



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

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Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber 5:30 PM

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

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## I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an update on COVID-19.

***CMA 2021 #216***

Public Health Update: As reported, 69% (76,838) Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 76% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is 4 percentage points higher than the State. The Department of Public Health in Cambridge is also happy to announce they will be setting up a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at CRLS for interested students starting in October.

Although Cambridge is on-par or better than the State in almost every age category for vaccinations, I am curious to see whether or not our numbers for the 15-19 age range are skewed because of the high volume of college students in Cambridge. Anna Kaplan from CPH advised she will try to dig into the data to find more about these numbers specifically and will report back in 2 weeks.

The 7-day (September 19-25) moving average in Cambridge is [13.6 confirmed cases per day](#) per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 0.37% for the two-week period ending on September 18th. There are 345 active cases within the City. There have been 7,354 total cases; 7,050 in the community and 304 in long-term care facilities. Of these 7,354 cases, 124 have in death with 61% accounting for long-term care residents. Cambridge has been in the “high risk” category for the entire month of September.

Reopening Update: Our restaurants have been exceptional adapters throughout the pandemic, adhering to changing guidelines, following procedures, and doing their best to remain open to feed and employ our community. In an effort to make things easier for restaurants in Cambridge, the outdoor seating permits will be extended through the winter to April 1 to align with the State.

Please stay tuned to hear from the Cambridge Department of Public Health for guidance on safe Halloween activities.

Testing Update: Cambridge will continue to offer COVID-19 [testing](#) 4 days a week in 4 hour sessions while monitoring the need for a 5th day, if necessary. The City will also keep a close eye on the need for another walk/bike accessible testing site. Starting on October 4, the CambridgeSide testing site will move to be drive-through only. Many Councillors asked the City Manager to work with the Fire Department to create a walk up option at CambridgeSide for greater access for non driving residents. From September 1-19, the City’s four testing sites

administered over 8,000 tests. I am grateful to our Police, Fire, and Pro-EMS for their continued support running these vital stations.

Vaccine Update: As flu season nears, the City will offer both [COVID-19 and Flu vaccine](#) clinics through the month of October on the following days:

October 15: Citywide Senior Center 10am-4pm  
October 16: King Open School 10am-4pm  
October 22: Reservoir Church 2pm-8pm  
October 23: Pisani Center/Washington Elms 12pm-6pm

When booster shots become available, those who received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine a minimum of 6 months ago, are 65+, have underlying health conditions, and live or work in high exposure settings will be eligible.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-59, regarding adding the memorial dedication process and criteria to the City Council webpage.  
*CMA 2021 #217*

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$8,000 to the Grant Fund Human Rights Other Ordinary Maintenance Account which will be used for proposed fair-housing related outreach efforts, including: an information session on COVID- specific fair housing issues and related materials, a fair housing “Know Your Rights” seminar with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office and related materials, and a new CHRC “At a Glance” informational bulletin.  
*CMA 2021 #218*

This item was placed on file.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of of the Fair Housing Assistance Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$39,534 to the Grant Fund Human Rights Salary and Wages Account (\$19,034) and the Travel and Training Account (\$20,500) which will be used to cover a portion of the salary of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (CHRC) Attorney-Investigator, who works on Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) cases.  
*CMA 2021 #219*

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

## **II. CALENDAR**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

**ON THE TABLE**

1. 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.

2. 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**  
**TABLE IN COUNCIL AUGUST 2, 2021**  
**CMA 2021 #176**

No action was taken.

3. An application was received from Paulo Correia, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 851 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.  
**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY IN COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**  
**PLACED ON THE TABLE BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY**  
**IN COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**  
**APP 2021 #40**

As Councillor Toomey and I had specific questions as to the application that was entered with the wrong width, and an updated width provided by DPW we made a site visit to ensure the correct width was reflected in the application in order to approve it. We were satisfied at our site visit.

This application was approved.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-56, regarding improvements to Jerry's Pond and along Rindge Avenue.  
**PLACED ON THE TABLE BY MAYOR SIDDIQUI IN COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**  
**CMA 2021 #193**  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No action was taken.

5. That the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge be amended to allow the service of post-operative care for a dog (Ordinance #2021-16).  
**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL JUNE 28, 2021**  
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**  
**TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 POR 2021 #147**

This zoning was ordained.

## IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Ross and Aviva Benson on the birth of their daughter Adelaide Muriel Benson.  
**Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan**  
***RES 2021 #212***

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

2. Thanks to Michael Monestime for his five years of work as Executive Director of the Central Square Business Association and best wishes in his future endeavors.  
**Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***RES 2021 #213***

For the last five years Michael Monestime has been a man of action in Central Square, revitalizing the district and continually seeking ways to honor the past while looking forward to the future. He was able to accomplish a 20-year feat by getting over 70% of businesses to sign on to become part of the Business Improvement District in Central Square to propel his vision of “place keeping over place making.” He will be deeply missed in Central Square, but we wish him all the very best on his next journey.

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

3. Thanking Izzy's For 41 Years of Serving Up Terrific Food  
**Councillor Simmons**  
***RES 2021 #214***

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

4. National Diaper Need Awareness Week  
**Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***RES 2021 #215***

Thank you to Cradles 2 Crayons for the important work they do throughout the state, and especially here in Cambridge. Although our City Hall Diaper Bank has closed, they have remained committed to Cambridge by delivering hygiene kits and diapers to the Cambridge Community Center and The Spot to be distributed to Cambridge residents completely free of charge. The need for diapers is present, and it is urgent in Cambridge. We could not have accomplished all that we did with the Diaper Bank last spring without them, and we thank them sincerely.

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

5. Congratulations to the 2021 Tribute to Outstanding Women Honorees  
**Councillor Simmons**  
***RES 2021 #216***

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

6. Resolution on the death of Rob Williams

**Councillor Simmons**

***RES 2021 #217***

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

7. Cameron Monagle

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

***RES 2021 #218***

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

8. Amrit Chaudhuri

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***RES 2021 #219***

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

9. Teddy and Alyssa Applebaum

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Toomey**

***RES 2021 #220***

Teddy and Alyssa Applebaum own and operate Elmendorf Bakery in East Cambridge, and have welcomed their first baby. We are thrilled for them, and can't wait to meet him!

This item was amended to include the entire City Council and adopted unanimously as amended.

## **V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST**

1. Resolution Condemning the Treatment of Haitian Immigrants in Texas

**Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2021 #198***

This policy order asks the City Council to go on record in support of Haitian immigrants seeking Asylum in the United States, and asks that our Representatives in Congress share our sentiments with President Biden and urge the administration to change their course of action. I am grateful to Councillor Simmons for spearheading this order and was happy to sign on as Cambridge is home to many Haitian immigrants who are afraid for their countrymen. It is our duty as City Council to uplift the voices of our City, and our Haitian residents are vital parts of this city who deserve to have their concerns addressed.

This order was amended to include the entire City Council as co sponsors and was adopted unanimously as amended.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to reach out to the owner of 689 Massachusetts Avenue to inquire about the prospect of selling this building to the City of Cambridge, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner

**Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2021 #199***

This order asks the City Manager to inquire about purchasing 689 Massachusetts Ave, formerly Cambridge Savings Bank, currently Citizens Bank, for the City's use. This building not only holds a rich history as a cornerstone of Central Square, but also has the potential to become a valuable space in the City as home to the future Cambridge Museum, a gathering place for residents, or a community resource center.

This order was adopted.

3. Affirming Reproductive Freedom

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons**  
***POR 2021 #200***

This order was adopted on the consent agenda. (8 affirmative, Councillor Toomey voted present)

4. That the City Manager direct the Department of Human Service Programs to issue a report, including but not limited to, the specific changes in programming that were made this year

**Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2021 #201***

This order asks the Department of Human Services to report back on the changes it made to after-school programming this year that subsequently left many parents without a placement for their children. Councillor McGovern, Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui and I partnered on this to request a report back to the City Council at an upcoming Human Services committee meeting. Originally, this order contained mention of creating a parental advisory board for the DHSP, but after listening to parents, I suggested an amendment to the order removing the advisory board altogether in an effort to allow the voices of our most marginalized to be heard. I take full responsibility and apologize for any harm the previous language may have done to families who were organizing on their own. As Councillor Nolan said, this is about "how we can serve families better."

The amendment was adopted.

This order was adopted.

5. End Title 42 Deportations

**Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Carlone**  
***POR 2021 #202***

This order was adopted.

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the staff at the Cambridge Historical Commission, the DCR Commissioner, and members of Cambridge's state delegation to approve, fund and execute the design and installation of a suitable historic marker by April 2022 to recognize the vision of Frederick Law Olmsted and others in transforming the Cambridge riverfront landscape, and report back on their progress before the end of the current Council term.

**Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan**  
***POR 2021 #203***

This order was adopted.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. The Ordinance Committee met to conduct a public hearing on April 8, 2021 to discuss the Cambridge Missing Middle Housing Zoning Petition (Ordinance #2021-2)

This report was accepted and placed on file.