. 17% of cases are active as we approach the anniversary of Cambridge's shutdown next week. While they appear to be leveling, our cases numbers are still higher than what they were last summer, so it's critical to remain vigilant about mask use, physical distancing, and proper hand hygiene.

[Click here](#) for CPHD's full COVID update.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the Annual Surveillance Report concerning City Departments' use of Surveillance Technology or Surveillance Data.

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CMA 2021 #39

The City has a [Surveillance Technology Ordinance](#) that bans the use of facial recognition technology and requires City Departments to get yearly approval from the City Council for any surveillance technology used. This communication contains this year's Surveillance Technology Impact Reports, and was referred to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion. [Click here](#) to read the submitted Surveillance Technology Impact Reports.

This report was referred to the Public Safety Committee.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Surveillance Technology Impact Report which describes landline location technology for the Emergency Communications Department.

CMA 2021 #40

This report was accepted. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for further discussion.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a response to a Policy Order that was adopted on December 14, 2020 as part of the Public Safety Committee Report from October 7, 2020, regarding data on ShotSpotter, OMEGA Dashboard and COPLINK.

CMA 2021 #41

On October 7th, 2020 [the Public Safety Committee convened a hearing](#) on the Surveillance Technology Impact Reports and annual reports on ShotSpotter, OMEGA Dashboard, and COPLINK. During that meeting, Councillor Zondervan submitted [a policy order](#) asking the City Manager and the Police Department to provide specific data on the efficacy of and access to these surveillance technologies used by CPD. [This communication](#) provides that data and information, and it was referred to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.

This item was referred to the Public Safety Committee.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a summary report of all requests for approval of Surveillance Technology Impact Reports (STIRs) received by the City Council in the prior year.

CMA 2021 #42

This item was placed on file. See City Manager's Agenda Item #2 for further discussion on the consent agenda (no discussion).

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) through the City of Boston's Office of Emergency Management, in the amount of \$25,000 to the Grant Fund Fire Department Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to purchase a security gate for the East Cambridge Fire Station parking lot.

CMA 2021 #43

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) through the City of Boston's Office of Emergency Management, in the amount of \$75,000 to the Grant Fund Fire Department Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to replace the existing 800MHz interoperability channel.

CMA 2021 #44

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This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation on the Green Roofs Ordinance (Oliver, et al.) Zoning Petition.

CMA 2021 #45

This communication from the Planning Board gives a negative recommendation on the proposed [Green Roofs Ordinance Zoning Petition](#), an effort spearheaded by Mothers Out Front to require vegetation or solar panels be included on the roofs of new construction or significant renovations larger than 20,000 square feet. While members of the Planning Board agree that green roofs are a good way to mitigate the impacts of climate change, they had concerns over the language's content and clarity, potential impacts on affordable housing developments, and a lack of input from stakeholders. Generally, the Planning Board would prefer more flexibility, and wants to recognize the work that the City's [Climate Resilience Zoning Task Force](#) is doing to create comprehensive strategies to address climate change through zoning. Mothers Out Front is working with the Community Development Department to develop new language that addresses the Planning Board's concerns, and I look forward to seeing that updated language soon. [Click here](#) to read the Planning Board's full report.

This item was referred to the petition.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Calendar Item Number 2 dated November 2, 2020, which requested draft ordinance language to prohibit the use of tear gas in Cambridge.

CMA 2021 #46

This communication responds to [a policy order](#) filed by Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler, Zondervan, and Nolan, and Mayor Siddiqui asking the City Solicitor to draft ordinance language that would prohibit the use of tear gas in Cambridge. The Cambridge Police Department hasn't used tear gas in over thirty years, and police officers aren't expressly allowed to use it, but this order sought to take that effort a step further and codify a ban into law. However, this communication from the City Solicitor opines that the City Council does not have the authority to ban CPD's use of tear gas and chemical weapons. Police Commissioner Bard is working on an internal policy prohibiting its use, which should be finalized within sixty days.

This item was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. An application was received from TD Bank, requesting permission for 4 (four) awnings at the premises numbered 617 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN
COUNCIL MARCH 1, 2021**

APP 2021 #6

Last week, Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right (discussion ended, no vote was taken and it appears on the next agenda) on this application because he had some unanswered questions. As some questions arose during discussion on whether these awnings fit the zoning definition of awnings or signs, this application was laid on the table to give Councillors time to consult with the petitioner.

This application was placed on the table.

2. Task Force Transparency

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN
COUNCIL MARCH 1, 2021**

POR 2021 #36

Last week, Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right before discussion began on this item, which asks that meeting materials from [the Task Force to Examine the Future of Public Safety](#) be made public to promote transparency and community engagement. This Task Force was created in response to [a policy order](#) I filed last summer with Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler that asked the City to create an alternative Public Safety Crisis Response System, and is charged with exploring ways that certain emergency calls could be redirected from police officers to clinicians and social workers. This week, Councillor Simmons submitted amendments that would have the Task Force hold at least one public meeting before issuing final recommendations to gather input from the community, and give monthly updates to the City Council on progress made. There was some concern about the privacy of Task Force members, so this compromise is an important step in enhancing transparency, and created a historical record of progress made so we can look to what was done in the past to inform our future.

This order was adopted as amended.

3. Shelter Wages

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN
COUNCIL MARCH 1, 2021**

POR 2021 #38

Staff at the 240 Albany Street are paid \$15/hr, less than the \$16.65/hr mandated under the City's Living Wage Ordinance for contractors. While the 240 Albany Street isn't City-funded, other

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resources, such as the Warming Center, are, and this pay discrepancy has been reported as creating low morale among staff. Since the shelter uses state funding, not taxpayer dollars, for shelter programs, I submitted amendments last week that would bring the state, as well as Bay Cove Human Services, which runs 240 Albany Street, and stakeholders into this conversation as we try to rectify this pay disparity. Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right on this order last week so we could discuss my proposed amendments, and we developed new language together that calls out the importance of bringing these partners into this conversation.

This order was adopted as amended.

ON THE TABLE

4. Resolution on the Death of William Leeds.
TABLED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL JANUARY 11, 2021
CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
IN COUNCIL JANUARY 4, 2021
RES 2021 #5
No action was taken.
5. Vaccinating CPS Staff Plan PO.
TABLED IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 3, 2021
POR 2021 #21
No action was taken.
6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-64, requesting Home Rule language to allow for acoustic live entertainment performances in small businesses under certain conditions without a license.
TABLED IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 22, 2021
CMA 2021 #32
No action was taken.
7. The Health & Environment Committee met on October 13, 2020 to discuss amending the Tree Protection Ordinance based on the findings of the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force.
TABLED IN COUNCIL MARCH 1, 2021 BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. 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.
9. 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.

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**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JULY 27, 2020.
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
POR 2020 #180**

This item contains amendments to the Domestic Partnerships Ordinance that would allow polyamorous residents to enter into domestic partnerships with more than one partner. This is a critical step forward in not only ensuring Cambridge is a welcoming home to all, but that residents in polyamorous partnerships are able to gain legal recognition of their relationships and access spousal healthcare benefits. The City Council held an Ordinance Committee hearing earlier this year (see Committee Reports Item #2) to discuss amendments with the LGBTQ+ Commission and advocates, and Councillor Zondervan submitted additional amendments during discussion that would allow residents to enter into multiple domestic partnerships to encompass more forms of relationships. These amendments were adopted.

This item was ordained as amended.

10. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Arvind Srinivasan regarding zoning language relative to the Alewife Quadrangle Northwest overlay.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MARCH 1, 2021 TO BE ORDAINED
ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2021**

APP 2020 #39

No action was taken.

III. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. Mobile Vaccines Policy Order

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons

POR 2021 #40

As we approach mass-vaccination in the spring, it's critical we begin planning now to ensure accessibility is at the heart of our vaccine rollout, especially for vulnerable, hard-to-reach residents who may not have access to the internet or reliable transportation. That's why I've filed a policy order with Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Simmons asking the City Manager to explore using municipally-owned or rented vehicles to create a mobile vaccine clinic program. By expanding upon the existing framework that allowed us to vaccinate elderly residents onsite in low-income housing buildings, we can bring vaccines directly to residents' neighborhoods, and make it as easy and convenient as possible for them to get vaccinated. Baltimore already has a successful mobile vaccine clinic, so I'm hopeful that the City can begin this planning now, so we're ready when vaccine doses are more widely available to municipalities in future rollout phases.

This order was adopted.

2. Waiving Business Fees

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon

POR 2021 #41

This policy order, sponsored by Councillor Nolan, Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui and I, asks that all small business permitting and licensing fees be waived this year. Our small business community was struggling even before this pandemic began, and as they try to keep afloat, this is a simple but meaningful way the City can remove a financial barrier for them. Somerville, as well as several other municipalities, previously announced that it would be waiving numerous small business fees throughout the next year, so I hope Cambridge will follow suit to support our local small business community as we transition from relief to recovery.

This order was adopted.

3. Honoring the Cambridge Lives Lost to COVID-19

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

POR 2021 #42

This policy order from Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, and I asks that 121 miniature white flags be placed on the lawn of City Hall to mourn the 121 Cambridge residents we've lost due to COVID. While the City will create a permanent COVID memorial in the future, this is a way to reflect on the past year as we approach the first anniversary of Cambridge's shutdown.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

4. That the Cambridge City Council goes on record in support of the farmer protests in India

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui

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POR 2021 #43

For the past three months, several thousands of Indian farmers have been protesting national policy changes that will result in the loss of a living wage for many small-scale farmers. This resolution has the City Council go on record in support of these farmers' protests for economic justice, and in support of the U.S. federal government re-evaluating its engagement in international economic agreements that incentivize policy changes like these.

This order was adopted.

5. That the City Manager consult relevant staff to implement universal Pre-K in Cambridge
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2021 #44

Before and during this pandemic, women have disproportionately taken on the responsibility of childcare. As we approach the anniversary of Cambridge's shutdown during Women's History Month, we must also acknowledge how women have borne the brunt of this pandemic's economic impacts, largely because they've had to leave their jobs or reduce their hours to take care of their children. While COVID has complicated logistics and planning, the need for accessible childcare and equity in education has never been greater, so I've joined Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, and Councillor Carlone in submitting a policy order asking the City Manager to develop next steps for instituting free, universal Pre-K in Cambridge. The City Council has supported the creation of universal Pre-K for years, and this is a critical way we can alleviate gendered wage gaps and remove racial and economic inequities in early childhood education, while supporting parents as we gradually transition into our new normal, so I hope the City Manager will report back with a path forward soon. This order was amended to include the full City Council as co-sponsors

This order was adopted as amended.

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IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Health and Environment Committee met on November 10, 2020 to continue discussing amending the Tree Protection Ordinance based on the findings of the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force.

Councillor Zondervan is working on amendments to the City's Tree Protection Ordinance with the Law Department, and asked that this report be laid on the table so it can be discussed with those amendments once they're finalized. [Click here](#) for more on this Committee hearing.

This report was placed on the table.

2. The Ordinance Committee met on January 20, 2021 to conduct a public hearing on amendments to the Domestic Partnership Ordinance Committee.

[Click here](#) for more on this Committee hearing. This report was accepted and placed on file.

- A. A communication was received from the Ordinance Committee favorably recommending amendments to the Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

COF 2021 #20

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Carlone, Vice Mayor Mallon

This item was placed on file. See Calendar Item #9 for further discussion.

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V. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, Communicating information from the School Committee.

COF 2021 #21

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui updates the City Council on the work she and the School Committee are doing to support CPS educators and staff as they adjust to in-person learning. [Click here](#) to read her full letter.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, transmitting COVID-19 Update Questions.

COF 2021 #22

This communication contains questions asked by City Councillors that were answered in the City Manager's COVID update (City Manager's Agenda Item #1).

This item was placed on file.