



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA • AUGUST 2, 2021

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Special Meeting

Remote Meeting

5:30 PM

Remote Meeting, Cambridge, MA 02139

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## I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of an FY22 State 911 Department Support and Incentive Grant, received from the Massachusetts State 911 Department in the amount of \$494,531 to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Salaries and Wages account (\$425,081), and to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$69,450) which will support the costs of Emergency Communications Center personnel salaries and overtime and annual maintenance costs of dispatch-related software.

***CMA 2021 #181***

*This order was adopted.*

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a recommendation of the Cambridge Historical Commission to approve the final Landmark Designation Report for the Alberta V. Scott House at 28 Union Street.

***CMA 2021 #182***

*This communication requests that the Alberta V. Scott House located at 28 Union Street be designated as a historical landmark. Alberta Scott (1875-1902) lived in this home when she became the first Black graduate of Radcliffe College in 1898. She was also the first Massachusetts-raised Black woman to graduate from a Massachusetts woman's college, and designating this home as a historical landmark is a step towards preserving her legacy and Black brilliance in Cambridge. [Click here to read](#) the Historical Commission's full report.*

*This order was adopted.*

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in the amount of \$875,999.00 funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$150,499.00), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$725,500.00) for the operation of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program serving Cambridge and Somerville.

***CMA 2021 #183***

*These funds will be used to support our [Fuel Assistance Program](#), which helps low-income families with winter heating costs each year.*

*This order was adopted on the consent agenda (no discussion).*

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4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Adult and Community Learning Services grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the amount of \$1,190,717.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$1,145,357.00), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$44,535.00), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$825.00) which will be used for ESOL services.

***CMA 2021 #184***

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Family Shelter grant received from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$664,250.33 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be subcontracted to the Cambridge YWCA.

***CMA 2021 #185***

These funds will directly go to [the Cambridge YWCA](#), where they will be used to operate a family shelter, which will support ten unhoused families with housing, case management, housing search services, and more. If you need housing help, you can contact the City's Multiservice Center for free assistance [by clicking here](#) or calling 617-349-6340.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

## II. CALENDAR

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### CHARTER RIGHT

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-41, regarding a report on closing Mass Ave from Prospect Street to Sidney Street on Friday and Saturday evenings.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN IN COUNCIL JUNE 28, 2021**

**CMA 2021 #176**

This communication reports back on [a policy order](#) asking 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. Our squares are also in desperate need of reactivation, so I was disappointed to see this response, stating that the City won't move forward with these street closures. As Councillor McGovern wanted additional time to discuss this response, he exercised his charter right (discussion ended, no vote was taken, and it appears on the next agenda) at our last meeting. This week, he explained that he is discussing strategies with stakeholders and City staff, and asked that this communication be tabled to give him time to continue those conversations.

This item was tabled.

2. City Council endorsement of the Agassiz Neighborhood name being changed to the Baldwin Neighborhood in honor of Maria L. Baldwin.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 28, 2021**

**POR 2021 #150**

This order asks the City Council to endorse the idea of changing the name of the Agassiz Neighborhood to be renamed the Baldwin Neighborhood, after Maria L. Baldwin. The neighborhood's current namesake has connections to white supremacy, so [the Agassiz Neighborhood Council convened a series of discussions](#) on a possible name change, with the Baldwin Neighborhood being a popular choice. At our last meeting, Councillor Nolan exercised her charter right to ensure more neighborhood residents could be reached. This week, the City Council moved forward with endorsing the name change, and I was grateful to see Neighborhood Eight band together to denounce white supremacy and uplift the legacy of Baldwin, a leader and innovator in the education field.

This order was adopted.

### ON THE TABLE

3. 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.

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**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MAY 17, 2021**

**CMA 2021 #123**

No action was taken.

4. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to determine the feasibility of establishing a pilot reparations program that would take a to-be-determined percentage of revenue from local cannabis sales and distribute these monies to local Black-owned businesses and to economic empowerment applicants.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 21, 2021 PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL JUNE 28, 2021**

**POR 2021 #141**

This order asks the City Manager to determine the feasibility of establishing a racial reparations pilot program using revenue from local cannabis sales or other funds, to be distributed to black-owned businesses and 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). As he wanted to discuss this order with the co-sponsors, Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter-right when this order was first introduced, and it was later placed on the table to give Councillors time to develop amendments. This week, a separate policy order was introduced, Policy Orders and Resolutions List #8, that would create a reparations program funded by cannabis sales directed at residents impacted by the War on Drugs instead. However, as residents have raised concerns that there hasn't been a comprehensive community engagement process, this order was tabled at our last meeting, and no action was taken this week.

No action was taken.

### III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

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1. An application was received from Ricky Zeng representing Moge Tee, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 605 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.  
***APP 2021 #35***  
***This application was approved on the consent agenda.***
2. An application was received from Gregory McCarthy, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 747 Cambridge 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 #36***  
***This application was approved.***
3. An application was received from James J. Rafferty, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 600-624 Main Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.  
***APP 2021 #37***  
***This application was approved.***

## VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

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1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Department of Human Service Programs, the Peace Commission, and other relevant City departments to explore the feasibility of providing Equity Roadmap with regular funding for Friday Night Hype.

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2021 #159***

With the recent, devastating losses of Xavier Louis-Jacques and Robert Favreau, and several other injuries from gun violence, we must take immediate action to keep our young people safe and address the root causes of gun activity. That's why I co-sponsored this order with Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, and Councillor Simmons to ask the City to fund [Equity Roadmap's Friday Night Hype](#) programming. By organizing Friday Night Hype, a mentoring program that connects middle school students with community leaders, engaging activities, hot meals, and more, Equity Roadmap is doing critical work in our community to help our students get on or stay on the right path. Right now, Friday Night Hype is entirely funded through donations, limiting it to one night a month, but with a stable funding stream from the City, it could expand to help meet our growing needs and leverage their existing community ties with our residents to reach as many young people as possible.

This order was adopted.

2. City Council support of HD.3457 and SD.2309, An Act Relative to Electric Bicycles.

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler**

***POR 2021 #160***

I submitted this order with Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler to call for the City Council's support of state bills [HD.3457](#) and [SD.2309](#), An Act Relative to Electric Bicycles. As they make traveling over longer distances, tough terrain, or with children easier for cyclists of all ability levels, electric bicycles could prove to be a powerful tool in addressing our climate and transit justice goals, but state law doesn't adequately regulate them, causing confusion. With the new standards suggested by these bills, Massachusetts would advance beyond regulating electric bicycles under antiquated definitions, more closely align with federal standards, and provide clarity to residents interested in this accessible, sustainable mode of transportation on the consent agenda.

This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

3. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to designate a suitable street corner, square or the Pemberton Basketball Courts in honor of Xavier Louis-Jacques.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2021 #161***

My heart remains broken for Xavier's family and especially his mom, Rayschelle, who spoke eloquently about his murder at yesterday's gun violence rally in front of City Hall. She emphasized that no one's child is safe from this kind of violence, and we need to make gun violence prevention the #1 priority in our City. Rayschelle started a scholarship for students attending HBCU's and is still accepting donations here (<https://cambridgecf.networkforgood.com/projects/127974-legends-live-forever>). This order was adopted on the consent agenda.

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4. Policy Order Re Addressing Increased Gun Activity  
**Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon**  
***POR 2021 #162***

This order, filed by Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, and I, advocates for a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to addressing the recent uptick in gun violence in our community. Specifically, we're calling for the City and Somerville's leadership to develop solutions to end the cycle of violence between our communities, mental health support for those impacted by gun violence, including an emergency drop-in clinic, engaging with residents to identify and close gaps in our social systems that are the root causes of gun violence, and a targeted program for at-risk young men to provide much-needed, intensive support services to get them on the right path. Our City is at a critical juncture, and with these investments, we will support and protect our young people and young adults in the holistic ways they need.

This order was adopted.

5. Support for Replenishing the Restaurant Revitalization Fund  
**Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toomey**  
***POR 2021 #163***

Our restaurant community was devastated by this pandemic, and while the \$28.6 billion [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#) approved by Congress seemed promising, 72% of applicants received no funding at all. Our small businesses need immediate financial support, now more than ever, so I filed this policy order with Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, and Councillor Toomey to urge our congressional delegation to work to expand the Fund by \$60 billion, as proposed by [the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act](#). If we want our Main Street economy to survive, we need to take strong action and invest our dollars into this community. This order was amended to fix a typo.

This order was adopted as amended.

6. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments on how the City can change practices such that all projects will treat trees as essential infrastructure.  
**Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***POR 2021 #164***

This order asks the City to treat trees as essential infrastructure, and do everything it can to prevent the removal of significant trees on City property and other areas. This policy order comes after an outpouring of community concerns over [the Tobin Reconstruction's plan](#) to remove 94 of the site's existing 129 trees. While these trees will be replaced, the site's tree canopy will suffer from a 79% reduction, and this order prioritizes saving significant trees for future City projects. Councillor Toomey exercised his charter-right before discussion began.

Councillor Toomey exercised his charter-right.

7. That the City Manager instruct the Community Development Department to draft zoning amendments requiring special permits be required for research and development, laboratory and research facilities in the districts noted in the attached memorandum to ensure a robust community process.  
**Councillor Carlone**

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### ***POR 2021 #165***

This policy order asks the Community Development Department to draft zoning amendments requiring special permits for laboratory and technical facilities in certain zoning districts and prohibiting them within 250 feet of low-density housing and publicly-owned open space. With all-night light pollution, tall rooftop mechanical equipment blocking sunlight, and more, these buildings can lower quality-of-life for residents living nearby.

This order was referred to the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board for hearing and report.

8. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish a restitution program that would take a to-be-determined percentage of revenue from local cannabis sales and distribute these monies to current and former Cambridge residents who have been harmed by the war on drugs, with a targeted launch date of July 2022

**Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan**

### ***POR 2021 #166***

Similarly to Calendar Item #4, this policy order calls for a reparations program to uplift those impacted by the War on Drugs using revenue generated from cannabis sales, focusing on past and current residents rather than black-owned businesses and Economic Empowerment applicants. However, as residents have raised concerns that there haven't been a comprehensive community engagement process, these orders were tabled.

This order was tabled.

9. That the City Manager confer with the Department of Public Works, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, the Community Development Department, and other relevant City staff to discuss the feasibility of committing financial resources to assist in redesigning and/or reshaping the outdoor public ways, natural space and infrastructure including sidewalks, protected bike lanes and tree canopy at the southern edge of Jerry's Pond along Rindge Avenue to make it more accessible, more green and more equitable and to create a welcoming entryway to Cambridge from the west

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan**

### ***POR 2021 #167***

This order was adopted.

10. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to report back to the City Council on how the city is working to get City staff to 100% vaccinated and decrease the likelihood that COVID-19 spreads via City staff and in City Buildings

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

### ***POR 2021 #168***

Our community is seeing an uptick in COVID cases, like much of the United States. As a City that prides itself in data-driven decision making, we must align our policies with scientific evidence. That's why I've joined Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, and Mayor Siddiqui in sponsoring this order asking for a report on how the City will be working to get municipal staff, including school staff, vaccinated to minimize transmission and protect our vulnerable neighbors, especially those who can't be vaccinated due to age limitations or medical reasons. This order was amended to raise the possibility of mandating vaccinations for City staff, and to clarify that Cambridge Public Schools staff are included in this group.

This order was adopted as amended.



## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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1. The Public Safety Committee and the Human Services & Veterans Committee met on January 19, 2021 to hear from community experts on possible ways to design a community-centered public safety response service.

This report contains meeting minutes from [the January 19th, 2021 Public Safety Committee hearing](#) that was held as part of our ongoing process to develop an alternative crisis response system.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

2. The Ordinance Committee met on June 2, 2021 to conduct a public hearing on an order to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Cambridge to insert new section Restricting the Use of Chemical Crowd Control Agents and Kinetic Impact Projectiles.

This report contains meeting minutes from [the June 2nd, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting](#) that focused on a proposed ordinance that would restrict the Cambridge Police Department's use of chemical crowd control agents, like tear gas, and kinetic impact projectiles, like rubber bullets.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

- A. Motion to amend the proposed Ordinance as recommended by the Ordinance Committee  
These amendments were approved.

- B. Order to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Cambridge to insert new section Restricting the Use of Chemical Crowd Control Agents and Kinetic Impact Projectiles

**POR 2021 #51**

**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan**

This proposed ordinance would restrict the Cambridge Police Department's use of chemical crowd control agents, like tear gas, and kinetic impact projectiles, like rubber bullets. These sorts of materials are often used across the country against protestors exercising their First Amendment rights, and while CPD hasn't used tear gas in over thirty years, this is an important step to take to codify the City's commitment to free speech, public health, and just public safety.

This item was passed to a second reading.

3. The Economic Development and University Relations Committee met on June 8, 2021 to conduct a public hearing to discuss strategies and opportunities to alleviate permit and license fees for small businesses, through possible consolidation or elimination.

This report contains meeting minutes from [the June 8th Economic Development Committee meeting I](#) chaired to explore ways we can reduce or eliminate permit and license fees to support our small businesses.

This report was accepted and placed on file on the consent agenda.

4. The Government Operations committee met on June 29, 2021 to discuss the hiring of the next City Manager.

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This report contains meeting minutes from [the June 29th, 2021 Government Operations Committee meeting](#), which was part of the ongoing process to hire the next City Manager. This report was amended to reflect that non-Committee members were present at the hearing.

This report was accepted and placed on file as amended.

- A. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to appropriate sufficient funding to hire a City Manager Search Firm consultant

***POR 2021 #169***

**Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan**

This policy order from the Government Operations Committee meeting asks for funding to hire a consultant to lead the search for the next City Manager. During discussion in committee, some members emphasized their preference to use a consultant firm that specializes in finding women and minority candidates.

This order was adopted.

- B. That Councillor Simmons and Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler of the government operations committee review any RFPs or other search process produced to hire a city manager search firm consultant.

***POR 2021 #170***

**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Zondervan**

This order from the Government Operations Committee hearing directs Councillors Simmons and Sobrinho-Wheeler to review any requests for proposals (RFP) developed during the process of hiring a consultant firm to lead the City Manager search, to ensure the RFP aligns with our shared values.

This order was adopted.

## VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

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

***COF 2021 #72***

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui serves as an update on the work she and the entire School Committee are doing to support CPS scholars, staff, and families during out of school time as they prepare for the academic year ahead. [Click here](#) to read her full letter.

This communication was placed on file on the consent agenda.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Nolan, transmitting information about the Attorney General's ruling on Calendar Item #3 (Charter Amendments).

***COF 2021 #73***

Throughout the past year, the City Council has been exploring the possibility of updating our charter, or the document that determines Cambridge's governance structure. In this communication, Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Nolan explain that the Attorney General's office has opined that the City Council can move forward with placing three charter amendments on this fall's municipal ballot, without needing approval from the City Manager. If approved by voters, these changes would require the City Manager to get approval from the City Council on commission and board appointees, create a mandatory annual City Council review of the City Manager's performance, and institute mandatory charter review every ten years.

This communication was placed on file on the consent agenda.

3. A communication was received from Mayor Siddique and Councillor Nolan, communication regarding the formation of a Climate Crisis Working Group.

***COF 2021 #74***

This communication announces the formation of a Climate Crisis Working Group, to be chaired by Councillor Nolan. Our climate crisis demands a sense of urgency, so over the course of three months, this working group will develop and deliver recommendations to the City Council on meaningful short-term interventions, a communication strategy, and a plan of action for reducing City-wide carbon emissions.

This communication was placed on file.