



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • NOVEMBER 8, 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 new appointments and reappointments of members of the Council on Aging Board, effective November 8, 2021.

*CMA 2021 #235*

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of new members of the Biosafety Committee for a term of 5 years, effective November 8, 2021.

*CMA 2021 #236*

This item was placed on file.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-40, regarding the possibility of posting truck exclusion on Roberts Road.

*CMA 2021 #237*

This communication responds to a request asking truck traffic to be limited on Roberts Road. Joseph Barr, from Traffic & Parking, noted that many of the trucks who use Roberts Road are headed to local destinations such as Harvard Vanguard, Skendarian's Apothecary, or the restaurants on Cambridge Street, so it would be difficult to exclude trucks from the street entirely. It was also noted that according to a speed study, 85% of vehicles traveling on the road were doing so under the posted speed limit. Mayor Siddiqui suggested reaching out to residents of Roberts Road to see what the best option is to control the traffic on the road.

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-84 regarding BEUDO (Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance) proposed amendments.

*CMA 2021 #238*

Councillor Nolan expressed the need for these amendments to be adopted in the BUEDO (Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance) ordinance so that Cambridge may continue to work towards citywide emissions reduction goals.

This item was referred to the Health & Environment committee for further discussion and possible amendments.

## II. CALENDAR

### CHARTER RIGHT

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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 1, 2021  
APP 2021 #45  
ON THE TABLE**

The correct application was uploaded and the information was updated.

This application was approved.

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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5. 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**

Councillor Nolan noted that this item is in response to the previous ordinance language that did not adequately reflect the intent of the Council to have warnings apply to all fuel dispensing stations, not just self service ones. The amendment reads: “Each fuel dispensing system shall display a clear warning label explaining that burning gasoline, diesel, and ethanol has major consequences on human health and on the environment, including contributing to climate change. The text, image, or graphics of this warning label shall be approved by the City Manager.”

The amendment was adopted.

This item was ordained 8-0. Councillor Carlone was marked absent.

**III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. An application was received from Jason Parillo, representing One Medical requesting permission for one (1) projecting blade sign and four (4) awnings at the premises numbered 822 Somerville Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter's return receipts are included.

***APP 2021 #46***

The application was approved 8-0. Councillor Carlone was marked absent.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. A communication was received from Gerardo Carcamo, Evelyn Aviles, and Juliet Simpson, regarding comments on DHSP Community Schools Report.

***COM 597 #2021***

This item was placed on file.

## V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Elaine S. (Daveta) Nathan.

**Councillor Toomey**

***RES 2021 #270***

*This item was adopted unanimously.*

2. Resolution on the death of Henriqueta Pires Fernandes (Piguinha).

**Councillor Toomey**

***RES 2021 #271***

*This item was adopted unanimously.*

3. That the City Council go on record urging all residents to honor the people who have defended our country, as well as those who are serving today, by commemorating Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toomey, Councillor McGovern**

***RES 2021 #272***

*On [Veteran's Day](#), there will be a memorial service at 11 am at Cambridge Cemetery to honor our veterans who selflessly served our country.*

*This item was adopted unanimously.*

## VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

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.

**Councillor Simmons, Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2021 #243***

*A motion was brought forward to add Councillor Toomey to this policy order, and he was added unanimously. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler added that there is a small percentage of parks in the City named after both women and people of color, and asked for additional time to discuss this policy order with the motion makers.*

*Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler exercised his charter right.*

2. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate City departments, as well as the Commission of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Education Parents Advisory Council, to develop a plan to install fully accessible equipment in every playground throughout the city.

**Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2021 #244***

This policy order, put forward by Councillor McGovern and cosponsored by myself, the Mayor, and Councillor Nolan asked that we make sure every park in Cambridge has at least some equipment that is accessible for individuals with disabilities. Councillor Carlone asked that the entire Council be added to this policy order, and that amendment was passed unanimously.

This item was adopted as amended.

3. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments and housing agencies to ensure all seniors have access to scam prevention materials and training.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons**  
***POR 2021 #245***

Mayor Siddiqui spoke about how prevalent this issue is for the senior community. The Mayor's office has received many calls from seniors who have either been victims of scammers or are afraid they will become victims. She added that it is even more important for the City to address this issue as the holiday season approaches and scams increase. Councillor Simmons added that we need to educate our seniors to recognize what a possible scam might look or sound like so they can be vigilant.

This item was adopted.

4. 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

**Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***POR 2021 #246***

Councillor Nolan spoke about the Alewife neighborhood being "the last undeveloped neighborhood in Cambridge" and urged the Council and City to proceed with intention as this area gets zoned and developed in the near future. There is a need for housing and jobs that existing residents can fill. Councillor Nolan also noted that this area is the epicenter of climate change in Cambridge as it floods often, and the environment must be kept in mind over the course of development.

Councillor Toomey exercised charter right.

5. Upper Mass. Ave. Bike Lane Improvements

**Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2021 #247***

Councillor Nolan put forward this policy order which asks for two reports: one on how people with limited mobility can access services on Mass Ave with the current bike lane plan, and

another on the number of fires that required a ladder truck to be dispatched on this particular portion of Mass Ave in the last 10 years so we may better understand the feasibility of allowing two-hour parking (some of which will be handicap parking) in bus lanes during off rush-hours. She spoke on the floor about the response from residents who live on or near Upper Mass Ave, but were not adequately informed of the bike lane changes. She urged all involved City departments to be better at outreach so that residents have the information they need. Traffic & Parking is listening to resident and small business feedback, and they have been both creative and adaptive with safe street designs on Cambridge Street and on the newly installed lanes on Mass. Ave from Putnam Avenue to Inman Street. As a result, Traffic & Parking is creating accessible parking spaces and adding them to the Upper Mass Ave design. This project will be iterative as well, meaning that as the lanes are implemented, TP&T will continue to tweak curb uses to ensure we are addressing issues as they arise. As this work was scheduled to start last evening, and Councillor Nolan reiterated her intention with this policy order was not to delay implementation, I proposed an amendment to the "Ordered" paragraph of this policy order to be more clear about the timeline. The amendment reads: "ORDERED: That the request of these reports does not impede the implementation of the project planned on Massachusetts Avenue between Dudley Street and Alewife Brook Parkway, scheduled to begin this week."

The amendment was adopted 7-2. Councillors Simmons and Toomey voted no.

Councillor Simmons exercised her charter right.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. The Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committee met on June 2, 2021 to conduct a public hearing to discuss the Alewife Envision Plan.

The minutes were accepted and placed on file.

2. The Human Services Committee met on June 30, 2021 to conduct a public hearing to discuss after school programming for the fall.

The minutes were accepted and placed on file.

3. The Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committee and the Housing Committee met on August 24, 2021 to conduct a joint follow-up hearing to continue the discussion on the elimination of single and two-family only zoning and restrictions on the type of housing that can be built city-wide.

The minutes were accepted and placed on file.

4. The Ordinance Committee met on October 20, 2021 to conduct a hearing on an ordinance amendment to reduce or limit campaign donations.
  - Motion to Accept amendments as recommended by the Ordinance Committee

- 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

We asked for additional information from the City Solicitor to be reported back by the December 6th Council Meeting before coming to an agreement on this issue. The council asked for clarification on who would enforce this potential ordinance, a legal opinion from the Law Department on the effect of campaign donations on residents who put forward citizen petitions, language exempting labor unions from the ordinance, and suggested language surrounding private business campaign donations.

5. ***POR 2020 #240***

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

C. 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

***POR 2021 #248***

**Councillor Carlone**

*This item was placed on the table.*