



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • JANUARY 24, 2022

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 2022 #6

Testing Update: The City is still committed to offering robust testing options and reducing wait times. As a result, in anticipation of February Break surges, St. Paul AME Church's Christian Life Center at 85 Bishop Allen Drive will open as an additional Saturday Testing Site from 11am-3pm on the following days:

- February 12
- February 19
- February 26
- March 5

This site will be staffed and run by CIC Health, and will be appointment-only. To schedule an appointment at the CIC site, click [here](#).

Due to construction in the Cambridgeside Galleria, the third floor testing/vaccine clinic site will be moving to the third level of the garage beginning Thursday, February 3. The testing site is accessible both through the garage and through the mall by pressing G3 in the elevators. Parking will still be available in the lower levels of the garage.

For a complete list of testing sites and days, click [here](#).

Vaccine Update: So far, 75% of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 90% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is higher than many large cities in the State, and these percentages continue to rise. Additionally, 43% of Cambridge residents have received their boosters. The Cambridgeside vaccine clinic will continue to run on Mondays and Thursdays in conjunction with the testing site.

Public Health Update: The 7-day (January 10-January 24) moving average in Cambridge is [121.6 confirmed cases per day](#) per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 8.64% for the two-week period ending on January 24. There are 9,058 active cases within the City and a total of 17,654 cases to date. Cambridge remains in the "high risk" category, with the infection rate rising rapidly each day. Before Cambridge can consider moving from pandemic to endemic, the CPHD wants to see the city remain comfortably in the "low risk" category before removing

any of the current safety measures such as indoor mask wearing. Masks remain tantamount to reducing the spread, and the CPHD advises mask-wearing indoors as much as possible with a warning about the efficacy of cloth masks. If you can, wear a filtering mask, or double up to increase your protection. KN95, KF94, and KF95 masks have been proven to be most effective at filtering particles. The City has received 75,000 masks that will be distributed to the most vulnerable communities first. If you would like to pick up a mask, you can do so at City Buildings while supplies last. 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. The City has received 8,500 of the 25,000 test kits that were ordered in December. These will be set aside and distributed to community members who need them most, such as those who need to test negative to leave isolation, those who cannot travel to testing sites, and those who are chronically ill.

For all COVID related city data, click [here](#).

Reopening Update: In regards to a vaccine mandate for employees and/or public spaces like restaurants, movie theaters, gyms, etc., the City Manager is committed to continuing to provide ample opportunities for people to get vaccinated as well as providing information about the vaccines. Along with the Public Health Department, his office is working creatively to touch the 10% of Cambridge residents who have not yet received one dose of the vaccine. An employee vaccination survey will be going out later this week, and employees should keep an eye out in the inbox for it. A question was asked about an update on the Employee Remote Work survey that was sent out in December. Due to staffing shortages, the results of the survey are delayed, but the City Manager's office hopes to have this information and a permanent remote-work policy available by the end of February. The current remote-work policy has been extended to March 11, 2022 for City employees who can complete their tasks from home in an effort to reduce density in buildings.

The City Manager was also happy to report that he is in the final steps of completing a Restaurant Relief Grant using ARPA funds. He also wanted to thank the generous restaurant owners who have been participating in feeding the unhoused community, and extended the program through April 2022.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) in the amount of \$52,660 to the Grant Fund Public Celebrations Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account, which will be used toward the costs of a mosaic art conservation project at Millers River Apartments.

CMA 2022 #7

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following person as a Constable Without Power for a term of three years, effective the first day of January, 2022: Terry Owens

CMA 2022 #8

A question was asked about the difference between a Constable Without Power and a Constable With Power. A Constable Without Power is someone designated by the Police Department to make arrests, and assist in the judicial process through this way, such as a security officer or guard. A Constable With Power has the power to serve legal notices such as notification that one is being sued.

The appointment was approved. This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan 2021 Update and Executive Summary.

CMA 2022 #9

This item was referred to the Health & Environment Committee.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Council designates the Chair of Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee to serve as the City Council's designee to coordinate with Randi Frank Consulting, LLC as well as appropriate City officials in carrying out the executive recruitment process for a new City Manager search process. That the City Manager is requested to ask the Purchasing Agent to coordinate with the Chair of Government Operations, Rules and Claims committee to engage the services of the identified Community Engagement Specialist(s) to work with Randi Frank Consulting, LLC in the executive recruitment for a new City Manager.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

IN COUNCIL JANUARY 10, 2022

POR 2022 #5

At the January 10 regular Council meeting Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion that night until tonight's meeting. After reviewing the details of the search with the appointed liaison, Executive Assistant to the City Council Naomie Stephen, Councillor Simmons removed her Charter Right and announced she is happy to see this process move forward.

This policy order was adopted.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Kevin O'Donnel, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 59 Fresh Pond Lane; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.

APP 2022 #1

This application is for a curb cut to create a driveway at 59 Fresh Pond Lane. The house is currently under renovation and the new driveway is part of those renovation plans. This application is missing approvals from the Department of Public Works and the Inspectional Services Department, so Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right to allow those approvals to come through. It will be reviewed again at the next Council meeting on January 31, 2022.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Rob, regarding THANK YOU LOUIS!!!.

COM 39 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Joan Pickett, regarding Policy orders 276 and 277.

COM 40 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Community Meeting - Porter Square Safety Improvement Project.

COM 41 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Community Meeting - Porter Square Safety Improvement Project.

COM 42 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Angela Hofmann, regarding Community Meeting - Porter Square Safety Improvement Project.

COM 43 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Stephanie Galaitsi, regarding Stephanie Galaitsi Porter square Accident rate comparison on Mass Ave bet Dudley to Alewife Brook Pkwy.
COM 44 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

7. A communication was received from Claire Silvers, regarding Porter square Accident rate comparison on Mass Ave bet Dudley to Alewife Brook Pkwy.
COM 45 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

8. A communication was received from Joyce Devlin, regarding Parking on Mass Ave.
COM 46 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

9. A communication was received from Shannon Canavin, regarding Citywide vaccine mandate.
COM 47 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

10. A communication was received from Patrick Barton, regarding North Cambridge Bike Lanes are Disappointing Make Corrections.
COM 48 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences to the family of Larry Braman.
Councillor Simmons
RES 2022 #8

This resolution was adopted.

2. Congratulations to Farrah Ridoré on her appointment as a Boston Fellow with the New Leaders Council.
Councillor McGovern
RES 2022 #9

This resolution was adopted.

3. Condolences to the family of Anne Locke Alach.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2022 #10

We wish our deepest sympathies to our Housing Liaison, Maura Pensak, as she mourns the death of her mother-in-law.

We suspended the rules to bring Resolution #17 forward with this one. Councillor McGovern asked for unanimous consent to withdraw Resolution #17. Both Councillors McGovern and Nolan asked to be added as cosponsors.

Resolution #17 was withdrawn unanimously. Councillors McGovern and Nolan were added as cosponsors.

This resolution was adopted.

4. Congratulations to Christine Elow on her appointment as Commissioner of the Cambridge Police Department.

Councillor Simmons

RES 2022 #11

The entire City Council is both proud and happy to see Commissioner Christine Elow, a Cambridge native who came up through the ranks of the police department return home, and in the highest office. We wish her all the best in her new role and know she is more than capable.

This resolution was adopted.

5. Condolences to the family of Charles V. Willie.

Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan

RES 2022 #12

This resolution was adopted.

6. Thanks to the organizers of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toner

RES 2022 #13

This resolution was adopted.

7. Resolution on the death of Maurico Gutierrez.

Mayor Siddiqui

RES 2022 #14

This resolution was adopted.

8. Best wishes to Cindy DiRusso on the occasion of her retirement from the O'Neill Branch of the Cambridge Public Library.

Mayor Siddiqui
RES 2022 #15

This resolution was adopted.

9. Congratulations to Senator-elect Lydia Edwards for her new role on Beacon Hill.
Councillor Azeem, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons
RES 2022 #16

This resolution was adopted.

10. Resolution on the death of Janet Belanger
Councillor McGovern
RES 2022 #17

This resolution was adopted.

11. Resolution on the death of Anne Alach
Councillor McGovern
RES 2022 #18

This resolution was withdrawn.

12. Resolution on the death of Mary Ann Baxter
Councillor McGovern
RES 2022 #19

This resolution was adopted.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Council and School Committee hold a joint virtual roundtable on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to receive an update from the City Manager and relevant departments on the next steps towards the implementation of universal Pre-K in Cambridge.

Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2022 #7

This policy order asks the City Council and School Committee to meet via Roundtable Discussion on February 14th to discuss the next steps to implementing universal Pre-K in Cambridge. There have been many moving parts to this process, parents have many questions, and this roundtable should help clear up many of those questions and concerns. This roundtable discussion would take place instead of the regular City Council meeting scheduled for that day and time.

This policy order was adopted.

2. That the City Manager is hereby requested to confer with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to determine what safety improvements could be made to the area in front of CRLS and the crosswalk on Broadway.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern

POR 2022 #8

This policy order asks the City Manager and Traffic, Parking & Transportation to develop safety improvements that can be made to the surrounding area of CRLS on Broadway. Recently, while arriving at school, a student was struck by a vehicle and injured. Additionally, the area is heavily utilized by students, staff, and teachers and is frequently the site of accidents. During public comment, we heard from the mother of a student who was struck, and it was clear that action needs to be taken. It is imperative that we find a way to make this area safer for the CRLS community, and that we continue to work toward our Vision Zero goal.

This policy order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments and committees to present a report to the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee which includes information on the history, membership data of golf course users, environmental conditions, and a legal analysis of what uses are currently permitted or what would be involved in changing use for other city needs.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Azeem

POR 2022 #9

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with relevant departments to determine whether the Fresh Pond Golf Course remains a good use of open space in the City through a study that will gather information about membership info and playership rates.

We heard from many concerned residents about this matter during public comment. Councillor Toner exercised his Charter Right.

4. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Inspectional Services Department, the Department of Public Works, the Cambridge Historical Commission and other relevant City departments to determine the feasibility of expediting the Demolition and Rebuilding permitting process in the event of a natural disaster.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Zondervan

POR 2022 #10

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with relevant departments to expedite the demolition and rebuilding process after natural disasters by designating one person in Inspectional Services to serve as point person for those navigating this process. The loss of housing due to a natural disaster is difficult enough to endure without an arduous permitting process to go through. This policy order was originally adopted in 2019, however, since then multiple fires have displaced a number of Cambridge residents, and the long process of demolition and rebuilding has prolonged their return to their homes. I want to stress that this

policy order in no way affects the Board of Zoning Appeals or the Planning Board, it only seeks to appoint one person to assist those who need to demolish and rebuild. It is my hope that reintroducing this order will help push this much-needed reform.

Councillor McGovern asked to be added as a cosponsor.

Councillor McGovern was added.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

5. That the City Council go on record in support of House Bill 965 and Senate Bill 623 that would prohibit the sale of fur, and urge the Massachusetts Senate to pass this bill.

Councillor McGovern

POR 2022 #11

This policy order asks the entire City Council to go on record in support of House Bill 965 and Senate Bill 623 that prohibit the sale of fur in Massachusetts. Many animals carry various coronaviruses in their fur, posing a health risk to people. By passing this bill, the State will greatly reduce senseless harm to animals and potential health hazards to people.

This policy order was adopted.

6. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Councilor McGovern for a suitable location to dedicate a street corner in honor of James Wallace.

Councillor McGovern

POR 2022 #12

This policy order seeks to find a location for a street corner dedication to James Wallace.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Health & Environment Committee met on December 22, 2021 to discuss the BEUDO amendments.

A. Ordinance #2021-26 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

This ordinance was referred to the Ordinance Committee. The report was accepted and placed on file.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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

COF 2022 #8

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information regarding the Clerk search process

COF 2022 #5

This communication outlines the ad-hoc committee for the City Clerk search. Councillors Simmons and Toner will lead that search by updating and posting the job opening, and create an interview committee comprised of City Councillors, the Executive Assistant to the City Council, Naomie Stephen, and one member each of the Personnel Department, the City Manager's Office, and the City Solicitor's Office. Mayor Siddiqui thanked Councillors Simmons and Toner for their help with this process.

This communication was placed on file.

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

COF 2022 #6

School Committee Budget hearings for FY23 have begun! For the full list of budget hearings, click [here](#). Meetings are available in Amharic, Arabic, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Bengali.

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from City Auditor, James Monagle, transmitting a memorandum regarding his retirement at the end of his current term.

COF 2022 #7

I want to extend my deepest thanks to James Monagle for serving as City Auditor for the last 20 years. Over the last two decades he led the Auditing Department through a quiet, yet diligent manner, always keeping the City on track and up to date. He will be deeply missed, and I wish him all the very best in his well-earned retirement.

This communication was placed on file.