



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • NOVEMBER 1, 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 #232***

Reopening Update: Our Department of Public Health reminded us that mask wearing is instrumental in keeping test positivity rates low as Cambridge is on an up and down trend, but still in the high risk category. This is especially crucial as we head into the holiday season where indoor gatherings can serve as superspreader events if proper precautions are not taken. I am so proud of our community's diligent mask wearing efforts and hope they continue throughout the gathering season so we can all be on the other side of this soon.

Testing Update: The City and Cambridge Public Health Department will be meeting on November 3 to increase testing to 5 days a week to accommodate the upcoming rise in demand for the holiday season. COVID-19 testing is still available 4 days a week at the Cambridgeside Galleria, St. John's Church, and 50 Church Street. In October the City's four testing sites administered 11,020 tests. 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, 1,997 flu shots have been administered in the month of October. In addition, 183 COVID-19 vaccines were administered. There are still two more COVID-19 and Flu vaccine clinic dates on the following days:

November 10: King Open School 3:30pm-7:30pm

December 1: King Open School 3:30pm-7:30pm

Both sites will be offering:

Flu Vaccine: Flu Shot and FluMist

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine: Pediatric, Adult, and Boosters

So far, 70% (77,965) of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 78% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is on par with the State. The Department of Public Health in Cambridge is happy to report that their COVID-19 vaccine clinic at CRLS is still up and running. Students can opt to get tested or vaccinated during their lunch periods. Although the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-12 has been approved for administration by the FDA, appointments will not be able to be scheduled until Cambridge receives its allocation. We were assured by our Public Health officials that as soon as the vaccine is here and available, Cambridge is ready to administer the vaccine at mass vaccination sites across the city.

Public Health Update: The 7-day (October 24-31) moving average in Cambridge is 8.1 confirmed cases per day per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 0.27% for the two-week period ending on October 31st. There are 261 active cases within the City. There have been 7,785 total cases. There have been 125 deaths with 61% of deaths 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 a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services, in the amount of \$187,500 to the Grant Fund Fire Travel & Training account (\$20,000) and the Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$167,500), which will be used for the purchase of quick response/safety Hazmat vehicles.

**CMA 2021 #233**

This item was placed on file.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-79, regarding proposed amendments to Article 8.12 of the Municipal Code.

**CMA 2021 #234**

This item was referred to Unfinished Business Item#4

## II. CALENDAR

### 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**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL AUGUST 2, 2021**

**CMA 2021 #176**

No action was taken.

3. 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.

4. Ordinance #2021-24 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.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 8, 2021 POR 2021 #231**

No action was taken.

### **III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. An application was received from MIT Visual Arts Center requesting permission for a temporary banner across Ames Street, and Broadway 26 lights poles announcing Welcome back/Now Open, Contemporary Art Museum at MIT, MIT List Visual Arts Center from October 2021 until February 2022.  
*APP 2021 #45*

This application asks for permission to hang a banner across Ames street as well as 26 light poles on Broadway to announce the opening of the Contemporary Art Museum at MIT. The correct version of the petition was not added to the agenda, so Mayor Siddiqui exercised her Charter Right to allow the Clerk's office time to upload the correct petition. Once the updated petition was available for the Council to review, we voted to suspend the rules to return to this item, but citing concerns that this application may not have been properly noticed to the public, Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right to move the application to the next council meeting so we, and the public, may have more time to review the application.

### **IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. A communication was received from Annette Osgood and Jeanne Oster, regarding Ideas to Consider for Alewife to Dudley using Quick Build and Staying on Existing Time line- Please Submit as a Communication For Monday's City Council Meeting Nov 1.  
**COM 584 #2021**  
This item was placed on file.
2. A communication was received from David Lyon and Patricia Harris Dixon, regarding bike lane considerations.  
**COM 585 #2021**  
This item was placed on file.
3. A communication was received from Elisabeth Werby, regarding Mass Ave protected bike lanes.  
**COM 586 #2021**  
This item was placed on file.

## V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Happy 105th Anniversary to Western Avenue Baptist Church.  
**Councillor Simmons**  
**RES 2021 #264**  
This item was adopted unanimously.
2. Congratulating La Saison on one year in Cambridge.  
**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan**  
**RES 2021 #265**  
This item was adopted unanimously.
3. Congratulations to Justin Casanova-Davis for his new position of Acting Finance Director for the Town of Brookline.  
**Mayor Siddiqui**  
**RES 2021 #266**  
This item was adopted unanimously.
4. Congratulations to Rich Raposa on receiving special recognition for outstanding contributions to the Imperio Mariense Society.  
**Councillor Toomey**  
**RES 2021 #267**  
This item was adopted unanimously.
5. Resolution on the death of Lawrence W. "Larry" Stone.  
**Councillor Toomey**  
**RES 2021 #268**  
This item was adopted unanimously.

## VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Assistant City Manager for the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot Winter Youth Employment Program.

**Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2021 #239***

This order asks the City to consider establishing a non-summer employment program for the youth that would operate similarly to the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. Councillor Simmons spoke about the success MSYEP has had year after year connecting young people to employment every summer, and wants to see that same success during a 6-week fall/winter/spring program.

This item was adopted.

2. City Council support of MIT Divest's campaign to divest MIT's endowment from the fossil fuel industry.

**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern**

***POR 2021 #240***

This item asks the City Council to go on record supporting the MIT Divest campaign which is looking to see MIT withdraw its endowment from the fossil fuel industry. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler added that MIT has long been a leader in innovation and must understand the precedent they would set if they choose to divest from fossil fuel. He also added that Harvard University's divestment campaign was successful and as a result, Harvard is withdrawing their endowment from the fossil fuel industry this year. Councillor Carlone motioned that the entire City Council be added as cosponsors.

This item was adopted.

3. That the City Manager is requested to instruct the Climate Crisis Working Group to include a recommendation and proposal to amend the Green Fleet Policy in their final report. **Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan**

***POR 2021 #241***

This item was adopted.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. The Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee met on July 15, 2020 to conduct a public hearing to discuss the timeline, scope, and budget of the Tobin/Vassal Lane School Project, including updates on the Armory property, and how it fits into

the long-term plan for all school buildings in the City to accommodate expected enrollment changes over the next 10 to 20 years and to receive an update on the legislative office plans.

*This report was accepted and placed on file.*

2. The Health and Environment committee met on May 25, 2021 to discuss proposed amendments to the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) that would drive down energy use and emissions in existing buildings in Cambridge as well as an update on the Net Zero Action Plan 5-Year Review process and recommendations.

A. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with CDD and Law Department to present 1) strategies for all buildings, not just the largest ones, while continuing to keep equity in mind, and 2) draft BEUDO amendment language, to a meeting of the Health & Environment Committee for review and consideration no later than September 23, 2021, such language to include emissions reductions targets that match or exceed the Commonwealth's emissions reductions targets

***POR 2021 #242***

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

*Councillor Zondervan put forward a motion to amend the date to November 8 on the policy order included in the committee report. The motion passed unanimously.*

*This report was accepted and placed on file.*

3. The Housing Committee met on June 3, 2021 to conduct a public hearing to discuss inclusionary zoning preference/eligibility, and how the new state-level Housing Choice law will affect zoning in Cambridge.

*This report was accepted and placed on file.*