



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • JUNE 14, 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 appointment of the following persons as new members of the Police Review & Advisory Board for a term of 5-years, effective May 24, 2021: Alexandra Fallon, Gina LaRoche and Franziskus Lepionka

CMA 2021 #151

[Click here](#) to learn more about the appointees' qualifications.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an order authorizing the City Manager to transfer necessary funds needed to maintain appropriation control as part of the fiscal end-of-year closeout process.

CMA 2021 #152

In this communication, the City Manager asks for authorization to transfer funds into departmental wage accounts as we approach the end of the fiscal year. The City Council approves this request each year to ensure an orderly closure to the end of the fiscal year at the end of June.

This item was adopted.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$2,242,100 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund School Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund the Cambridgeport School window replacement project.

CMA 2021 #153

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Cultural Facilities Fund Capital Grant in the amount of \$200,000 received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) for the Foundry building construction project to the Grant Fund Department of Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account.

CMA 2021 #154

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

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5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$500,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Library Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund a comprehensive Library Building Program Study and Feasibility Study for the Central Square Branch Library.

CMA 2021 #155

This communication requests an appropriation to fund a Library Building Program Study, that would identify the Central Square Branch Library's future programming and space needs, as well as a Feasibility Study, which would be informed by the Building Study and explore conceptual designs. There's no question that the Central Square Branch needs some serious investment, and these studies would align with previous and ongoing efforts to revamp the library. But given the Library's unique position, as a City-owned building, in a transit-oriented location, with the tall Manning Apartments close by, adding affordable housing or another community resource on top of the Library would be a critical opportunity that should be considered in a complementary RFP. As the City examines how we can use City-owned lots to advance our community goals, we also need to take a deeper look into the Green Street Parking Garage, and how it can be used to mitigate lost parking spaces from redeveloped lots.

This item was adopted.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-18, regarding a report on the City's annual stationary expenditures and percentage spent at local retailers.

CMA 2021 #156

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of 267,750 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund, Department of Human Services Programs, Extraordinary expenditures account to provide additional funds to implement repairs to the 3 swimming pools located at the War Memorial Pool Facility.

CMA 2021 #157

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$116,748.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$3,948.00) and to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$112,800.00) which will be used to support the Support for Tenants at Risk (STAR) homelessness prevention program based at the Multi-Service Center.

CMA 2021 #158

The funds from this item and City Manager's Agenda Item #9 will be used to administer services at [the City's Multi Service Center](#). If you need assistance, you can contact Maura Pensak, mpensak@cambridgema.gov for free housing help.

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance Grant funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$6,604.03 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$2,996.03), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$3,608.00) which will be used for costs related to the Carey

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Men's Permanent Supported Housing Program operated by the Multi-Service Center.

CMA 2021 #159

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Cambridge Food Pantry grant received from the Cambridge Health Alliance for \$15,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to support the Cambridge Food Pantry Network.

CMA 2021 #160

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the Children's Trust of Massachusetts to the Center for Families in the amount of \$1,400.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used by the Center for Families for supplies and for a staff appreciation event.

CMA 2021 #161

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

12. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to first Progress Report due under the Cycling Safety Ordinance (Chapter 12.22 of the Cambridge Municipal Code), which is required to detail "...progress towards meeting the requirements set forth in Subsections C, D, E, F, G, and H. Such report shall include details on the Separated Bicycle Facilities planned for the coming twelve months."

CMA 2021 #162

This communication contains the first progress report required under [the Cycling Safety Ordinance](#), which was sponsored by Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler, McGovern, Zondervan, and I. You can read the full progress update [by clicking here](#).

This item was adopted on the consent agenda.

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II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager work with the City Solicitor and the Animal Commission to take all necessary steps to waive the dog license fee for all senior citizens in Cambridge.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR WHEELER IN COUNCIL JUNE 7, 2021

POR 2021 #116

Last week, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler exercised his charter-right (discussion ended, no vote was taken, and it appears on the next agenda) on this policy order, as the hour was late and he believes that more residents, not just seniors, would benefit from having dog license fees waived. This week, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler introduced an amendment that would also ask the City Manager to explore options for waiving the dog license fee for low-income residents, using income requirements that are already established by other City programs.

This item was adopted as amended.

ON THE TABLE

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-13, regarding next steps on implementation of Universal Pre-K.

PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MAY 17, 2021

CMA 2021 #123

No action was taken.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to further proposed amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance and draft regulations.

TABLED IN COUNCIL MAY 17, 2021

CMA 2021 #124

See Committee Reports Item #1 for further discussion.

This item was placed on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. 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.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department, the Assessing Department, the Finance Department, and other relevant City departments to explore the feasibility of purchasing properties for sale in the Alewife area to address City goals
Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan
POR 2021 #127

I filed this policy order with Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Nolan after discussing the possibility of purchasing properties in Alewife to advance City goals during [a recent Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee meeting](#). Creating new opportunities for open space and early childhood education is crucial in this neighborhood, and the City has relied on mitigation packages from developers' upzoning petitions to provide these public benefits for far too long. Instead, our policy order calls on the City Manager to leverage Cambridge's strong financial position to invest in public space, ensuring we remain responsive and proactive in addressing the Alewife neighborhood's needs. This order was amended to add Councillor Carlone as a co-sponsor.

This order was adopted as amended.

2. That the Mayor be and hereby is requested to schedule a Roundtable meeting to discuss how the American Rescue Plan funds may best be utilized in Cambridge
Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2021 #128

I joined Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, and Mayor Siddiqui in submitting this order to learn more about how we can leverage [the American Rescue Plan funds](#) for our community. Mayor Siddiqui will be scheduling a roundtable discussion for the City Council to come together and determine how and what these funds can be used for, so we understand its parameters before starting community conversations, and I look forward to having this critical discussion as we start the long road towards economic recovery.

This order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department for Human Service Programs, the Council on Aging, the Public Health Department and other relevant City departments to explore the feasibility or expanding services at the senior centers, especially by adding clinical staff
Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons
POR 2021 #129

Our senior centers have always served as invaluable community resources, but even more so now, as many of our low-income, disabled, or otherwise especially vulnerable seniors are experiencing severe resource gaps as we continue to weather the financial impact of COVID. We must expand services at the senior centers to ensure they're well supported, so I sponsored this policy order with Councillor Simmons calling for additional services at the senior centers, especially hiring a nurse and a social worker to ensure the health and financial needs of seniors are being met.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

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4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Public Health Department, the Inspectional Services Department, the Cambridge Housing Authority, and other relevant City departments to determine if the City has the discretion to waive this rule, and the circumstances in which the City could administer this waiver, and report back to the City Council

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2021 #130

Eastern Massachusetts has been experiencing a harsh heat waves these past few weeks, but concerns over compliance with the Commonwealth's sanitary code, which sets a temperature minimum of 64°F until June 15th, if the temperature drops suddenly has prevented affordable housing buildings from turning on the much-needed air conditioning, a process that can take days. While some local affordable housing buildings have chosen to risk non-compliance and turn on the air conditioning anyways, State Representatives Marjorie Decker and Jay Livingstone have been advocating for state-level remedies that would give more flexibility and discretion to during the shoulder seasons. To support their work, I sponsored this policy order with Mayor Siddiqui to urge the Commonwealth to amend the sanitary code, while asking the City Manager to work with stakeholders at the local level to determine if this rule can be waived by the City. As temperatures continue to rise and the weather becomes increasingly unpredictable as we grapple with the impacts of climate change, we need to find a solution that ensures all our residents feel safe and comfortable in their homes during the shoulder seasons.

This order was adopted.

5. That the Chair of the Human Services & Veterans Committee schedule a hearing on fall afterschool programs as soon as possible

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2021 #131

City-run afterschool programs are an invaluable resource for our community, offering students enriching academic and social experiences while providing much-needed childcare for working caregivers. Many of our CPS caregivers breathed a sigh of relief when it was announced that the City's afterschool programs, including Community Schools and Youth Centers, would be in-person in the fall, but some have raised concerns that there may be programmatic and enrollment reductions, preventing many students from accessing this opportunity. The City needs to be transparent and responsive to the needs of our community, so I've filed this policy order with Councillor McGovern and Mayor Siddiqui calling for a Human Services Committee meeting to be scheduled on fall afterschool programs. After over a year of uncertainty, the security of knowing what they should plan for in the fall would be immensely helpful for CPS caregivers, and holding a committee meeting would be an accessible way to communicate with caregivers, while giving stakeholders an opportunity to weigh in during public comment. This order was amended to add the full City Council as co-sponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

6. Amending City Council Rules for Remote Participation

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

POR 2021 #132

This order would amend the City Council Rules to allow a permanent remote public comment option. Political participation has long been a function of privilege, but it doesn't have to be. We've seen more, diverse residents lend their voices to important conversations at public meetings, since the introduction of remote public comment. Earlier this year, I joined Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler in filing [a policy order](#) calling for a Government Operations Committee hearing to learn more about remote participation options, and after [the City Solicitor opined](#) that the City

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Council can create a permanent remote public comment option with a simple change to the City Council rules, this policy order will ensure one of the few bright spots of the pandemic won't end with the public health emergency. This order was amended to clarify the language of the rule change.

This order was adopted as amended.

7. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to adopt certain policies related to Open Space.
Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern
POR 2021 #133

This order calls for a number of interventions to add more green space in the City, and enhance existing green space. Cambridge has just half the open green space as other cities our size, and if we want to mitigate the impacts of climate change while ensuring community members have equitable access to the outdoors in our urban area, we need to invest in open green space. [Click here](#) to read the policy order's full suggestions. This order was amended to correct a typo, and to call out East Cambridge as a neighborhood that especially lacks open space.

This order was adopted as amended.

8. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Traffic & Parking Department to make these immediate improvements to the safety of this intersection and to all intersections in the city that are similarly malfunctioning, and to implement longer term changes as soon as possible;
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan
POR 2021 #134

This order was adopted.

9. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with City staff to provide an update on the cost of each license and permit required by businesses in Cambridge
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan
POR 2021 #135

Last week, I chaired [an Economic Development and University Relations Committee hearing](#) to explore ways we can reduce or remove license and permit fees for our local small businesses. From high fees to allow outdoor dining on a private patio to nit picky fees that are more of an administrative burden on the City than the \$10 fee is worth, alleviating these fees is a critical way we can support our local small businesses, and this policy order from Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler, Nolan, Zondervan, and I as members of the Economic Development Committee is a formal request to answer questions raised during the committee hearing. By having a compiled list of each license and permit, how much they cost, and which can be waived at the City-level, we'll better understand how to proceed with eliminating this barrier to entry for small businesses.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

10. That the Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee schedule a hearing to discuss the \$65 million Cambridge is eligible to receive from the American Rescue Plan, and to begin the discussion on how the money can best be spent to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in our community
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone
POR 2021 #136

See Policy Orders and Resolutions Item #2 for a related discussion.

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This order was adopted.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance Committee met on April 28, 2021 to discuss the tree protection ordinance.

This report contains minutes from [the April 28th Ordinance Committee meeting on the Tree Protection Ordinance](#).

This report was accepted and placed on file.

A. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to proposed amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance.

CMA 2021 #50

This communication contains proposed amendments to the City's Tree Protection Ordinance, generated through the Urban Forestry Master Planning Process. These amendments propose:

- Redefining Significant Trees as trees at least six inches in diameter, rather than eight inches;
- Introduces the concept of Exceptional Trees, trees that are more than 30 inches in diameter;
- Requires permits for all Significant Trees removed;

among other suggestions. This communication was amended to include the updated ordinance text from Calendar Item #3, and to exclude police officers from those authorized to enforce the ordinance, instead leaving enforcement to the City Arborist and staff from the Department of Public Works. Councillor Zondervan also introduced another amendment that would require the City to provide expertise and financial resources to ensure maximum canopy protection and expansion in affordable housing projects, but due to concerns that the amendment could leave affordable housing developers open to legal challenges, no action was taken on the proposed amendment to give the City Solicitor and the Commissioner of Public Works time to review it.

This ordinance was passed to a second reading as amended.

B. 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.

This report contains minutes from [the Health & Environment Committee meeting held on October 13th, 2020](#) to discuss potential amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

C. 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.

This report contains minutes from [the November 10th, 2020 Health & Environment Committee meeting](#) on amending the Tree Protection Ordinance.

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This report was accepted and placed on file.

2. The Ordinance Committee met on May 12, 2021 to conduct a hearing on the Cannabis Delivery Zoning Amendments and Municipal Code Amendments.

This report contains minutes from [the May 12th Ordinance Committee hearing](#) on the Cannabis Delivery Zoning and Municipal Code Amendments.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

- A. ORDINANCE 2021-8 Cannabis Delivery Zoning Amendments

(ID # 14308)

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

The City's [Cannabis Business Permitting Ordinance](#) lays out local permitting requirements for cannabis businesses operating in Cambridge that don't include delivery-only options. This means that residents can receive cannabis deliveries, but that those deliveries can't come from Cambridge-based businesses, hurting local Economic Empowerment Applicants (in 2019, Cambridge introduced a moratorium that only allows Economic Empowerment applicants to open cannabis retail stores for two years to mitigate the impact that the War on Drugs has had on black and brown communities). These proposed amendments would allow cannabis microbusinesses and delivery-only retailers to operate. Zoning amendments would also, notably, define a "Cannabis Delivery-Only Retailer" and include this category in the zoning Table of Land Uses, which determines where certain kinds of businesses can operate.

This ordinance was passed to a second reading.

- B. That the city manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the law department to provide a legal opinion to the city council about whether eliminating or reducing the buffer zone would alter the fundamental character of the Cannabis Delivery Zoning Amendment

POR 2021 #137

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

This order was adopted.

- C. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Community Development Department to provide suggestions and implications for how to regulate cannabis courier and cannabis delivery businesses occupying retail storefront space.

POR 2021 #138

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

This order was adopted.

- D. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Law Department to provide a legal opinion about whether an exclusivity period for only economic empowerment applicants would conflict with state law.

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POR 2021 #139

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

This order was adopted.

3. The Public Safety Committee met on January 6, 2021 to conduct a public hearing on the Cambridge Police Department inventory list.

This report contains minutes from [the Public Safety Committee hearing](#) that was held on January 6th, 2021, on CPD's inventory list.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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

COF 2021 #64

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui serves as an update on the work she and the entire School Committee are doing to support CPS students, staff, and caregivers as we prepare for summer and watch our CRLS seniors graduate. [Click here](#) to read her full update.

This communication was placed on file.