



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • NOVEMBER 15, 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 #239*

**Reopening Update:** Our Department of Public Health (CDPH) noted that Cambridge is back in the “high risk” category, but attributed this to cold weather pushing people back indoors and doubled down on their recommendation to keep the indoor mask mandate in effect, especially with the holiday season fast approaching. In an effort to keep as much open space as possible, Joe Barr, director of Traffic & Parking met with the DCR and is happy to report that Riverbend Park will continue to be closed on Saturdays and Sundays through December 19.

**Testing Update:** As promised, the City and Cambridge Public Health Department have been in discussion to expand COVID19 testing to 5 days a week, however, the City Manager informed us that the organization that would provide staffing for that 5th day, CIC, is suffering from staffing issues, and this makes it more difficult for that 5th day of testing to be secured. They are continuing to find a way to add the day and are considering utilizing an alternative location to make this possible. COVID-19 testing is still available 4 days a week at the Cambridgeside Galleria, St. John’s Church, and 50 Church Street. So far in November the City’s testing sites are averaging approximately 637 tests per day and the CDPH expects that number to increase next week ahead of Thanksgiving and through December’s holiday season. I am grateful to our Public Health team, as well as Police, Fire, and Pro-EMS for their continued support running these vital stations and their unwavering dedication to keeping our citizens safe.

**Vaccine Update:** The CDPH is proud to report that since the October 18th Council Meeting where vaccine rates were last reviewed, the percentage rates have risen in every race/ethnicity category. Additionally, at the November 10 vaccine clinic, at which close to 1000 shots were administered, roughly 75% of vaccines administered were pediatric doses. Flu Vaccine Clinics across the City are up and running, and so far, 1,997 flu shots have been administered in the month of October. In addition, 183 COVID-19 vaccines were administered. There is another COVID-19 and Flu vaccine clinic for the second dose at the below location and date:

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

So far, 70% of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 80% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is higher than many large cities in 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. In an effort to streamline the next COVID19 and Flu vaccine clinic on December 1, CDPH is looking into utilizing locations around CRLS such as the field house so people may line up indoors rather than outside like they did at the King Open. CRLS also provides a more central location for the clinic, making it a more accessible option.

Public Health Update: The 7-day (November 1-14) moving average in Cambridge is [14.7 confirmed cases per day](#) per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 0.24% for the two-week period ending on November 11. There are 257 active cases within the City. There have been 8,051 total cases. There have been 126 deaths with 61% of deaths accounting for long-term care residents. I asked if Cambridge's position in the high risk category coincides with increased hospitalization rates, and was informed that hospitalizations specifically at Cambridge Health Alliance have not significantly increased, thanks to high vaccination rates which greatly reduce the risk of serious COVID19 infection. As we enter into the endemic phase of this virus, we may continue to see high case counts, but less frequent hospitalizations. It's critical that we continue to encourage residents to get vaccinated as it's the best way to ensure you are immune from COVID19 and/or decrease the risk of serious illness or death when breakthrough cases occur.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to new appointments of members of the Foundry Advisory Committee for a term of three years, effective November 8, 2021.

***CMA 2021 #240***

Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of the following person as a members of the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board, for a term of three years, effective November 15, 2021.

***CMA 2021 #241***

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to new appointments and reappointments of the following persons as members of the Citizens Committee on Civic Unity, effective November 1, 2021 for three year terms.

***CMA 2021 #242***

Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Adult and Community Learning Services, in the amount of \$117,990.00, to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$66,090.00) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$51,900.00), which will provide funding for two Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) training programs for second language learners.  
***CMA 2021 #243***

This item was placed on file.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$175,000 from the General Fund Employee Benefits (Insurance) Salary and Wages account to the General Fund Public Works Travel & Training (Judgment and Damages) account which will cover medical bills and settlements for Public Works personnel injured in the course of their job.  
***CMA 2021 #244***

This item was placed on file.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$400,000 from MassDOT's FY22 Complete Streets Program to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to support the Huron Avenue (Glacken Field to Fresh Pond Parkway) project.  
***CMA 2021 #245***

Councillor Simmons asked about what kind of outreach was done to vulnerable communities so that we do not repeat mistakes of the past and all parties are informed of the happenings ahead of time. She was informed that signage was posted detailing the work in and around the area, but she suggested direct community outreach as signage is not always most effective.

This item was placed on file.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant, in the amount of \$48,485, received as part of an amended grant scope of services, to the Grant Fund Community Development Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account.  
***CMA 2021 #246***

This item was placed on file.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-6, regarding a report housing development information.  
***CMA 2021 #247***

Councillor Carlone asked for additional information on this and suggested referring this to the Housing Committee to allow for further discussion.

This item was referred to the Housing Committee for further discussion.

10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-75, which requested that the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department (TP+T) and the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) review two recent crashes involving vulnerable users at the intersection of Cambridge Street at Felton Street.

***CMA 2021 #250***

After reviewing the incidents at this intersection, the Cambridge Police Department reported that the cause of both collisions were the result of driver inattention and will be placing more signage around the intersection by the end of November. I asked whether or not we were sure increased signage alone would be effective and was happy to hear from the Acting Commissioner Elow that officers are also being directed to increase their presence at the intersection to encourage better driving habits as well. This is an especially critical intersection in our city as many high schoolers use this cross-section to get to and from school during busy rush hours as well as the lunch hour.

This item was placed on file.

11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$143,333.33 in license renewal fees received from Comcast to the Public Investment Fund Cable Television Extraordinary Expenditures account to support the local Public, Educational and Government cable television stations which will go to Cambridge Community Television, and to City's 22-CityView and the Cambridge Public School's educational cable station, CEA-TV for capital equipment purchases and upgrades.

***CMA 2021 #248***

This item was placed on file.

12. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 21-37 and 21-38, regarding digital equity.

***CMA 2021 #249***

I am happy to see that we are making strides toward universal broadband and closing the digital equity gap, and [this report](#) and the items and demonstration projects Mayor Siddiqui and I have been working on with City staff are outlined in detail and with timelines. I posed a question about the feasibility of the proposed implementation date of March 2022 given the challenge of wiring Washington Elms. I was assured that this timeline is realistic and that the CHA has the staff to accomplish this goal. As there were a number of other questions from the body, this item was jointly referred to Neighborhood & Long Term Planning and the Housing Committee so that we could have further discussion about these questions.

## II. CALENDAR

### CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Council go on record requesting that the forthcoming new Universal Design Playground located in Danehy Park be named the Louis A. DePasquale Universal Design Playground. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR WHEELER IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
**POR 2021 #243**

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler proposed an amendment to the Policy Order asking the new Universal Design playground to be named after City Manager Louie DePasquale to instead be jointly named after him and Haben Girma, the first deafblind graduate of Harvard Law who has dedicated many years of her life to advocating for disability rights.

The amendment filed by Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler failed 3-5-1. Councillors Sobrinho-Wheeler, Nolan, and Zondervan voted yes. Councillors Toomey, McGovern, Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui, and myself voted no. Councillor Carlone was marked present.

This order was adopted 8-1. Councillor Zondervan was marked present.

2. That Article 20.90- Alewife Overlay Districts 1-6 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance be amended to insert a new section entitled Section 20.94.3- Temporarily prohibited uses (Ordinance #2021- 25). CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
**POR 2021 #246.**

This item was adopted and referred to the Planning Board by a vote 7-2. Councillors Simmons and Toomey were marked present.

3. Upper Mass. Ave. Bike Lane Improvements. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
**POR 2021 #247**  
**ON THE TABLE**

After further discussion about the ongoing bike lane project, Councillor Simmons added that there is a significant number of residents who have been left in the dark due to poor outreach and asked that the Council take their concerns into consideration as this project continues. Both she and Councillor McGovern also asked that pedestrians be taken into account as much as cyclists and cars because the danger is just as real for them as it is for other parties.

This item was adopted 5-4. Councillors Simmons, Sobrinho-Wheeler, Toomey, and Zondervan voted no.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. That the City Council adopt a municipal ordinance to reduce or limit campaign donations from donors seeking to enter into a contract, seeking approval for a special permit or up-zoning, seeking to acquire real estate from the city, or seeking financial assistance from the city; Ordinance #2020- 27. PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
**POR 2020 #240**

No action was taken.

8. That the attached Home Petition titled "PETITION FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO ENACT AN ORDINANCE TO LIMIT AND MONITOR CAMPAIGN DONATIONS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING FINANCIAL REWARD FROM THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE" be forwarded to the General Court for adoption. PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
**POR 2021 #248**

No action was taken.

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Peter Valentine, regarding defending the Earth, the Country and the Planet.

***COM 625 #2021***

*This item was placed on file.*

2. A communication was received from Peggy Lynch, 69 Brookline Street, regarding the traffic volume and speed on Brookline Street.

***COM 626 #2021***

*This item was placed on file.*

3. A communication was received from the Manning Tenants Council, regarding Central Square and the parking lot adjacent to 237 Franklin Street.

***COM 627 #2021***

*This item was placed on file.*

### IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the Death of Kathleen Frances Delaney

**Councillor Toomey**

***RES 2021 #277***

*This item was adopted unanimously.*

2. Resolution on the death of Thomas J. Toomey.

**Councillor Toomey**

***RES 2021 #275***

*This item was adopted unanimously.*

3. That a suitable resolution be prepared for Vatsady Sivongxay and Stephen Gray to congratulate them on the recent birth of their second child.

**Councillor Zondervan**

***RES 2021 #278***

*Councillor Simmons asked to be added as a cosponsor.*

*This item was adopted unanimously.*

## V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Council go on record recognizing November 18th, 2021 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day in the City of Cambridge

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2021 #250***

This item was adopted.

2. That the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for November 29, 2021 be changed to a joint Roundtable meeting of the City Council and School Committee to discuss the past election, including but not limited to new practices and polling locations in Cambridge with the City Manager, Election Commission, and any other relevant departments.

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2021 #251***

Councillor Nolan asked for clarification about what this meeting would entail and whether or not it would focus on the redistricting that occurred this past year. Mayor Siddiqui assured that redistricting would be a topic of discussion and further noted that this meeting would serve as an excellent opportunity for both the School Committee and City Council to talk about the issues together.

This item was adopted.

3. That the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 27, 2021, be and hereby is cancelled.

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2021 #252***

This item was adopted.

## VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Nancy Glowa, City Solicitor, transmitting a letter regarding an Open meeting law complaint from Heather Hoffman

***COF 2021 #94***

We voted to suspend the rules to bring forward a late policy order to address this complaint.

The late policy order was adopted unanimously.

This communication was accepted and placed on file.



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

***COF 2021 #95***

***This communication was accepted and placed on file.***

3. A communication was received from the City Clerk, transmitting the Pending Zoning Chart.

***COF 2021 #96***

***This communication was accepted and placed on file.***

4. A communication was received from Anthony Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting the Hearing Schedule

***COF 2021 #97***

***This communication was accepted and placed on file.***

5. A communication was received from the City Clerk, transmitting the 2020-2021 Referral List.

***COF 2021 #98***

***This communication was accepted and placed on file.***