



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • NOVEMBER 22, 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 reappointments and new appointments of members of the Transit Advisory Committee for a term of 2-years, effective November 22, 2021.

CMA 2021 #251

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointments and new appointments of members of the Pedestrian Committee for a term of 2-years, effective November 22, 2021.

CMA 2021 #252

This item was placed on file.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointments and new appointments of members of the Bicycle Committee for a term of 2-years, effective November 22, 2021.

CMA 2021 #253

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the reappointments of the following members of the Planning Board, effective November 22, 2021: Mary Flynn, Louis Bacci, Jr., Catherine Preston Connolly and H. Theodore Cohen.

CMA 2021 #254

Councillor McGovern echoed the questions raised in public comment about these appointments expiring in 2019 and asked “why now” when appointments will become a Council matter in January of next year, as voted on in the November 3rd election in respect to amending the Plan E Charter. The City Manager informed us that there are 7 total expired board appointments (4 from 2019, 3 from 2021) and it was decided that in order to continue to address City happenings, the 2019 appointments would be renewed now, while the 2021 appointments would be left until January 2022 for the Council to decide, as outlined in the amendment to the Plan E Charter. I raised a question about reducing the reappointment term to 3 years since the current appointees have already served 2 out of their 5 years on the board. City Solicitor Glowa let me know that the

“holdover” period when an appointment expires does not affect the length of the term, according to the ordinance, so there can be no change to the length in term, as I asked.

This item was placed on file by a vote of 6-3. Councillors McGovern, Sobrinho-Wheeler, and Zondervan voted no.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-80, regarding a report on redesign work done at Carl Barron Plaza.
CMA 2021 #255

Councillor Zondervan thanked the City Manager’s staff for responding directly to the petition from the community and compiling a detailed report on the redesign of Carl Barron Plaza. There will be a joint Health & Environment and Human Service & Veterans Committee on Wednesday, December 8th at 10 am to discuss this report in more detail. Councillor Zondervan proposed a motion to refer this item to that hearing.

This item was referred to the Health & Environment and Human Service & Veterans Committee.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-62, regarding the feasibility of installing lights at all Cambridge dog parks.
CMA 2021 #256

Councillor McGovern spoke about how happy he is to see that the dog parks will be open until 8 pm, and reminded us that park lighting should be included in the capital budget going forward so that we do not have to go through this process again. Councillor Nolan asked us to be mindful of light pollution and the environmental effect it can have on the surrounding area.

This item was placed on file.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-61, regarding a report on the City’s rodent and pest control efforts since February 2020, to outline what metrics are being used to determine the effectiveness of these efforts, and to issue recommendations as to whether increasing the budget for these efforts, as well as creating new incentives and penalties to ensure community compliance with regulations around rodent control, would lead to a greater level of success in resolving this issue.
CMA 2021 #257

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler asked about rodent birth control, as it has been successful in other municipalities to curb rodent activity. He was informed that the City’s pest control team is looking into that as another possible solution. I brought up the success some neighborhoods have had by working together with neighbors on their street through City abatement efforts as we know there are some parts of the City who have more rodent problems than others. There is a [flyer](#) with more information on the City’s [Inspectional Services](#) webpage, and residents who have rodent concerns can always email rodents@cambridgema.gov. Inspectional Services also informed us

that in the spring, new trash cans will be rolled out in a mass effort to reduce rodent activity throughout the City.

This item was placed on file.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-76, regarding a report on the incident involving the Cambridge Police Officers outside Central Square YMCA on October 17, 2021.

CMA 2021 #258

Acting Commissioner Elow shared that the goal of confronting a suspected shoplifter is never arrest, but instead de-escalation and return of the property. When asked about the details of what an internal investigation looks like at the CPD by Councillor McGovern, Commissioner Elow detailed that there are multi-levels of review for any excessive force claim so that the process is not bias.

This item was placed on file.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a recommendation from the Board of Election Commissioners for the City Council to vote to authorize in-person early voting for the December 14, 2021 Special State Primary, in accordance with Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2020, as amended by Chapter 5 of the Acts of 2021 and Chapter 29 of the Acts of 2021.

CMA 2021 #259

This item was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. 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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

CMA 2021 #240

After exercising her Charter Right at last week's meeting, Councillor Simmons said that she met with the City Manager and his team and was pleased with the conversation about these appointments, but she will continue to discuss them in more detail with the City Manager.

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

This item was placed on file.

2. 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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
IN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 15, 2021
CMA 2021 #242**

After exercising her Charter Right at last week's meeting, Councillor Simmons said that she will continue to talk with the City Manager and his team about appointments as these become a Council matter in January due to the change in the Plan E Charter as voted on by constituents in the November 3rd election.

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

This item was placed on file.

ON THE TABLE

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Drive Times on Dudley St to Alewife Brook Pkwy.
COM 664 #2021
Councillor Nolan pulled this communication to ask the Council to consider the environmental implications of these types of driving and traffic studies.

This communication was placed on file.
2. A communication was received from Thomas C. Owen, regarding Support for the Advancing Housing Affordability (AHA) petition.
COM 665 #2021
This communication was placed on file.
3. A communication was received from Percy Tzelnic, regarding Support for the Donovan Petition.
COM 666 #2021
This communication was placed on file.
4. A communication was received from Hasson Rashid, regarding Elisa Marielissa MHD Wishlist.
COM 667 #2021
This communication was placed on file.
5. A communication was received from Catherine S. Alexander, regarding Support the Advancing Housing Affordability (AHA) Petition (Donovan Petition).
COM 668 #2021
This communication was placed on file.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Marie T. (Kelly) Flynn.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #281

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

2. Resolution on the death of Elio Pantanella.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #282

Councillor Simmons asked to be added as a cosponsor to this resolution and was added unanimously.

The resolution was adopted unanimously as amended.

3. Welcoming Derrick Neal to the City of Cambridge as the new Chief Public Health Officer.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #283

Councillor Simmons expressed her thanks to Sue Breen for standing in the gap for the past year and a half and congratulated Derrick Neal on his new position while commending him for taking on such a role in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic. She highlighted the expertise he will bring to the City and as he continues to guide us through the pandemic and wished him all the best in this role.

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

4. Congratulations to Kelsey Perkins and Tim Depin on the birth of their daughter Molly Louise Depin.

Councillor McGovern

RES 2021 #284

I wanted to congratulate Kelsey and Tim. As the aide to State Representative Katherine Clark, Kelsey exudes grace in her role, and I wanted to take the time to congratulate her welcoming her bundle of joy into the world. I asked to be added to this resolution as a cosponsor.

This resolution was adopted unanimously as amended.

5. Congratulations to Tiya Miles for being awarded the non-fiction book prize at the 72nd National Book Awards.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #285

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

6. Resolution on the death of Philip J. Mastrangelo.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #286

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

7. Congratulations to the members of the Universal Design Park Working Group.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern

RES 2021 #287

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

8. Best wishes to Nazni Velji on her retirement.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2021 #288

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

9. Congratulations to Lamplighter Brewing Company on a successful five years in operation and wishing them many more years of success.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #289

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

10. Congratulations to Clube Desportivo Faialense on a successful 50 years in service and wishing them many more years of success.

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #290

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

11. Resolution on the death of Julio Lugo

Councillor Toomey

RES 2021 #291

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to meet with the Public Health Department, the Department of Human Service Programs, and the Recreation & Aquatics Department to look into providing a suitable practice space for the Cambridge Synchronized Swimming Team for Cambridge residents.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2021 #256

This policy order asks the Public Health Department, DHSP, and the Recreation & Aquatics Department to look into identifying and providing a practice space for Cambridge residents on the Cambridge Synchronized Swimming team. Due to the low percentage of Cambridge residents on the team, the entire team is unable to practice at the War Memorial and instead must travel far

distances to suburbs such as Wellesley and Woburn. As we heard in public comment, this is the only female and gender non-binary sport offered through Cambridge Aquatics and it is important that we find a space for them to continue to offer this sport. Many of us are aware of the essential role physical activity plays in our children's mental health, and after the last year our children have had to sacrifice many of their sports which has taken a significant toll on their wellbeing. Mayor Siddiqui and I were happy to bring this policy order forward to make sure we can return some normalcy to our children's lives.

This item was adopted unanimously.

2. That the City Council go on record strongly urging Harvard and its property service contractors to offer a fair contract that ensures wage increases to the workers of 32BJ SEIU.

Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern *POR 2021 #257*

This policy order asks Harvard University to provide its workers with a fair contract that reflects the hard work and sacrifice they have put in during the duration of the COVID19 pandemic. Councillor Zondervan highlighted public comment from members of the union who reminded us that it's the janitorial staff who have kept people safe while putting their own selves in harm's way. He also highlighted that Harvard is one of the wealthiest universities, and it should fairly compensate its workers. Councillor Carlone put forward a motion for this to be unanimous. The motion passed 9-0.

This item was adopted as amended.

3. That the City Manager is requested to direct City staff to work with partners including the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) and the Central Square Business Improvement District on identifying spaces in Central Square that would support the creation and protection of cultural and human service spaces that align with the City's goals.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons *POR 2021 #258*

This policy order brought forward by Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, and myself asks the City Manager to direct the City to work with outside agencies such as the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority and the Central Square Business Improvement District to identify and rehab spaces in Central Square that will help the City reach cultural and human service goals that have been set. I spoke about the CRA's success with non-profit row at 99 Bishop Allen Drive -- an endeavor that will give updated and below-market office space to organizations that need it most. There is much work to be done in Central Square, and the City cannot do it alone. It is imperative that we employ our allies in development to make sure we have the facilities and services that we so desperately need in the Square. Councillor Simmons added that it is important for us to both hold on to the things that have made Central Square unique, but also move forward with a plan that revitalizes Central Square and returns it to its glory. Councillor McGovern brought up the work the BID has done, but added that they cannot revamp Central Square alone

and noted how great of a tool the CRA is. Councillor Carlone remarked at this great use of basic urban design and motioned for the entire City Council to be added as cosponsors to this order. The motion passed unanimously.

This order was adopted as amended.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Housing Committee met on November 10, 2021 to conduct a public hearing to discuss the September 20, 2021 Policy Order that seeks to amend the Zoning Ordinance via potentially raising the linkage fee.

Mayor Siddiqui asked for her name to be added to the list of attendees, as she was present at the Committee hearing. The motion passes 9-0.

This item was placed on file.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from City Solicitor Nancy E. Glowa, transmitting a response of City of Cambridge to Open Meeting Law Complaint of Heather Hoffman dated November 3, 2021.

COF 2021 #100

A. Motion to approve the proposed response by the City Solicitor to Heather Hoffman's Open Meeting Law Complaint

Councillor Nolan expressed her surprise at City Solicitor Glowa's response that not providing additional materials online is not a form of Open Meeting violation.

The motion to approved the proposed response by the City Solicitor passed 9-0.

This communication was placed on file.

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

COF 2021 #101

This communication focuses on the most recent MCAS score report. Councillor Nolan wanted to remind the Council that even though Cambridge may be above the State in some categories, there is a disturbingly wide range of scores across many demographics, and especially across different schools within the district. In response to vaccination rates in schools, she also noted that we

really need to focus on increasing the vaccination rate among school children, especially in the elementary schools.

3. A communication was received from City Solicitor Nancy E. Glowa, transmitting memorandums regarding Home Rule Petition on Transfer Fee amendment.

COF 2021 #102

A. Motion to adopt the amended Transfer Fee Home Rule petition as drafted by the City Solicitor

Both Councillors Carlone and Zondervan expressed their content with the new language in the Home Rule Petition on the Transfer Fee amendment.

This policy order was adopted.

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Anthony Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting legislative files.

COF 2021 #103

This communication was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Councillor Dennis Carlone transmitting recommendations regarding the Alewife Quadrangle urban design and zoning.

COF 2021 #104

Councillor Carlone reminded the Council that a petition was put in to stop lab development in the Alewife Quadrangle, and offered his own memo on urban design that every city should consider when zoning an area. He hopes this will be used as a resource for the Alewife project.

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, regarding the 2022 City Council Inauguration

COF 2021 #105

Councillor Simmons asked for clarification about the amount of people that will be present as well as what other COVID19 protocols will be in place for the inauguration. Mayor Siddiqui said she would provide more information closer to the date.

This communication was placed on file.