



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • OCTOBER 18, 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 an update on COVID-19.

CMA 2021 #224

Reopening Update: Our Department of Public Health has advised that while the test positivity rate, 7-day average case count, and testing demand has gone down significantly over the last two weeks, it is imperative that we continue to take the necessary precautions, such as diligent indoor mask-wearing, to ensure these numbers stay low. CPHD will be using CDC community transmission levels, booster and vaccine availability for children aged 5-12, the upcoming holiday season, developing variants, and mask mandates in neighboring communities as the main metrics to determine when the indoor mask mandate can be lifted. I am proud of Cambridge's commitment to following the guidance and advice of public health officials and hope to see our numbers continue to fall.

While there will be no official halloween events hosted by the City, the Department of Public Health has said that trick-or-treating may continue as usual this year.

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. As promised by the City to keep an eye on the need for another walk/bike accessible testing site, the CambridgeSide testing site will move back to an indoor testing site starting on November 1. From October 1-10, the City's four testing sites administered over 4,000 tests. While the demand for testing has greatly decreased over the weeks, I echo Mayor Siddiqui's plea to be prepared for increased testing as the holiday season draws near. I am grateful to our Police, Fire, and Pro-EMS for their continued support running these vital stations.

Vaccine Update: Flu Vaccine Clinics across the City are up and running! So far, 1,311 flu shots have been administered in the month of October. In addition, 94 COVID-19 vaccines were administered over two days at the October 15-16 clinics with 82 of them as boosters and 10 as first doses, including 7 for people 18 and under. There are still two more [COVID-19 and Flu vaccine](#) clinic dates in October on the following days:

October 22: Reservoir Church 2pm-8pm

October 23: Pisani Center/Washington Elms 12pm-6pm

As of October 14, the FDA recommended Moderna booster shots for selected high risk groups in addition to booster shots for all recipients of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. These advisories add to the Pfizer booster recommendation for those who received both doses of the vaccine a minimum of 6 months ago, are 65+, have underlying health conditions, and live or work in high exposure settings will be eligible.

So far, 69% (77,423) 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 2 percentage points higher than the State. The Department of Public Health in Cambridge is happy to report that their COVID-19 vaccine clinic at CRLS is up and running. Students can opt to get tested or vaccinated during their lunch periods.

During the last COVID update, I asked whether or not our numbers for the 16-19 age range were skewed because of the high volume of college students in Cambridge who may have received their COVID vaccines out of state. The CPHD was not able to provide concrete data leading to this conclusion as they are still compiling and analyzing the data.

Public Health Update: The 7-day (October 11-17) moving average in Cambridge is [6.1 confirmed cases per day](#) per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 0.20% for the two-week period ending on October 17th. There are 126 active cases within the City. There have been 7,560 total cases; 7,256 in the community and 304 in long-term care facilities. Of these 7,560 cases, 125 have resulted in death with 61% accounting for long-term care residents.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$170,975 from Free Cash to the General Fund Elections Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to cover the additional costs associated with recently approved vote by mail- in, and early voting for the municipal election, November 2, 2021.

CMA 2021 #225

This item was placed on file.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account to purchase 25 mobile radios for Public Works response vehicles.

CMA 2021 #226

Councillor Nolan asked whether or not these radios would help our DPW snow removal vehicles optimize their routes and while they will not, they will help operators communicate between each other.

This item was placed on file.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$32,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures Account for repair costs associated with the City's Warming Center. **(ID # 14812)**

This item was placed on file.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,500,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to purchase of two 1250GPM Fire Pumps.

CMA 2021 #227

I posed two questions in response to this appropriation of funds regarding the cost of these pumper trucks and the physical size of them. Fire Chief Mahoney informed us that these trucks, priced at \$750,000 each, have gone up in price over the year, but are still reasonably priced and the City will actually be saving money by purchasing two at the same time. In regards to the physical size of these vehicles, I inquired about our tight corners and the feasibility of getting a large emergency vehicle down the street. Our neighbors, Somerville, have many of these smaller fire trucks and I believe Cambridge will benefit from them in the future. Chief Mahoney advised against these smaller vehicles for now to not sacrifice cargo space for tools and other equipment that has to be transported to and from emergencies. Councillor Nolan brought up the environmental effects these new trucks may have, and asked why the hybrid model, Voltera, was not considered for purchase. Chief Mahoney stated that the Voltera will not be ready for purchase for a minimum of 2-3 years, and when they are available the Fire Department will look into a long-term lease of the vehicle.

This item was placed on file.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of Albert Darling as a Constable for a term of three years, effective the first day of January, 2021. **CMA 2021 #228**

This item was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2021

CHARTER RIGHT

1. The Health and Environment Committee met on April 14, 2021 to conduct a public hearing regarding the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 4, 2021**

ON THE TABLE

This item was placed on file.

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 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

PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL AUGUST 2, 2021

CMA 2021 #176

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2021

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Michael Jeremy Yamin, regarding Yard Setback Zoning Petition.

APP 2021 #43

This item was referred to the Ordinance Committee and the Planning Board for a full hearing.

Although this was the only action the City Council could make, Councillor Zondervan voted no.

2. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Karen Cushing, regarding Off Street Parking consistent with the base zoning district, in order to minimize the use of on-street parking in the surrounding area.

APP 2021 #44

This item was referred to the Ordinance Committee and the Planning Board for a full hearing.

Although this was the only action the City Council could make, Councillor Zondervan voted no.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2021

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Caitlin Anderson, regarding After school care.
COM 533 #2021
This item was placed on file.
2. A communication was received from Dac Hoang, regarding Cycling Safety Ordinance.
COM 534 #2021
This item was placed on file.
3. A communication was received from Joe Rose, regarding First Second Street Corridor Study Comments.
COM 535 #2021
This item was placed on file.
4. A communication was received from Sarah Swettberg Ed.M, FNP, BCC, regarding Cambridge HEART program.
COM 536 #2021
This item was placed on file.
5. A communication was received from Jeanne Oster and Annette Osgood, regarding Save Mass Ave Save Our City Online Petition Paper Petition 503 signatures
COM 537 #2021
Mayor Siddiqui pulled this item for discussion. As there have been changes to the plan for protected bike infrastructure based on community feedback, the City posted an updated plan on the project website last Wednesday, that addressed some not all of the concerns raised by residents and business owners. Mayor Siddiqui worked with the City Manager, Traffic and Parking to hold a second community meeting next Thursday, October 28th to present the new plan and answer questions.

This item was placed on file.
6. A communication was received from Yi Sheng Wang, regarding Cycling Safety Ordinance.
COM 538 #2021
This item was placed on file.
7. A communication was received from Susan Meagher and Kerry Denvir, regarding Policy Order POR 2021 #210.
COM 539 #2021
This item was placed on file.
8. A communication was received from Sharon Stichter, regarding Porter square De Facto Simulation of Mass Ave Safety Improvement Project - Dudley St to Alewife Brook Pkwy.
COM 540 #2021
This item was placed on file.
9. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding De Facto Simulation of Mass Ave Safety Improvement Project - Dudley St to Alewife Brook Pkwy.
COM 541 #2021
This item was placed on file.

10. A communication was received from the community, regarding Carl Barron Plaza reconstruction.

COM 542 #2021

Councillor Zondervan pulled this item to place it on the table. He expressed desires from the unhoused community regarding Carl Barron Plaza such as handwashing stations, narcotics dispensers, improved bike safety, tree preservation, a community kitchen, a message board, electrical outlets, tree/landscape upkeep and preservation, and a posted sprinkler system for members of the community who sit and/or reside in the plaza.

Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter right to place this item on the table for the next Council meeting on October 25.

11. A communication was received from Robert J. La Tremouille, regarding City Council funds major environmental destruction at Magazine Beach.

COM 543 #2021

This item was placed on file.

12. A communication was received from Jeanne Oster, regarding to expand the definition of the Mass Ave Four so all streets between Alewife Brook Parkway and Everett St can be looked at together as a cohesive whole.

COM 544 #2021

Councillor Simmons pulled this item for discussion. She read the letter into the record, and echoed other Council members' advice to be mindful to be inclusive when it comes to construction throughout the City as it affects all of our residents.

This item was placed on file

13. A communication was received from Hasson Rashid, regarding the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) held a meeting on September, 13,2021 as part of it's Moving to Work/ Cambridge Housing Authority Annual Plan (MTW/ CHA Annual Plan).

COM 545 #2021

This item was placed on file.

V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Cicada Coffee Bar

Vice Mayor Mallon

RES 2021 #243

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

2. Thanks to Christina Correia, Director, the team at the Animal Commission, and the Pet Food Task Force for their innovation to solve the growing need for pet food within Cambridge.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toomey, Mayor Siddiqui

RES 2021 #244

I am so proud of our Animal Commission employees who saw this need and acted on their own to

come up with an impactful solution. For those who are pet owners and also low-income, affording pet food is an added layer of stress that many do not consider. With an operating Pet Food Pantry, pet owners no longer have to worry about caring for their family members who have brought them great comfort, especially during the ongoing pandemic.

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

3. Congratulations to Jessica Lander on being named one of the Top 50 finalists for the 2021 Global Teacher Prize.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon

RES 2021 #245

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

4. Congratulations to Helen Sullivan and Rafael Rivera on the birth of their daughter Xiomara Cristina Rivera Sullivan.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #246

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

5. Resolution on the death of Margaret "Peggy" Hoffman Pedro.

Councillor Toomey, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #247

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

6. Resolution on the death of Rina Spence.

Councillor Nolan

RES 2021 #248

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

7. Resolution on the death of Mary Carbone.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #249

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

8. Resolution on the death of Rose (DiBella) Santoro.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #250

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

9. Congratulations to Ms. Pariss Chandler on Making the "2021 BBJ Power 50: Movement Makers List."

Vice Mayor Mallon

RES 2021 #251

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

10. Resolution on the death of Sarah C. (McGuinness) Dinan.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #252

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

11. Resolution on the death of Frank Primavera.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #253

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Public Works Department to repair the grass at Greene-Rose Heritage Park and ensure that the area is kept well-maintained

Councillor Simmons

POR 2021 #214

Councillor Simmons brought up the toll volleyball players have taken on the grass at Rose Green Heritage Park, making the field less habitable for the many groups of people that flock there to recreate. She emphasized the need for outdoor space right now as the ability to gather outside greatly mitigates COVID transmission risk and improves mental health. Councillor Carlone also pointed out that the Port neighborhood where Green Rose Park is located is underserved by green space, holding only 20% of the City's green space, so repair and preservation of the grass is even more important.

This item was adopted.

2. That the City Council go on record prioritizing Cambridge residents for Building Pathways.

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

POR 2021 #215

This is a project I have been working on for years now and am happy to see it moving forward once again. Trades are lucrative, secure careers that our residents who college does not appeal to can take advantage of. Councillor Simmons and I both said if we want to truly promote these careers as options for our residents, we must keep this program in Cambridge to continue to make it accessible for those looking to enter the trades.

This item was amended to add the entire City Council. This item was adopted as amended.

3. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship and other relevant City staff to determine the feasibility of creating a uniform process for aiding the resettlement of refugees in Cambridge.

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

POR 2021 #216

This item was adopted.

4. That the City Manager is requested to determine the feasibility of purchasing property from Lesley University to address City goals.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons

POR 2021 #217

Lesley University will be selling several pieces of property, including two surface parking lots in Porter Square as part of a larger strategic plan. This PO asks the City Manager to confer with Lesley University and determine the feasibility of the City purchasing these parcels to meet various City goals.

This item was adopted.

5. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to place a cricket field in one of the Cambridge parks.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
POR 2021 #218

This item was adopted.

6. That the City Manager is requested to appoint a task force that will hold regular public meetings to solicit ideas and feedback from residents on the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act funds. **Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Carlone, Councillor**

Sobrinho-Wheeler
POR 2021 #219

Cambridge has received \$65,019,211 through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) which was established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be used by 2024. Our neighbors in Boston have created a committee compiled of community stakeholders who will represent resident wants when it comes to these funds. In Cambridge, we should do the same, so that we may place equity at the center of the distribution conversation. Councillors Simmons and Carlone, co-chairs of the Finance Committee, agree that residents should be able to express where they want the funds to be allocated, and the City should adequately communicate to residents what can be done with the funds.

This item was amended to add Councillor Nolan as a cosponsor. This item was adopted as amended.

7. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate City departments to place a plaque in honor of Thom Doyle at Pacific Field to honor his commitment to our children and his volunteer efforts on their behalf.

Councillor McGovern
POR 2021 #220

Thom was a dedicated and kind mentor to our children both on and off the field. His consistent presence as a coach for hundreds of Cambridge Youth Soccer participants will be deeply missed by all who came into contact with Thom whether they were players or parents. I am happy Councillor McGovern brought this dedication forward so that the care Thom put into fostering young people will not go unnoticed. Our hearts go out to his wife Summer, and their two daughters River and Lila who he leaves to mourn.

This item was adopted.

8. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate City departments to start placing QR codes on signage around these projects so that interested parties can quickly and easily access information regarding these projects to promote information sharing and transparency.

Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

POR 2021 #221

This item was adopted.

9. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate staff of both the City and State to confirm if the Truck Restriction map is up to date, who should be enforcing the ban on Alewife Brook Parkway, and what actions can be taken moving forward.

Councillor Toomey

POR 2021 #222

This item was adopted.

10. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the City of Belmont about what improvements may be made to the Huron Avenue and Grove Street intersection and adjoining sidewalks.

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

POR 2021 #223

This item was adopted.

11. City Council support for the proposed site location for Eversource's Geothermal Pilot Program project.

Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2021 #224

Councillor Nolan brought up the positive environmental effects this project could have for the City. This project would also help the City achieve many of its climate goals that it has already set.

This item was amended to add the word "Cambridge" to the final resolved paragraph so it reads: "That the City Council go on record expressing enthusiastic support Cambridge as a location for Eversource's Geothermal Pilot Program project"

This item was further amended to add the entire City Council as cosponsors. This item was adopted as amended.

12. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to support the Uplift the Solar Energy Industry in Massachusetts coalition.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2021 #225

This item was adopted.

13. That the City Council go on record in reaffirming strong support for H.1426/S.890, the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2021 #226

The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) provides cities and towns the option to allow tenants in multi-family houses to purchase their home or donate their property to non-profits so the home can remain affordable for the future. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler raised a point about the need for rent-control in Cambridge, and how TOPA could assist with providing some sort of protection for renters. Councillor Toomey raised concern about small property/homeowners being unfairly put in a vulnerable position to sell their property during hard economic times. Councillor Nolan expressed that this bill excludes small landlords.

This item was adopted to add Councillor Nolan as a cosponsor. This item was adopted as amended by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Toomey voted no and Councillor Simmons was marked absent.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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

Mayor Siddiqui

COF 2021 #89

This item was placed on file.