



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • OCTOBER 25, 2021

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber 5:30 PM

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

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$745,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund, Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expense account which will be used for site maintenance and the replacement of critical infrastructure to support the City of Cambridge radio system.

CMA 2021 #229

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of the following persons as members of the Conservation Commission: Kathryn Hess, David Lyons and Elysse Magnotto-Cleary.

CMA 2021 #230

This item was placed on file.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$180,500 from Free Cash to the General Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account to support the expansion of Equity Roadmap's Friday Night Hype program in Cambridge.

This appropriation also responds to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-54.

CMA 2021 #231

Friday Night Hype (FNH) is an enrichment program for middle school students that was created by CPS staff at the Cambridge Street Upper School in January 2020, before the onset of the pandemic, and has found a way to remain a constant in our students' lives since despite difficulty navigating COVID guidelines. FNH provides mentorship, fun activities, and a hot meal for students looking to meet and hang out with their middle school peers. Programming like FNH is already doing the ever-important work of fostering young people and creating an opportunity for deep mentorship that will help shape futures. As gun violence in the City rose this past summer, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillors McGovern, Simmons, and I saw the need for FNH to receive permanent funding so they may continue to keep our children involved in programming that supports them. I am so grateful to the FNH team: Jackie, Will, Kini, and Debbie, who no longer have to use their personal funds to finance this program, and the City Manager for quickly

answering the call to fund FNH. I am so happy to see that FNH will continue to receive funding in the City budget, and have a permanent home at the War Memorial.

This item was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2021

CHARTER RIGHT

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

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERAN IN COUNCIL

OCTOBER 18, 2021

COM 542 #2021

ON THE TABLE

Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter right to place this item on the table for discussion.

This petition was received last week as a communication, and this week there was a policy order introduced to ask that a public hearing would be held in response. We voted 9-0 to suspend the rules to bring Policy Order #232 so we could all discuss this together.

Councillor Nolan suggested an amendment to the existing Policy Order to better reflect the goal of the order — to have a further public discussion on the plaza redesign and ensure voices are being heard and concerns addressed. The amended language reads: “That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the full council on all work done on the redesign proposal and all feedback from the community including the unhoused community in conjunction with the petition as soon as possible, and within two weeks.”

The amended language was adopted. The Policy Order was adopted as amended 7-2. Councillor Simmons and Councillor Toomey voted no.

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 25, 2021

III. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Re Porter square every one of us needs to dial it back.

COM 566 #2021

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Delay Implementation until feedback from 2nd community meeting is incorporated.

COM 567 #2021

This item was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Porter square Delay Implementation until feedback from 2nd community meeting is incorporated.

COM 568 #2021

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Roger May, regarding planned redesign Mass Ave.

COM 569 #2021

This item was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Rochelle Zapol, regarding Objections to Plans to Expand the Bike Lane on Mass Ave Dudley Street to Alewife Brook Parkway.

COM 570 #2021

This item was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Jeff Borrelli, regarding Mass Ave - Dudley St to Alewife Brook Pkwy.

COM 571 #2021

This item was placed on file.

7. A communication was received from Robert J. La Tremouille, regarding Massive Environmental Destruction_10.25.2021.

COM 572 #2021

This item was placed on file.

8. A communication was received from Linda Moussouris, regarding Porter Square Delay Implementation until feedback from 2nd community meeting is incorporated.

COM 573 #2021

This item was placed on file.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Myron Levine.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #254

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

2. Resolution on the death of Gerald G. “Tubba” Gomes, Sr.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #255

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

3. Resolution on the death of Jeannie “Jennie” Mammola

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #256

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

4. Congratulations to Brian Corr

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #257

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

5. Congratulations to the Margaret Fuller House Honorees

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #258

Councillor Simmons pulled this item to lift up the Margaret Fuller House and the exceptional work they did throughout the pandemic to help the Cambridge community in a variety of ways. I want to congratulate Mayor Siddiqui, Michael Monestime, and Lori Lander for their recognition as honorees, a job well done.

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

6. Thank You Ms. Merline Sylvain-Williams For 17 Years Of Service

Vice Mayor Mallon

RES 2021 #259

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

7. Congratulating Sofra Bakery

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon

RES 2021 #260

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

8. Thank You to Sandy Gould and Jason Targoff for Dedication to Cambridge Youth Soccer

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern

RES 2021 #261

This item was placed on file and adopted unanimously.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relative City departments on ways to report pedestrian and cyclist accidents in real time to residents.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

POR 2021 #229

In the month of October, there have been 7 bicycle or pedestrian collisions. As councillors, we receive email alerts when one of these collisions happens, but many residents are unaware of these collisions as they aren't reported in a visible way. By making the frequency of these incidents available to the public in the same manner they are to us, we can better collect the data, and provide the information in real time to residents. As Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler brought up, this increase in visibility also goes hand in hand with [Vision Zero](#), a policy the City has already adopted to eliminate deaths from traffic collisions.

This Policy Order was amended to add Councillor Zondervan as a cosponsor. This item was adopted as amended unanimously.

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Director of the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department that in addition to stricter parking enforcement in this area, a viable long- term strategy must be developed to mitigate the issues created by the removal of the metered parking spaces along Massachusetts Avenue near Banks Street to ensure that those providing home-based services to seniors in this neighborhood are fully able to do so

Councillor Simmons

POR 2021 #230

Councillor Simmons brought forward this policy order to ask the City to come up with a better long term viable solution that adequately addresses a better balance between bikes, pedestrians, seniors, and safety. As seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations in our City, it's important that we continue to keep them in mind as we adopt new construction plans.

This Policy Order was amended to replace "Massachusetts Avenue" with "Mt. Auburn Street." This item was adopted as amended unanimously.

3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the City Solicitor and the appropriate staff to review the language of this proposed ordinance amendment and to report back to the City Council in advance of the next City Council meeting.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2021 #231

This item was adopted unanimously.

4. Public Hearing on Carl Barron Plaza Redesign
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Carlone
POR 2021 #232

This item was adopted 7-2. Councillors Simmons and Toomey voted no.

5. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to consult with the Community Development Department, the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, and any other appropriate City department to discuss implementation of a plan which charges EV customers for electricity and not parking at municipal EV charging locations.
Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2021 #233

This item was adopted unanimously.

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with DCR on the possibility of again extending closures until at least the final Sunday in December 2021, if not longer, weather permitting **Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui**
POR 2021 #234

This item was adopted 8-1. Councillor Toomey was marked absent.

7. Debt-Free Public Higher Education
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2021 #235

This policy order asks the City Council to support the federal push for Debt-Free Public Higher Education. We know that public universities in the Commonwealth such as Bunker Hill Community College, UMass Boston, and UMass Amherst have some of the highest amounts of CPS graduates enrolled, and many of these students take on extreme amounts of debt to make their education possible. For students who do not finish their college education and are left with this debt, a bright future moves that much further away. Councillor McGovern brought up an important point that while Debt-Free Public Higher Education is not within the reach of the City Council, we can still on a municipal level look for ways to subsidize the cost of remedial courses for CPS students who are unable to test into general education classes. As a City, we have failed that student and must remedy the action through covering the cost of their course.

This Policy Order was amended to add the entire City Council as cosponsors. This item was adopted as amended unanimously.

8. That the City Council go on record in support of implementing key safety improvements on the Harvard Bridge, including flex post-protected bike lanes by the end of the year and bus lanes as soon as can be feasibly coordinated with the MBTA

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern
POR 2021 #236

This resolution supports a redesign of the Mass Ave Bridge that includes protected bike infrastructure and dedicated bus lanes. I was added as a co-sponsor on the floor, and was happy to sign on to this Policy Order, as I believe the need for both bike safety, and better more reliable bus service is extremely urgent.

This Policy Order was amended to add myself as a cosponsor. This item was adopted as amended unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Ordinance committee met on September 21, 2021 to continue a hearing on an amendment to Article 22 of the City of Cambridge Zoning Ordinance “Emissions Accounting” (Ord # 2021-13).

Policy order from September 21 Ordinance committee

POR 2021 #237

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan

We have concluded that the proposal will be restructured and revisited at a later date.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting Information on Broadband
Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon
COF 2021 #90

I am so excited that we are one step closer to our goal of bringing reliable broadband to our most vulnerable residents. As we saw during the height of the COVID19 pandemic when many of us were at home working or learning remotely, internet access has become a utility, not a luxury. The Mayor and I will continue providing updates to the Council and our residents as this project moves forward.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee
COF 2021 #91

This item was placed on file.