



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • APRIL 26, 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 the reappointment of the following person as a Constable With Power for a term of 3 years, effective January 1, 2021:

Charles Durrah
CMA 2021 #82

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

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a recommendation to reappointment Conrad Crawford as a member of the Cambridge Redevelopment Board for a 5-year term, effective April 13, 2021.

CMA 2021 #83

Unlike most appointments, members of the [Cambridge Redevelopment Authority Board](#) need to be approved by the City Council, rather than the City Manager, and their appointment must be discussed at a public hearing. [Click here](#) for more information on Mr. Crawford's qualifications.

This item was referred to the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committee for further discussion on the consent agenda.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from Boston Scientific for the Frisoli Youth Center in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account which are awarded to the Frisoli Youth Center from Boston Scientific and the Boston Scientific Possibility Grant Program and will be used to purchase a t-shirt design heat press and start up materials.

CMA 2021 #84

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$86,728.19 received from the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$34,691.00) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$52,037.19) which will be used to reimburse the City for salary costs associated with enrolling income-eligible youth in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

CMA 2021 #85

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The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program is a great opportunity for Cambridge teens to get work experience, build connections in our community, and earn income. Applications for this year's program, which will offer virtual, hybrid, and in-person work experiences, will be available on May 3rd, and you can learn more by [clicking here](#).

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$646.25 received from a Martin Luther King, Jr. preschool family fundraiser to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will support the cost of music enrichment sessions for the children.

CMA 2021 #86

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$174,360.00 of the Massachusetts Formula Grant, funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$109,645.00), to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$57,915.00), and to the Travel and Training account (\$6,800.00) with is used for Council on Aging Division department staff and services and also to support instructors and group facilitators who provide services virtually to seniors.

CMA 2021 #87

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$9,115.00 for the Center for Families program funded by the Cambridge Public Health Commission, Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to provide community playgroups, virtual playgroups, provider groups, and to support Cambridge Dad's activities.

CMA 2021 #88

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-16, regarding creating a Commercial Composting Pilot program.

CMA 2021 #89

Food waste is a major environmental hazard, releasing greenhouse gases as it decomposes in landfills, and as food waste piles up in landfills, trash removal costs pile up for our local small businesses. We know that 40% of food that's grown ends up being thrown out, and while some organizations like [Food For Free](#) are working diligently to rescue fresh food and distribute it to community members in need, plate waste from restaurants remains a problem. After meeting with local advocacy group [Cambridge Table to Farm](#), I submitted [a policy order](#) with Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toomey, and Councillor Nolan aiming to tackle this issue by creating a Commercial Composting Pilot Program to serve 100 local restaurants, with priority for minority and women owned-businesses and non-chains. This report back announces that a Commercial Composting Pilot will be funded through the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, which the City Council will discuss in May, before beginning this fall. Our struggling small businesses and the climate crisis both demand a sense of urgency, so I was glad to see the City will be taking this crucial step forward, alongside restarting residential curbside organics collection on May 17th.

This item was placed on file.

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9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to proposed amendment to Section 8.66 of the Municipal Ordinance related to Tree Protection and related Orders.

CMA 2021 #90

This item extends the current [Tree Protection Ordinance](#) to June 30th, 2021, to ensure there isn't a gap in coverage as the Urban Forestry Master Planning Process works on amendments. The Ordinance Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, April 28th at 5:30pm to discuss these proposed amendments, and you can [watch the meeting here](#), [sign up to give public comment here](#), or submit written testimony by emailing citycouncil@cambridgema.gov and cc'ing clerk@cambridgema.gov.

This item was adopted.

10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a request that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter an agreement with the Town of Watertown for the purpose of performing sidewalk reconstruction work on a portion of Belmont Street that is located in Watertown.

CMA 2021 #91

In this communication, the City Manager is requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Watertown to perform sidewalk reconstruction work on a portion of Belmont Street that's in Watertown. The Town of Watertown will be funding improvements happening within their borders, while the City of Cambridge will contract and manage the work, since it's mainly being done in Cambridge.

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

11. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to follow up materials relative to the Green Roofs Zoning Petition.

CMA 2021 #92

This communication from City staff contains suggested amendments to the Green Roofs Zoning Petition, as well as information on green roofs requirements that other municipalities across the world have. [Click here to read](#) the full memo, or see Calendar Item #4 for further discussion.

This item was referred to the petition (Calendar Item #4).

12. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

CMA 2021 #93

City staff gave a COVID update.

Reopening Update: As the City's numbers are trending in the right direction, the City Manager announced that he and his team are in discussions on lifting some of the more conservative public health restrictions, and will be making an announcement in the next week.

Small Business Update: CPHD is offering support to restaurants through a limited pilot program in Central Square to assess air turnover rates and the best placement of HEPA units. The City is also purchasing high-filtration masks for restaurant staff to use, and the Inspectional Services Department continues to offer guidance on public health guidelines.

Schools Update: Since October 2020, 26,125 COVID tests have been administered to 1,507 CPS staff members as part of CPS' voluntary testing program. An additional 6,392 tests have been given to 1,415

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student athletes and students who developed symptoms during the school day. 60 cases have been identified through this PCR testing, and CPS is continuing to conduct pool testing.

Mask Update: The Commonwealth [recently lifted the requirement](#) for residents to wear masks outdoors when physical distancing is possible, and City leadership may reassess our own [municipal mask mandate](#). While transmission outside is low, there are certain nuances that could make certain activities higher-risk, like crowded events or playing contact sports, especially when unvaccinated people are considered.

Vaccine Update: All Massachusetts residents aged 16+ are now eligible for the vaccine, and as the state is receiving more doses from the federal government, we're ramping up vaccination efforts. [Click here to pre-register](#) to get vaccinated at a mass-vaccine site, [click here](#) to find other appointments, or contact my office by emailing amallon@cambridgema.gov if you need help scheduling an appointment or finding transportation. 50% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose so far, and we have a higher vaccine uptake rate among black and Latinx residents than the statewide averages.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been reauthorized, although CPHD warns that women younger than fifty should be aware of the rare risk of blood clots and low blood platelets, and may consider getting the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines instead. After J&J vaccines were paused two weeks ago, CPHD pivoted to offer Moderna vaccines at clinics at the YMCA and the Cambridge Court Apartments, and is now planning additional clinics in North Cambridge now that the vaccine has been confirmed as safe. In total, the Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative has vaccinated 3,564 people, and I'm so grateful for their efforts in reaching our vulnerable community members, from unhoused neighbors to [homebound residents](#).

Ahead of April 19th, when the general public aged 16+ became eligible, CPHD started a comprehensive outreach campaign, including City-wide mailers, community forums, social media communications, and more. Moving forward, they'll be targeting vulnerable populations based on data to address hesitancy and barriers to the vaccines. In collaboration with non-profits, service providers, small businesses, the faith community, and more partners, CPHD is reaching residents of color, immigrants, low-income residents, and those who don't speak English. Two additional community forums are being planned for Spanish and Haitian Creole speakers. The vaccine is safe, effective, and free, and for the latest information on the vaccine, [click here](#).

Testing Update: The City is continuing to offer [free, daily COVID testing](#). Appointments are encouraged, but not required, and you can make yours [by clicking here](#) or calling 617-349- 9788. Nearly 15,000 tests have already been administered in the month of April, with an average of 678 tests administered per day, compared to 1,000 at the height of the holiday season. Despite the decreased demand, the City is committed to maintaining this level of testing availability after school vacation last week, and with the Memorial Day holiday approaching.

Public Health Update: Cambridge's [COVID case count](#) currently stands at 6,074 cases, 11% of which are active. We've sadly lost another community member, the first in eight weeks, bringing us up to 122 devastating deaths. The City's seven-day moving average of daily cases has fallen drastically, from 20.8 cases two weeks ago, to 8.3 cases today, and the positivity rate remains relatively the same at .6%. While CPHD reports that our numbers are trending in the right direction, they warn all residents to stay vigilant on mask use, physical distancing, and good hand hygiene as we await mass-vaccination and herd immunity, especially with the estimated prevalence of more infectious variants in our community.

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

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This item was placed on file.

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II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Council shall have its own budget for outside legal research to be utilized at the discretion of the Council when designated by a majority of members in pursuance of the Council's authority to exercise the legislative powers of the City as specified in the City charter.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN
COUNCIL APRIL 12, 2021**

POR 2021 #75

Before discussion started last week, Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right (discussion ends, no vote was taken, and it appears on the next agenda) on this order, which calls for the City Council to have its own budget for outside legal research, totaling at least 5% of the Law Department's budget. This week, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler and Mayor Siddiqui introduced amendments that would change the order's language to ask the City Manager to include a line item for outside legal research in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, as the City Manager has the sole authority to propose budget items. Ahead of our discussion, the City Solicitor prepared a memo arguing that City Councillors conferring with outside legal counsel would break the City's charter. Given unanswered questions, the memo having been sent late in the day, so the public and many City Councillors hadn't been able to read it, and the late hour, we placed this order and the City Solicitor's memo on the table (no vote was taken, will appear on the next agenda) and will revisit it next week.

This order was placed on the table as amended.

ON THE TABLE

2. 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections.

PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE

CMA 2018 #286

No action was taken.

4. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Amy Oliver, regarding that the City require the installation of GREEN ROOFS vegetated or BioSolar on future construction and significant rehab of buildings that are 20,000 square feet and larger.

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**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 12, 2021
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER APRIL 26, 2021**

APP 2020 #46

This petition, championed by local advocacy group Mothers Out Front, would amend the City's current [Green Roofs Ordinance](#) to require vegetative or biosolar roofs be installed on all future construction projects over 25,000 square feet. During discussion, the City Council amended the petition to include the Community Development Department's (CDD) [suggested language](#) (City Manager's Agenda Item #11), and considered a series of amendments suggested by City Councillors. Firstly, Councillor McGovern's amendment to exempt affordable housing projects that are developed under the Affordable Housing Overlay, or those that have a majority of units reserved for households earning up to 100% of the Area Median Income, from these requirements. I also introduced an amendment calling for the payment rate that developers who do not conform to these requirements must pay into the Affordable Housing Trust to be re-calculated roughly every three years, to give a real timeframe for developers, while allowing some flexibility on CDD's part.

During our last discussion on April 12th, I introduced an amendment to allow for a solar-only open, giving projects much-needed flexibility and encouraging on-site renewable energy generation. The petition previously only allowed vegetative roofs and biosolar roofs, where solar panels are placed over vegetation, and without a solar-only option, we'll lose out on a powerful opportunity to maximize our environmental impact and cut emissions associated with fossil fuel energy; as one public commentator said, a solar roof has 1,000 times the impact of a green roof. This week, Councillor Nolan introduced amendments to require commercial, lab, and mixed-use buildings that aren't mostly housing to construct vegetative or biosolar roofs, removing the solar-only option for them. This amendment is a step in the wrong direction, especially considering that there isn't a specific definition for biosolar, making it harder for the City to enforce these requirements, but the petition was amended to include it.

The City Council also approved an exemption for municipal buildings which I voted against, as although City buildings are constructed with the environment in mind, it feels hypocritical to exempt ourselves, when the City should lead by example in promoting sustainable building practices. Lastly, Councillor Zondervan's amendment to bring the effective date from next year to June 1st, 2021, instead of what CDD had suggested as a year from yesterday, was approved. With so many last-minute amendments, I, alongside some others, felt uncomfortable ordaining the petition, so it was left on the table. Next week, we'll hear final feedback from CDD before our last chance to ordain the petition before it expires on May 5th.

This petition was left on the table.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Alex Nocella, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 61 Winter Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.
APP 2021 #15
This application was approved on the consent agenda.

2. An application was received from Erin Caone representing Black Sheep Market, requesting permission for five (5) awnings at the premises numbered 101 Magazine Street, Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.
APP 2021 #16
This application was approved on the consent agenda.

3. An application was received from Dong Lei representing Acar Bar Juicery, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 1876 Massachusetts Avenue. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.
APP 2021 #17
This application was approved on the consent agenda.

4. A request was received from Kimberly Sherrod representing Santandar Bank, regarding Revocation of Bond #106025396 for Santandar Bank, 515 Massachusetts Avenue. Response from the Inspectional Services Department has been received confirming said sign has been removed
APP 2021 #18
This application was approved on the consent agenda.

IV. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. Divestment from Fossil Fuels and Private Prisons.
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone
POR 2021 #81
This policy order calls for an amendment to the City of Cambridge Budget Book Investment Policy that would prohibit the City from investing funds with banks with connections to fossil fuels or private prisons. The Budget Department already aims to only use local banks when investing, and this order asks them to move another step forward to ensure that the ways we direct our money aligns with our values as a community. This order was amended to include a minor change to ensure the language is consistent with other policy orders, and to add Councillor Zondervan as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as adopted.
2. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Danielle Farinato and Orlando Jaquez for a bench dedication as close as possible to 124 Thorndike Street—if at a park, either Hurley or Silva—or else in the vicinity of the SS. Cosmas and Damian Society on Porter Street.
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Toomey
POR 2021 #82
This order was adopted on the consent agenda.
3. That the City Manager is requested to present a plan to the City Council to increase the affordable homeownership stock over the next 10 years by financing the construction of affordable homeownership units through a bond issue of no less than \$500 million.
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons
POR 2021 #83
This order asks the City Manager to commit to investing \$500 million to create affordable homeownership opportunities over the next ten years, with a preference for first-generation, first-time homebuyers who grew up in Cambridge. As Cambridge becomes increasingly unaffordable to live in, affordable homeownership presents a unique opportunity to mitigate the harm of past racist housing policies, like zoning, enhance racial and socioeconomic diversity, and ensure our community members are able to stay in the City we love. Affordable housing developers often struggle to find grants for homeownership units, rather than rental units, but creating affordable homeownership opportunities is a critical step in promoting housing stability, and closing the generational racial wealth gap. Councillor Simmons, a co-sponsor, exercised her charter-right to give her and Councillor Zondervan additional time to work with stakeholders.

Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right.
4. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Ashley Quinn Sheplak for a bench dedication in the vicinity of King Open School, Warren Street, or Washington Elms in honor of Christine Ann Quinn.
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
POR 2021 #84
This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

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5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Cambridge Police Department to present a plan to the City Council for demilitarization, including the destruction and recycling of all rifles and shotguns, and elimination of the Lenco Bearcat.

Councillor Zondervan

POR 2021 #85

This order asks the City Manager to work with the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) to demilitarize CPD's inventory. Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right before discussion began.

Councillor Simmons exercised her charter-right.

6. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light City Hall up green from May 3-10, 2021 in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.

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

POR 2021 #86

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, and I filed this order to call for recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental health is a critical part of public health, and as this past year has demonstrated, it's critical that we, as a City and as a community, do everything we can to help those impacted access services and healthcare, and treat our neighbors with the empathy they deserve, and that these tough times demand. If you or a loved one need mental health supports, [click here to learn more](#) about available resources.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Director of Personnel and the Law Department on updating the City of Cambridge's Parental Leave Policy for City of Cambridge employees.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons

POR 2021 #87

Under current policy, City employees are entitled to partially paid parental leave for those who are recovering from birth or stillbirth, or welcoming a child through adoption, surrogacy, or foster placement, but employees grieving the loss of a pregnancy have to use vacation or sick time to receive the care and time they need to heal. That's why this policy order asks the City Manager to update our Parental Leave Policy to include those mourning the loss of a pregnancy. Boston is also considering a similar change, and I hope the City can take this critical step forward to support the employees who keep Cambridge running.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Housing Committee will conduct a public hearing to receive updates from the Community Development Department, the Cambridge Housing Authority, Homeowners Rehab, Inc., and Just A Start on the work they are currently engaged in, and the impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic upon their operations.

This committee report contains minutes from the [January 12th, 2021 Housing Committee meeting](#) to discuss the work our local affordable housing developers are doing.

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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

COF 2021 #38

This communication serves as an update on the work Mayor Siddiqui and the entire School Committee are doing to support CPS students, educators, and staff. [Click here](#) to read her full letter.

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, transmitting questions for the COVID-19 update.

COF 2021 #39

This communication contains questions asked by City Councillors that were answered in the City Manager's COVID update (City Manager's Agenda Item #13).

This communication was placed on file.