



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • MARCH 28, 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 2022 #60*

Testing Update: In response to the dwindling case numbers and reduced need for testing, the City will be reducing its walk-in testing to one day a week beginning this upcoming week. This will occur on Wednesdays from 2pm – 6pm at St. John the Evangelist Church at 2254 Massachusetts Ave. Testing will still be available 7 days a week by appointment through CIC. To schedule an appointment at the CIC site, click [here](#).

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

Vaccine Update: So far, 76% of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 92% 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, 47% of Cambridge residents have received their boosters. At this time, the City has not received advisory from the CDC to promote 4th vaccine doses for the 65+ community. Following the April 6th CDC hearing to consider Moderna's vaccine for children 5 and under, the City will move forward with the appropriate steps to begin administering vaccines to this group. The Health Department will be introducing a weekly COVID19 vaccine clinic at the Windsor Street CHA beginning on Wednesday, April 6th. This will be by appointment only.

Public Health Update: The 7-day (March 14 – March 28) moving average in Cambridge is [42.9 confirmed cases per day per 100,000](#) people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 1.63% for the two-week period ending on March 28. Since Cambridge has remained in the “low-risk” category for more than a month, the Department of Public Health is comfortable taking steps to move closer to an endemic lifestyle. These include the mask mandate expiring for Cambridge Public Schools and public spaces in Cambridge on March 14th, and the mask mandate for municipal buildings expiring on March 28, 2022. As restrictions loosen, Director of Public Health Derrick Neal advises all Cambridge residents to use exercise caution based on their own risk and act accordingly. We were assured that the Health Department is keeping a close eye on case counts, since this is certainly not the end, and will reinstate mitigation measures if needed.

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

Reopening Update: The City Manager was happy to announce that beginning this week, over 140 restaurants and venues will be receiving relief through the Restaurant and Nightlife Relief Grant program. Since the onset of the pandemic, the City has provided nearly \$4.8 million in relief funds to restaurants, small businesses, and venues, helping to keep these vital pieces of community afloat during troubling times. The City Manager also wanted to thank the generous restaurant owners who have been participating in feeding the unhoused community by delivering roughly 2,900 meals weekly to shelters and charitable organizations around the City, and extended the program through April 2022.

The results of the employee vaccination survey are in, and out of 800 respondents, 96% of employees have one dose, 82% are fully vaccinated with a booster, and 14% are fully vaccinated without a booster. The City Manager was happy to report that these numbers are higher than the City's vaccination rate, but also noted that certain departments have lower vaccination rates and could benefit from direct outreach. At this time, the Tele-work policy for employees has expired, and the Committee on the Future of Tele-work is meeting to determine recommendations for a policy.

This item was placed on file.

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$252,073.12 received from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program income to the Public Investment Community Development Extraordinary Expenditures Account which will be used to continue the development of affordable housing for residents.  
***CMA 2022 #61***

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

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-11, regarding Riverbend Park opening and potential expansion.  
***CMA 2022 #62***

There was discussion about expanding Riverbend Park to stay open continuously on the weekend from Saturday morning to Sunday night as well as opening the park earlier in April. It was decided that the best way to achieve an earlier start date would be to show the DCR the full Council's support on this matter before meeting with them. In regards to further closures along Memorial Drive towards East Cambridge, it was suggested to do pilot closures after robust community engagement processes.

This item was placed on file.

## **II. CALENDAR**

### **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. An application was received from Joseph Bednar requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 266 Rindge Avenue; 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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL MARCH 21, 2022**

**APP 2022 #11**

Councillor Nolan exercised her Charter Right on this item at last week's meeting to allow for more time to receive and review the neighborhood association's response to this application. During that time, the Council received a sufficient response from the neighborhood.

This application was approved.

2. An application was received from Mathew Marshall, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 221 Columbia Street; 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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL MARCH 21, 2022**

**APP 2022 #12**

**ON THE TABLE**

Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right on this item at last week's meeting to allow for more time to conduct neighborhood outreach as well as review the application from the petitioner. During this time, it was not made clear what the petitioner intends to do with the property, so granting a curb cut at this time would be premature. The council also heard from residents and community members near the property who shared their opposition to this curb cut both during last week and tonight's meeting.

This application was denied.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for new appointments and reappointment to Open Data Review Board for a term of two year.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON  
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022**

**CMA 2022 #24**

No action was taken.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for reappointment and new appointment to the Water Board.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON**

**IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #26**

No action was taken.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for reappointments to the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON**

**IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #27**

No action was taken.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for new appointments and reappointments to the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON**

**IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022**

**CMA 2022 #29**

No action was taken.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for a new appointment and reappointments to the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON IN COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #30**

No action was taken.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for reappointments to the Half Crown-Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON**

**IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022**

**CMA 2022 #31**

No action was taken.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for a new appointment and reappointments to the Historical Commission. **CHARTER  
RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON**

**IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #32**

No action was taken.

10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Emergency Management Performance Grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$39,600.00 to the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to support the purchase of a new vehicle for the Emergency Preparedness and Coordination office.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022.**

**CMA 2022 #38**

No action was taken.

### **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. A communication was received from Ken Kunda, regarding 221 Columbia St. Cambridge MA.  
**COM 342 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding the City Manager to create a database for Agreements for Designer Services.  
**COM 343 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Annette Osgood and Jeanne Oster, regarding a petition signed by over 1,050 names requesting changes to the Cycling Safety Ordinance.  
**COM 344 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

### **IV. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution on the Death of Donna Richardson.  
**Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan**  
**RES 2022 #68**

This resolution was adopted.

2. Resolution on the death of Walter Davis Jr.  
**Councillor Toner**  
**RES 2022 #69**

This resolution was adopted.

3. Thanks to the Cambridge Public Library team and encouraging Cambridge residents to participate in programs and events celebrating National Library Week.

**Mayor Siddiqui**

***RES 2022 #70***

This resolution was adopted.

## **V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST**

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the City Solicitor to draft language to enable the Cambridge Police Department and Department of Public Works to donate abandoned bicycles to charitable organizations as outlined under MGL 30B Section 15(g).

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2022 #47***

This policy order asks the City Manager to direct the Solicitor to draft language that will allow the Police Department and the Department of Public Works to donate the bicycles they collect to charity instead of sending them to auction as outlined in Massachusetts General Law 30B Section 15(g). With this new language, bikes that would have been sold at police auctions will now be able to go to charitable organizations such as [Cambridge Bike Give Back](#) and [Bikes Not Bombs](#) – two groups that repurpose bicycles and give them to various groups of people who would benefit from owning a bike.

This order was amended to include the entire Council as cosponsors. This order was adopted.

2. City Council support of the MIT Graduate Student Union.

**Councillor Azeem, Councillor Zondervan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern**

***POR 2022 #48***

This resolution asks the entire City Council to go on record in support of the MIT Graduate Student Union, who are holding a unionization vote next week on April 4th and 5th. The City Council is a firm supporter of all worker's right to fair working conditions and the right to collectively bargain.

This order was adopted.

3. That City Council remind the residents of Cambridge that regular street cleaning begins again on April 1, 2022 and that all residents can sign up for automatic alerts and reminders from the City of Cambridge for the remainder of the year.

**Councillor Toner**

***POR 2022 #49***

This policy order is to remind Cambridge residents that street cleaning begins for the season on Friday, April 1, 2022. You can check your neighborhood's schedule and sign up for reminders [here](#).

This order was adopted.

4. City Council support urging the Massachusetts Legislature and the residents of Cambridge to oppose House Bill 1234 and the proposed 2022 state ballot initiative and ensuring that the rights of workers remain solid and strong for generations to come.

**Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Azeem**  
***POR 2022 #50***

This policy order asks the entire City Council and Cambridge residents to go on record opposing House Bill 1234 and a proposed 2022 state ballot initiative that would allow gig economy employers like Uber and Lyft to provide unfair working conditions to their employees. These companies do not pay into Social Security or unemployment benefits, which creates a class of people who essentially work without protection in a state that's known for worker's protections. The proposed state ballot question would allow these companies to continue offering unfair working conditions to their employees, circumventing the State's labor, civil rights, and consumer protection laws.

This order was adopted to include the entire Council as cosponsors. This order was adopted as amended.

5. That the City Council go on record declaring April 2022, as "Autism Awareness Month" in the City of Cambridge.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons**  
***POR 2022 #51***

This policy order declares April 2022 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Cambridge. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects many of Cambridge's residents, students, and employees, and the City is proud to celebrate these members of our community. City Hall will also be lit up in red to celebrate the month.

This order was amended to replace "Autism Awareness Month" with "Autism Acceptance Month" in the final "WHEREAS" paragraph, and to say "Cambridge's autistic students and residents."

This order was adopted as amended.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. The Public Safety Committee and the Economic Development & University Relations Committee met on July 21, 2021 jointly to hear from Saskia VannJames, President of the Massachusetts Recreational Consumer Council, on the importance of cannabis cooperatives and their potential role in the equitable development of Cambridge's emerging recreational cannabis industry.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

2. The Ordinance Committee met on February 9, 2022 to conduct a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (2021-26)

Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion until the next regular Council meeting on April 4th.

## **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 2022 #35***

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee  
***COF 2022 #36***

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui contains information from the most recent School Committee meeting:

Cambridge Public Schools is roughly 90% of the way complete with a project to install outdoor wifi access points at the schools. The remaining schools should be completed sometime in April.

Congratulations to Mr. Manuel Fernandez on his new position as Chief Equity Officer for CPS! CPS is in a robust hiring process, looking to fill 4 principal positions, an Executive Director of Career & Technical Education, and several other leadership positions. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit for any role, please refer to the CPS job posting [site](#).

The School Committee held two budget meetings over the last two weeks to discuss Fiscal Year 23. To watch the recordings or tune in to the next meeting on Tuesday, March 29 from 6pm – 8pm, click [here](#).

This communication was placed on file.

## **VII. LATE POLICY ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Mayor Siddiqui**  
**Vice Mayor Mallon**  
**Councillor Nolan**

WHEREAS: The City Auditor James Monagle will be retiring on May 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS: The City Council is the appointing authority for the hiring of the City Clerk, and in light of Auditor Monagle's impending retirement, the City Council needs to hire a new auditor; and

WHEREAS: After conferring with the Chair of Government Operations, Vice Mayor Mallon, as well as Councillor Nolan, they have agreed to lead the ad-hoc committee for the City Auditor position; and

WHEREAS: In order to begin the application and interviewing process for the new City auditor, and to assure a level of confidentiality for applicants, the City Council may appoint a preliminary screening committee that is entitled to meet and enter executive session pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law before reporting back to the full City Council for the public interviewing of recommended finalists; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That Vice Mayor Mallon and Councillor Nolan shall work with the City Manager to request that the City Manager appoint three senior City staff as members of the preliminary screening committee, along with two additional Councillors.

This order will legally enable the ad-hoc committee for the City Auditor search.

This order was adopted.

**Councillor Zondervan**  
**Mayor Siddiqui**

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate departments to promptly submit a letter to the State Legislature expressing support for codifying Saturday closures of Memorial Drive as well as an earlier start date in the first half of April each year.

This policy order was put forward to show the Council's support of Saturday Memorial Drive closures to the DCR.

This order was amended to include the "People of Riverbend Park Trust" organization. This order was adopted as amended.

**Councillor Toner**

WHEREAS: Police Commissioner Elow announced the promotion of Lieutenant Anthony G. Macone to the rank of Deputy Superintendent; and

WHEREAS: Deputy Superintendent Macone has honorably served the City of Cambridge as a valuable member of the Cambridge Police Department; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating Deputy Superintendent Macone on his promotion and thanking him for his exceptional level of community caretaking on behalf of a grateful City, and wishing him the best of luck in his new role; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to send a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Deputy Superintendent Macone on behalf of the entire City Council.

This resolution was adopted.