



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • DECEMBER 6, 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 a COVID-19 update.

***CMA 2021 #260***

Testing Update: The City Manager was happy to report that a 5th day of testing has finally been secured and ran a successful pilot on Saturday, December 4th. Those looking to get tested on Saturdays going forward can do so at 295 Third Street at the CIC testing site. There are 400 appointments available each week and you can register for them [here](#). As the appointments are limited, we ask that if you are unable to make an appointment, you cancel ahead of time so someone else can take the appointment. For a complete list of testing sites and days, click [here](#).

Vaccine Update: There will be another First Dose clinic for ages 5+ to receive the COVID19 vaccine on:

December 15: Cambridge Rindge & Latin School 3:30pm-7:30pm

This clinic is for those looking to receive their **first dose** of the COVID19 vaccine only. Appointments are required and you can sign up [here](#).

So far, 71% of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 85% 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. To get more booster shots into the arms of Cambridge residents, the CPHD is looking to host a Moderna only booster clinic at the Cambridgeside testing location in the coming month. The first booster clinic will only be available to first responders, the unhoused community, and homebound individuals. So far, statistics on boosters are not yet available from the State, but when they are, the City's vaccine data will be updated to reflect that. For all COVID related city data, click [here](#).

Public Health Update: The 7-day (November 22 - December 6) moving average in Cambridge is [36.9 confirmed cases per day](#) per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 0.53% for the two-week period ending on December 6. There are 613 active cases within the City and a total of 8656 cases to date. There have been 126 deaths with 61% of deaths accounting for

long-term care residents. As expected, Cambridge has seen a spike in cases most likely attributed to the indoor gatherings for the Thanksgiving holiday and the City remains in the “high risk” category. Most alarmingly, case counts are growing among children under the age of 12. The CPHD advised us all to remember that although more children 5-11 are getting vaccinated they are still the most vulnerable, especially those under 5 who are not eligible for a vaccine. As the new Omicron variant spreads and possibly mutates again, it is important that we stay vigilant and continue to encourage vaccination as it’s the best way to reduce viral transmission and reduce severity of symptoms if infected.

Reopening Update: Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the City has had over 60 local restaurants participate in feeding our unhoused community, totaling to 270,000 meals. The City Manager was happy to report that this partnership will continue through 2022 and an average of 27,000 meals are delivered weekly from various restaurants to shelters around the City. This is an incredible show of generosity from our restaurant community who have faced great loss throughout the pandemic, but are still finding ways to give back. I asked if we would move toward requiring proof of vaccination at restaurants, gyms, and other public places to encourage vaccination rates and the City Manager informed us that based on conversation with other neighboring cities, it does not look like more restrictions are coming. I also asked a question about what the City’s telework policy might look like and was pleased to hear that the report is scheduled to come out in January.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a supplemental appropriation of the Shannon Grant for \$25,000 received from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition’s Community Safety Initiative through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account (\$15,000) and the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$10,000) which will be dedicated to hot spot patrols, Metro Gang Task Force participation, and the Focused Deterrence program as well as to support a Teen Public Art Program at the Community Art Center.

***CMA 2021 #261***

This communication asks for allocation for anti-violence programming in hot spots around the City. Commissioner Elow let us know that the money must be spent by the end of this year and officers are already engaging in both the Port and North Cambridge neighborhoods, where there were upticks in gun violence this past summer. Through this grant, the [Community Art Center](#) will also be receiving new equipment such as cameras, monitors, and computers so they can continue their work in preventative programming.

This item was placed on file.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$250,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Community

Development Department Extraordinary Expenditures Account to provide additional funds necessary to complete the Sennott Park renovation project in two phases.

***CMA 2021 #262***

This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as new members of the Family Policy Council effective December 1, 2021.

***CMA 2021 #263***

I want to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the Family Policy Council, Wendy and Tabithalee, and youth representatives Sophie, Elijah, and Elaine! Wendy is a speech-language pathologist and her work and research will have a profound effect on the work we're doing around language justice. I'm especially excited to see my friend Tabithalee who works at CEOC doing case management and helps out with the [Cambridge RISE](#) Guaranteed Basic Income pilot will join the council as I know she will be an amazing voice on this committee as we continue our work on language justice.

This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of donations to the Multi-Service Center in the amount of \$1,300.00 to Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to support rental assistance for low- income residents at risk of losing housing.

***CMA 2021 #264***

This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Shannon Grant received from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition/Shannon Community Safety Initiative through the Executive Office of Public Safety for \$23,032.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$22,032.00) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,000.00) which will be used to support the design and implementation of the City Peace program, a violence prevention peer leadership internship for Cambridge youth 14-18 years old.

***CMA 2021 #265***

This communication asks for appropriation of funds to be directed to the City Peace program. City Peace previously ran in the summer as part of MSYEP at the Moore Youth Center and now runs in the fall at the Moses Youth Center. The program focuses on emotional and mental wellness practices for 26 young men, many of whom are men of color, who do not always have a positive relationship with the stigma of self-care. With the appropriation, the program can run into January and serve another group of young men. It would be helpful for us to have a list of violence prevention programs available around the City to understand what is available, who is being served, and what gaps in resources and programming need to be filled.

This item was placed on file.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$764,359.00 funded by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and administered in Massachusetts by the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$122,161.00), to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$639,748.00), and to the Travel and Training account (\$2,450.00) which will be used to operate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) serving Cambridge and Somerville.

***CMA 2021 #266***

This communication asks for an appropriation to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Cambridge and Somerville. There was discussion about both whether or not this would be enough money and what the income guidelines were. Assistant City Manager for the Department of Human Services Ellen Semenoff informed us that the City's fund has never run out of money, but if something like that were to occur there are additional sources available through the State. In order to qualify, applicants must make no more than 60% of AMI (Adjusted Median Income) as set by the State. For more information on how to apply, please click [here](#).

This item was placed on file.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of MASSCAP Inc. funds in the amount of \$770.71 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to provide assistance to two Cambridge and Somerville residents with natural gas heating bills.

***CMA 2021 #267***

This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant in the amount of \$38,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$29,723.00), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$4,739.00), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$3,538.00) which will support Bridge Program advising, coaching and mentoring, advising for the ESOL/Certified Nursing Assistant Program, and education and career advising for other CLC students.

***CMA 2021 #268***

This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant in the amount of \$36,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$29,533.00) to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$5,767.00), and to the Travel and Training account

(\$700.00) which will be used to fund classes, advising and coaching of the Bridge to College Program students from July 2021 through June 2022.

***CMA 2021 #269***

**This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.**

11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant funded by Friends of the Community Learning Center through individual donations in the amount of \$4,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account which will support English for Speakers of Other Languages classes at the Community Learning Center.

***CMA 2021 #270***

**This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.**

12. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Children's Trust Fund grant for the Center for Families program in the amount of \$55,125.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$49,679.00) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$5,446.00) which will be used to covers nine months of programming and will be used by the Center for Families to support family programs targeting parents of children up to eight years, which include a variety of family support and parent education programs and resources.

***CMA 2021 #271***

**This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.**

13. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of an increase to the Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the amount of \$90,798.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$60,080.00), and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$30,718.00) which will be used to support a technology aide and part time ESOL and ABE staff, and for technology equipment, including laptops and webcams.

***CMA 2021 #272***

**This item was placed on file in the consent agenda. No discussion took place.**

14. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-88, regarding amendments to the draft Ordinance to limit and monitor campaign donations by individuals seeking financial benefit from the City of Cambridge.

***CMA 2021 #273***

**This communication refers to Calendar Items 1 and 2 which have to do with drafting language around an ordinance to monitor and limit campaign donations. We voted to suspend the rules to bring both calendar items forward and off of the table.**

Over the last several years the Council has been working on an ordinance to limit campaign donations from those who stand to receive financial gain from zoning (increased density, building heights, etc.). We are looking to introduce a \$200 campaign contribution limit from this group of people which would cap donations from interested parties to ensure there's no conflict of interest. We have modeled our ordinance on Somerville's 2017 [Pay to Play and Campaign Contribution Ordinance](#). The Somerville ordinance did not require a "home rule" which is a special legislative act, but we want our ordinance to go further, so our City Solicitor advised us to use a home rule to make our ordinance fool proof. This will require approval from the State Legislature and the Governor before it can go into effect. At last night's meeting we made amendments to the language for clarity and removed broad terms that were causing confusion. After thorough discussion we moved this to a second reading so we can vote on it at the December 20th Council Meeting. The Home Rule Petition language is still on the table and we'll also be able to act on that at the December 20th meeting.

## II. CALENDAR

### ON THE TABLE

1. 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**

This item was referred to City Manager Item #273

2. 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**

This item was removed for discussion, and placed back 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.

### III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Barlo Signs representing Wusong Road, requesting permission for a projecting illuminating sign at the premises numbered 2 Bennett Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

***APP 2021 #47***

I'm happy to welcome a new restaurant to Harvard Square, [Wusong Road!](#) The Tiki Bar and American Chinese spot will be opening later this month and I wish them all the best in business.

This application was approved.

### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Change the garbage pick up time on Mass Ave from Dudley St to Alewife Brook Pkwy (11540658) was closed by Public Works - KK (Community Relations).

***COM 675 #2021***

This item was placed on file.



2. A communication was received from Susan Connelly, regarding Notes from your Neighbors in The North and an Invite for a community stroll.

**COM 676 #2021**

This item was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Mark Goldberg, regarding Update #2- Store Fronts.

**COM 677 #2021**

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Joan Pickett, regarding North Mass Ave.

**COM 678 #2021**

This item was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Jeff Borrelli, regarding Gridlock on Mass Ave During Rush Hour.

**COM 679 #2021**

This item was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Urgent request to pull this communication for discussion on Monday's City Council Meeting.

**COM 680 #2021**

This item was placed on file.

## **V. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution on the death of Lorraine T. (Nunes) Perry.

**Councillor Toomey**

**RES 2021 #296**

This resolution was adopted.

2. Resolution on the death of Carole Virginia DoCouto.

**Councillor Toomey**

**RES 2021 #297**

This resolution was adopted.

3. Resolution on the death of Arthur "Drummy" Gray.

**Councillor Toomey**

**RES 2021 #298**



This resolution was adopted.

4. Resolution on the death of Salman Almarzooqi.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toomey**  
**RES 2021 #299**

This resolution was adopted.

## VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with appropriate departments on what the standard public process will be prior to implementing new sections of bike lanes, and what general evaluation process will take place post-installation.

**Councillor Toomey, Councillor Simmons**

**POR 2021 #259**

This Policy Order asks the City Manager to work with the necessary departments to develop a standardized process for new bike lane creation. It's going to be important to ensure a clearly outlined process that includes robust conversations before AND after implementation. As I have said before, this process should be iterative, and we have already heard from both residents and business owners that we have work to do and changes to make. We know that feedback often finds a home on social media sites such as NextDoor and Twitter, and it would be much more effective if we could find a way through this PO to direct that feedback more directly to Traffic, Parking & Transportation. We need to continue to learn from each project and take those lessons with us to each step of the next bike lane implementation as we continue to build 26 miles of protected bike infrastructure throughout the City over the next 5 years.

Councillor McGovern submitted a few amendments to the Policy Order for clarity and inclusion, and a floor amendment was made to ensure an initial report back from the City Manager by January 31, 2022.

This policy order was adopted as amended 9-0.

2. City Council opposition to the MBTA's plans to introduce new diesel infrastructure at the North Cambridge Garage and buses with diesel heaters.

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler**

**POR 2021 #260**

Late last week I learned that the MBTA is currently in talks with advocates and City staff about this matter, so to allow those conversations to happen without influence from this body, I moved to place this item on file so it cannot be placed on the table for future meetings.

This item was placed on file by a vote of 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

3. That the Cambridge City Council condemns, in the strongest possible terms, any actions that may result in the physical injury of any individual, regardless of their support or non-support, of the bike/bus lane implementation on Massachusetts Avenue.

**Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon**

***POR 2021 #261***

**This policy order was adopted 7-2. Councillors Simmons and Toomey were marked present.**

4. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the Public Health Department and other relevant City staff to establish a plan that will enable Covid-19 home testing to be conducted for seniors and those with significant mobility impediments.

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

***POR 2021 #262***

**This policy order was adopted.**

5. City Council support of the VOTES Act which helps to build on important electoral reforms that were introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic to make voting more accessible.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Carlone**

***POR 2021 #263***

**This policy order was adopted.**

6. That the City Clerk is requested to forward the Home Rule Petition establishing a Net Zero emissions requirement for building construction in Cambridge in accordance with its Net Zero Action Plan, adopted in 2015, to the entire state legislative delegation for immediate adoption.

**Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone**

***POR 2021 #264***

**This policy order was adopted.**

7. That the City Manager is requested to instruct the City Solicitor to draft the appropriate ordinance amendments for the City Council to review following the recent charter amendments.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler**

***POR 2021 #265***

**This policy order was adopted.**

8. That the City Manager is requested to direct the City Solicitor to draft home rule language to establish a Cambridge Jobs Creation Trust for City Council review by the December 20, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

**Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2021 #266***

**This policy order asks for home rule language to be drafted by the City Solicitor so we can begin to establish a Cambridge Jobs Creation Trust, similar to the Jobs Trusts already in place for several years in both Boston and Somerville. The new trust would not only help to support workforce development programs, but also help to establish a long-overdue jobs linkage fee which we have discussed many times as we've looked to raise the commercial linkage fee.**

Although there are programs such as Just-a-Start and the Cambridge Housing Authority that provide workforce development in Cambridge, the need is greater than that. Our newest workforce development program, the Introduction to Construction and Building Trades Program at the MIT Job Connector, which I worked to help launch, only serves as an example of the many hands it takes to fill gaps within the City. I was happy to have this order adopted unanimously and look forward to the positive outcome from this.

This policy order was adopted.

9. That a special meeting of the City Council, School Committee, Cambridge Health Department and other appropriate city and school staff be scheduled to discuss the findings of the 2021 Cambridge Teen Health Survey for Middle and High School students and what immediate interventions are going to be implemented in response to concerns.

**Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon**

***POR 2021 #267***

The results from the Teen Mental Health survey are incredibly alarming, but not surprising to anyone with teens, or who work with them. As a parent to two teenagers, I have seen the effects of the mental health crisis over the course of many years. According to the survey results, more than 35% of our high school students are reporting that they feel sad and depressed every day for two weeks or more, and 15% and 11% of high school and middle school students, respectively, have considered attempting suicide. Alarming, of the students who reported feeling suicidal, 35% and 42% of high school and middle school students, respectively, reported making a plan to attempt suicide. These high numbers are deeply troubling as we have lost two students to suicide in the last two years and we cannot continue to allow this to happen anymore. I also want us to pay close attention to last Tuesday's walkout where nearly 50 students shared personal stories of sexual assault and trauma for over 2.5 hours in the freezing cold. Our children are looking to us for help and a proper response and reaction is critical if we want to protect our youth and make them feel like they can count on us. We need to do better for our youth and this Policy Order is the first step.

This policy order was adopted.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS**

1. A communication was received from Anthony Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

***COF 2021 #109***

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee  
***COF 2021 #110***

This communication was placed on file.

I put forward a motion to ask for reconsideration on all items tonight, making all votes final. The motion was adopted unanimously.