



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • APRIL 11, 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 Awaiting Report Item Number 22-6, which requested a report on expediting the demolition and rebuilding permit process in the event of a natural disaster.

CMA 2022 #73

This communication is in response to this policy order I originally put forward two years ago and resubmitted earlier this year. I am so happy to see that we are finally going to be able to appoint one person to be a designated liaison for residents who lose their homes to fires and other natural disasters. There was discussion about how soon this job can be posted and filled since this is a desperate need for so many families who have to navigate this process on their own. The City Manager announced that the role will be posted shortly and is included in the FY23 budget for the Inspectional Services Department with a possible start date in July, but the role may be filled before then. There was also discussion about the details of a “flagging process” that will initiate a notification to staff that the permitting process has begun. This process includes “flagging” at the point of the disaster, and the staff person for the City that gets hired will run a monthly report following the flags to keep track of the progress and push things along as needed.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to an update on MassAve4 and request for approval for the approach and timeline for implementing separated bike lanes on these critical segments of Massachusetts Avenue.

CMA 2022 #74

This communication provided a detailed update on each segment of the Mass Ave Bike Lane implementation, and I am grateful to both the Department of Public Works and the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Departments as well as the City Manager for creating such a thorough report that can serve as an informative document for residents, business owners, and community members. A partial reconstruction, which removes the median and the catenary wires, has been proposed as this is a happy compromise that will lead us to more safe bike infrastructure in the future as outlined by the Cycling Safety Ordinance.

I proposed an amendment to this report, adding specific dates to make sure that we can vote on a clear timeline.

ORDERED: That the City Council approve of the approach and timeline for implementing separated bike lanes on the segments of Massachusetts Avenue identified as the MassAve4, as set forth in the City Manager's recommendation submitted to the Council on this date pursuant to the Cycling Safety Ordinance, Chapter 12.22 of the Municipal Code, which states:

(a) Massachusetts Avenue between Beech Street and Dudley Street by December 31, 2026;

(b) Massachusetts Avenue between Waterhouse Street and Roseland Street by December 31, 2026;

(c) Massachusetts Avenue/Peabody Street northbound from Church Street to Garden Street by June 30, 2025, and;

(d) Massachusetts Avenue between Plympton Street and Dunster Street by June 30, 2025.

The amendment was adopted unanimously.

Councillor Carlone exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all further discussion until the next regular Council meeting on April 25, 2022.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-10, regarding a report on conducting a study to collect relevant economic data relating to business impacts from bike lane installations.

CMA 2022 #75

There was discussion about inviting business owners to be part of this panel so we can fully grasp the need and the hardship of the community. It was also mentioned to begin gathering data as far back as 2018, to allow for a larger picture to be painted pre-pandemic.

This item was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-70, regarding the feasibility of purchasing property from Lesley University to address City goals.

CMA 2022 #76

The City Manager was happy to announce that Lesley University is selling its property at 1627 Massachusetts Ave to Homeowners Rehab Inc. to develop new affordable housing at the property, adding to the amount of available affordable units in the North Cambridge area. This purchase and rehab project will be funded through the Affordable Housing Trust. There was a question about why other properties in the same area were not considered for purchase. Assistant City Manager for Community Development, Iram Farooq, shared that the other properties in the area were primarily one-bedroom units that would need significant rehabilitation to become multi-bedroom units that would better benefit the City's growing housing need.

This item was placed on file.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a recommendation from the Planning Board to adopt with additional considerations, the Alewife Overlay Development Zoning Petition.

CMA 2022 #77

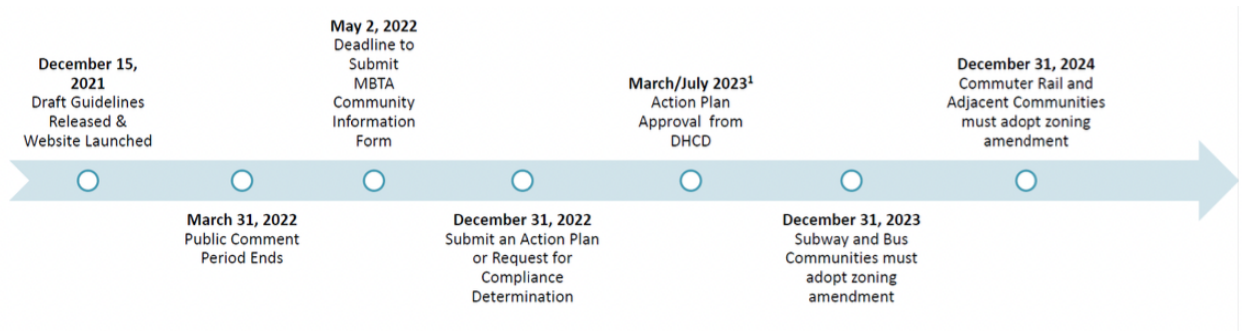
This item was referred to the petition. No discussion took place.

- A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to MBTA Communities Draft Guidelines presentation.
CMA 2022 #78

In accordance with the economic development bill that was enacted in January 2021, Section 3A of Massachusetts General Law c.40A (the Zoning Act) requires MBTA communities to have at least one zoning district that meets the following requirements:

- Minimum gross density of 15 units per acre.
- Not more than 1/2 miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station, if applicable.
- No age restrictions.
- Suitable for families with children.

Cambridge falls under the description of an MBTA community as outlined in [Massachusetts General Law c.161A, sec. 1](#). However, Cambridge does not yet meet the above requirements for the new MBTA communities law. In a [presentation](#) shared by Assistance City Manager for Community Development, Iram Farooq, it was noted that no single zoning district in Cambridge meets the minimum size threshold of 13,477-unit capacity and the City will most likely have to consider multiple zoning districts in order to meet the guidelines. The Community Development Department and the City are working within the following timeline to bring Cambridge up to the recommended MBTA community requirements by December 31, 2024.



II. CALENDAR

ON THE TABLE

- 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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). **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 4, 2022 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No action was taken.

10. 6.04.020 Dogs License required Fee Municipal Code Amendment 4-4-22. (Ordinance #2022-12) **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 4, 2022 TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER APRIL 25, 2022 CMA 2022 #72**

No action was taken.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Christopher Ramm representing pressed, requesting permission for a projecting sign with internal illumination at the premises numbered 1380 Massachusetts Avenue. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter proof of mailing. **APP 2022 #14**

This application was approved.

2. An application was received from Ronald Santosuosso, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 650 East Kendall 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.

APP 2022 #15

Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion until the next regular Council meeting on April 25th..

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Michael Massagli, regarding Porter Square - please hit the pause button on roadway alterations.

COM 363 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Lee Jenkins, regarding This is crazy Crosswalk on Mass Ave.

COM 364 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Lee Farris, regarding Residents Alliance supports Emissions Accounting Zoning Petition.

COM 365 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Mary Jane (Cullen) Mahoney.

Councillor Toner, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Azeem

RES 2022 #83

This resolution was adopted.

2. Congratulations to Jane Smiley Hirschi on being a recipient of the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull award from the Garden Club of America.

Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toner

RES 2022 #84

This resolution was adopted.

3. That the City Council go on record declaring Cambridge a Start by Believing community and supporting Cambridge's Start by Believing pledge.

Mayor Siddiqui
RES 2022 #85

This resolution was adopted.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the Department of Public Works and the Animal Commission to look into placing free pet waste bags at other sites around the City.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2022 #54

While visiting Megan Cahill's Children's House (three, four, and five year-olds) classroom at Tobin Montessori school, Mayor Siddiqui and myself were presented with several ideas to make our community in Cambridge better. This policy order is a result of the students' suggestion to increase the amount of places free pet waste bags are located around the City for pet owners to use in an effort to encourage more owners to properly dispose of their pet waste. Waste that is not picked up and disposed of has many harmful effects on the environment as well as people, and this is one small step we can all take to be better community members to each other. Ms. Cahill's class also thought it would be a great idea to post some signage around the City to educate pet owners on the importance of picking up after their pet, and I hope to see this signage on City boards soon.

This policy order was amended to include Councillors McGovern and Toner as cosponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with City departments, including the Community Development Department and the Department of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation to consider the feasibility of implementing a similar program and any other ways to enforce the anti-idling law.

Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
POR 2022 #55

Idling has become a growing issue in the City and this policy order seeks to quell the frustrations residents have been feeling.

Councillor Azeem exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion until the next regular Council meeting on April 25, 2022.

3. That the City Manager is requested to work with Boston Calling, Harvard, and any other relevant parties to ensure that noise does not exceed the permitted level at the concert.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner, Councillor Simmons
POR 2022 #56

In previous years, the Boston Calling concert has permeated Cambridge homes more than 1 mile from the venue site, causing disruption to residents who live both in and out of the concert area.

This policy order seeks to get ahead of the calls and complaints that may come the weekend of the concert. There was an amendment to remove the 4th “WHEREAS” which says:

“The venue confirmed that certain performers had deliberately overrode agreed upon sound settings during the festival in 2019; now therefore be it”

The amendment passed 7-2. Councillors Carlone and Nolan voted no.

This order was adopted as amended.

4. That the City Council hold a virtual Roundtable meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to receive a training on Robert’s Rules from parliamentarian Ann G. MacFarlone.

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2022 #57

This policy order was adopted.

5. That the City Manager is requested to consult with relevant staff to consider a guaranteed income program that expands on Cambridge RISE and targets families in poverty in Cambridge.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Simmons

POR 2022 #58

Since the [Cambridge RISE](#) pilot program began in September of 2021, we have heard many stories of single-caretaker families being able to afford basic necessities like food, rent, and repairs while also being able to splurge on after school programs, sports teams, and family outings. The 130 single-caretaker families who are part of the Cambridge RISE pilot program represent just a small fraction of Cambridge families who live at or below the poverty line and need our strongest support to stay afloat. I am grateful to Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor McGovern for spearheading this effort with me last year to start the first guaranteed income pilot in New England, and to Councillors Simmons and Zondervan who have signed on to expand the program to all families living in poverty in Cambridge. This program would use ARPA funding, rather than the philanthropic route that MIT, Harvard, Cambridge Community Foundation and more who so graciously provided for Cambridge RISE. It is my sincere hope that we can continue to provide direct cash assistance to our residents who need it most.

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

This order was adopted as amended.

6. That the City Manager is requested to light up City Hall blue, pink, and yellow on April 19, 2022, for Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness.

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2022 #59

This policy order was adopted.

7. That the City Manager is requested to report back on the feasibility of providing all CRLS students free Charlie Cards throughout the school year.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Azeem

POR 2022 #60

As outlined by the Cambridge Youth Council members who spoke during public comment, monthly Charlie Cards are a necessity for our high school students, and they should be free. We have seen the benefit of removing hurdles for subsidized programs; more students take advantage of services because there is no longer a stigma attached, and students who previously did not know about a service also partake. Nearly 40% of CRLS students already benefit from free monthly Charlie passes, and passing this order tonight would help increase that number to make sure we are helping all of our students.

This policy order was adopted.

8. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate City departments to provide the City Council with an analysis of the impact of current curb cut policies.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Toner

POR 2022 #61

This policy order was adopted.

9. The City Council go on record celebrating the work of 911 professionals who work tirelessly every single day, and recognizing the week of April 10 - April 16 as National Telecommunicators Week. **Mayor Siddiqui**

POR 2022 #62

This policy order was adopted.

10. City Council support of the proposed Fair Share Amendment and in urging the voters of Cambridge to support it at the ballot box in 2022.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Azeem

POR 2022 #63

This policy order asks the City Council to support the Fair Share Amendment, which would add an additional 4% tax on income above \$1 million to be used for quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation. This order also seeks to garner support from Cambridge voters in the upcoming election in 2022 to pass the amendment.

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

This policy order was adopted as amended.

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 #44

This communication was placed on file.

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

COF 2022 #45

This communication was placed on file.