



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • MAY 10, 2021

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

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

SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting held on March 22, 2021 5:30 PM
These minutes were approved and placed on file.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a COVID-19 Update.
CMA 2021 #101

City staff gave a COVID update.

Reopening Update: The Commonwealth has advanced to Phase 4 Step 2 of its reopening plan, but [Cambridge will be remaining at Phase 4 Step 1](#) as part of the City's cautious approach to reopening. The City has also rescinded its [emergency order on construction](#), which will now be regulated according to state public health guidelines.

Vaccine Update: All Massachusetts residents aged 16+ are now eligible for the vaccine, which is a safe, free, and effective way to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID. [Click here to pre-register](#) at mass and regional vaccine sites, [click here](#) to find other options, or contact my office by emailing amallon@cambridgema.gov if you need help securing an appointment or finding transportation. Mass-vaccination sites and CVS are now accepting walk-ins as well. Currently 62% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose, while 38% are fully vaccinated. Cambridge has a higher vaccine uptake rate among Asian, black, and Latinx residents than statewide averages, and we're also outpacing the statewide averages for each age and gender category. The Pfizer vaccine was [recently approved for residents aged 12-15](#), and CPHD is working on strategies for targeted outreach through CPS and community partners to reach newly eligible residents.

CPHD has vaccinated 4,107 at City-run vaccine clinics, including a series of walk-in clinics last week. The Metro North COVID-19 Vaccine Partnership also opened on May 1st, and vaccine sites have been activated in Somerville, Medford and Everett to serve communities in the Metro North area. The City is amplifying this information through a multi-pronged education campaign, in partnership with community groups like the small business sector, [My Brother's Keeper](#), non-profits, and the faith community. In addition to a Citywide robo-call that went out last week, flyers have been distributed at popular spots around Cambridge, and staff are using social media to conduct outreach. A forum for Haitian Creole speakers will be held on May 19th, and a Spanish-language forum is scheduled for May 27th.

Testing Update: The City is continuing to offer [free, daily COVID testing](#) to anyone who lives or works in Cambridge. Appointments are recommended, but not required, and can be made by calling 617-349-9788 or [clicking here](#). More than 3,000 tests were administered through this program from May 1st to May 9th, and while the demand for testing has been declining since the beginning of the year, CPHD is committed to offering this testing program ahead of gatherings for graduations and warm weather.

Public Health Update: Cambridge's [COVID case count](#) currently stands at 6,186 cases, 8% of which are active. While cases are declining, with a .32% positivity rate and a 7-day average of 3.1 daily cases, making us a 'green' or low-risk municipality, we sadly lost another resident to COVID. It's critical that we remain vigilant on mask use, physical distancing, and hand hygiene and we await mass-vaccination to protect our community and help prevent any further deaths.

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

This item was placed on file.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY2021 Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the amount of \$12,100 to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Salaries and Wages account (\$12,100) which will continue to support part-time archives assistants, who maintain the public archive of Cambridge history.

CMA 2021 #102

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of an Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) FFY19 grant in the amount of \$45,555.55, to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expenditures account for acquisition of emergency communication dispatch consoles for upgrades at the City of Cambridge Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Water Department Facility.

CMA 2021 #103

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a Mass Save Municipal Partnership Grant, in the amount of \$25,000, received through a municipal partnership with Eversource Energy Services Company to the Grant Fund Community Development Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$25,000) which will contribute to meeting the City's energy efficiency outreach and engagement goals.

CMA 2021 #104

These funds will contribute to efforts to meet the City's energy efficiency outreach goals through the end of the year, including:

- Achieve a 10% increase in online residential energy assessments over their 2017-2019 average for Eversource.
- Increase residential insulation jobs over their 2017-2019 average for Eversource.
- Achieve a 15% increase in the number of single family and attached low rise energy assessments.
- Increase residential heating and/or cooling upgrades over their 2017-2019 average for Eversource (note, this does not include thermostats).
- Achieve a 10% increase in the number of small businesses participating in small Business Turnkey initiative over their 2017-2019 average for Eversource.
- During 2021, encourage participation in Mass Save among the following target groups:
 - Limited English proficiency residents
 - Renters
 - Moderate income residents

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-11 regarding filling vacant positions.

CMA 2021 #105

After this pandemic began, the City made the decision to freeze most hirings, while prioritizing certain roles focused on housing, human services, and other high priority areas. This communication responds to [a policy order](#) asking for an update on City hirings. Police hirings were intentionally delayed, resulting in approximately \$2.5 million in savings, while roles to support affordable housing, early education, equity initiatives, and more, were filled or have been posted. [Click here](#) to learn more.

This item was placed on file.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-31, regarding funding for housing stabilization assistance in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

CMA 2021 #106

This communication responds to [a policy order](#) that called for additional funding for housing stabilization assistance, and announces \$350,000 more in funding. An additional \$100,000 will go towards rental assistance to support households at risk of losing housing, for a total of \$315,000, while \$150,000 in funding was added to the Housing Liaison's budget to support additional staff and services, like mediation. Funding for eviction prevention legal services is also being increased to \$386,707, a \$100,000 increase. Housing is a key indicator for public health, and I'm grateful to see the City step up to do even more to support community members amid a pandemic that is upending housing stability as many residents struggle to make rent. Any residents who need housing help can contact [the Multiservice Center](#) for free assistance by calling 617-349-6340 or [submitting an inquiry here](#).

This item was placed on file on the consent agenda.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-12, regarding a report on the feasibility of retrofitting existing vehicles or renting vehicles to create a mobile vaccine clinic program.

CMA 2021 #107

Earlier this year, I filed [a policy order](#) with Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Simmons to ask the City to explore the possibility of retrofitting existing municipally-owned vehicles or renting vehicles to create a mobile vaccine clinic program. Communities across the country have been rolling out their own mobile vaccine clinics to ensure hard-to-reach residents have ready, accessible access to the vaccine. The City has already utilized a mobile team to vaccinate senior housing residents on-site, and expanding that existing infrastructure to reach as many residents as possible, especially residents of color and low-income residents, would be a gamechanger in ensuring vulnerable residents get vaccinated. That's why I was disappointed to hear that the City won't proceed with a mobile vaccine clinic in this report back. As vaccines become more readily available, health equity means getting creative and bringing vaccines directly to residents, so I hope the City can work with community partners to ensure clinics are available in neighborhoods across Cambridge.

This item was placed on file.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$28,500,000 to provide funds for the construction of sewer separation, storm water management and combined sewer overflow reduction elimination improvements within River Street and Harvard Square areas as well as the Sewer Capital Repairs Program and climate change preparedness efforts.

CMA 2021 #108

City Manager's Agenda Items #8-11 all request authorization from the City Council to borrow funds for public investment projects, ahead of the [Public Investment Budget hearing on May 18th](#). Passing these items to a second reading now will ensure we comply with all legal requirements so these orders can be adopted on June 7th, the project date for adopting [the entire budget](#).

This item was passed to a second reading.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,800,000 to provide funds for various Schools for projects that include: asbestos abatement in various schools, replace the front plaza and failing masonry

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021

wing walls and recaulking the building at the Haggerty School, replace emergency generator and extend exhaust at Cambridgeport, recaulking precast panels at CRLS Field House, unit vents engineering at the Fletcher Maynard Academy and Longfellow building and replace the gym floor at the Amigos School.

CMA 2021 #109

See City Manager's Agenda Item #8 for further discussion on the consent agenda.

This item was passed to a second reading.

10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$10,000,000 to provide funds for the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan. Funds will support improvements at the Department of Public works Complex, Moses Youth Center HVAC Design, fire notification system installation at 11 buildings, Coffon building bathroom rehab and upgrades and MFIP study. Also, included is funding to support fire station improvements including: Lafayette Square fire station improvements (floor slab, kitchen and gym flooring replacement), Taylor Square fire station improvements (decontamination showers, installation and parapet improvement), East Cambridge fire station improvements (sanitary storm system replacement and generator installation) and Lexington Ave. fire station driveway construction.

CMA 2021 #110

See City Manager's Agenda Item #8 for further discussion.

This item was passed to a second reading.

11. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$5,000,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of various City streets and sidewalks.

CMA 2021 #111

See City Manager's Agenda Item #8 for further discussion.

This item was passed to a second reading on the consent agenda.

12. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$30,000 from the General Fund Traffic, Parking and Transportation Salary and Wages account to the General Fund Traffic, Parking and Transportation Travel and Training (Judgment and Damages) account to cover current and anticipated medical services and/or prescription reimbursement costs for the remainder of the fiscal year for Traffic and Parking personnel injured in the performance of their duties.

CMA 2021 #112

This item was adopted.

13. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the first Cycling Safety Ordinance report which analyzes the block-by-block impacts of installing quick-build separated bike lanes on four specific segments of Massachusetts Avenue, as identified in Section 12.22.040 (E) of the ordinance.

CMA 2021 #113

This communication contains the first report on [the Cycling Safety Ordinance](#), which created a timeline for installing protected bike lanes on major transit corridors. As community advocates want an opportunity to express their thoughts on the report, this item was forwarded to the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee so we can have a fuller discussion.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 10, 2021

This item was referred to the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee.

II. CALENDAR

ON THE TABLE

1. 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

2. 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 The Central Square Business Improvement District requesting permission for forty (40) temporary pole banners around CRLS, Central Square and Kendall Square to "Celebrate the graduating class of 2021". on May 24, 2021 thru August 31, 2021.

APP 2021 #20

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

2. An application was received from The Central Square Business Improvement District requesting permission for sixty (60) temporary pole banners along Massachusetts Avenue from Hancock Street to Albany Street announcing on "Meet Me in Central" from May 11, 2021 thru October 31, 2021.

APP 2021 #21

This application was approved on the consent agenda.

3. An application was received from Senior Economic Development Manager, Pardis Saffari, Community Development Department requesting permission for a twenty nine (29) temporary pole banners in the neighborhood of Inman Square to celebrate and promote the neighborhood of Inman Square from the Spring of 2021 thru Fall of 2023.

APP 2021 #22

This application was approved.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the city manager be and hereby is requested to work with all relative city departments, the Central Square BID and the MBTA to close Mass Ave. from Prospect Street to Sydney Street on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. through September 2021 and report back to the Council.

Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons

POR 2021 #100

This order asks the City to work with the [Central Square Business Improvement District](#) and the MBTA to close Mass Ave. from Prospect Street to Sydney Street on Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm to 1am through September. Economic recovery will happen outdoors, and as we enter into the warmer months and as more sectors reopen, temporarily closing this street section will ensure outdoor diners and shoppers have the space they need to safely support our small business community. As he had some ideas for potential amendments, Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right to work with the sponsors.

Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right.

2. In Support of H.3559

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

POR 2021 #101

This order, sponsored by Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, and I, has the City Council go on record in support of state bill [H.3559, An Act Relative to Public Transit Electrification](#). This bill lays out a standard for electrification and a plan to electrify all Massachusetts public transit by 2030. Moving towards an entirely electric public transit system is a key step in meeting our climate goals, especially those surrounding environmental justice and improving air quality in hard-hit communities. This order was amended to correct a small clerical error, and to add the full City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance Committee met on February 24, 2021 to conduct a public hearing on the following ordinance amendments.

(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.

(2) REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. 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.

This report contains minutes from [the Ordinance Committee hearing held on February 24th to discuss potential ordinance amendments that would limit campaign contributions](#). The City Council is awaiting guidance from the City Solicitor's office on the best way to proceed with this effort.

Councillor McGovern exercised his charter-right.

A. That the city manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the law department to review the proposed ordinance to reduce or limit campaign donations, POR 2020 #240, and respond to the City Council, in a reasonable time, with suggested edits, comments and recommendations.

POR 2021 #102

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

Councillor McGovern exercised his charter-right.

B. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested 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

POR 2021 #103

Councillor McGovern

Councillor McGovern exercised his charter-right.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui transmitting questions for the COVID-19 Update.

COF 2021 #46

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 communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, communicating information from the School Committee.

COF 2021 #47

This letter from Mayor Siddiqui updates us on the work she and the School Committee are doing to support CPS students, staff, and caregivers. [Click here](#) to read her full communication.

This communication was placed on file.