



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • JUNE 13, 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 the appointment of Benjamin Miller, MD, FACEP, Chief of Emergency Medicine, as a member of the Cambridge Health Alliance Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2022.  
*CMA 2022 #124*

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

2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Summer Food Program grant funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for \$807,360.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$10,000) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$797,360) which will be used to provide nutritious meals to Cambridge youth at 8 open meal sites and 40 closed meal sites/camps throughout the City during the summer months when schools are closed.  
*CMA 2022 #125*

The [Summer Food Program](#) provides free, nutritious meals to children across the City at 8 parks/open sites and 40 camps/day programs while school is out. These meals are open to all children under the age of 18, no ID or other information required! For the complete list of sites and hours, check back in late June. For questions about the program, email [SummerFood@cambridgema.gov](mailto:SummerFood@cambridgema.gov) or call 617-349-6247.

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

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Project Bread Summer Eats grant for \$5,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to enhance promotion and outreach, support activities, to pay for program related supplies.  
*CMA 2022 #126*

[Project Bread](#) is dedicated to providing consistent, reliable access to nutritious food for individuals and families. Providing 3 healthy meals a day can be tougher during the summer months when school is no longer in session to provide breakfast and lunch, but through Project Bread and the Summer Food Program, this is more feasible for families in need. This appropriation will assist the City in increasing its outreach efforts, and activities related to the

Summer Food Program. If you or someone you know would benefit from food insecurity assistance, please contact the Project Bread SNAP hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or visit <https://gettingsnap.org>.

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

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in the amount of \$115,957.00 funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to operate LIHEAP serving Cambridge and Somerville.  
**CMA 2022 #127**

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides help to those who need home heating cost assistance. This program works in conjunction with the city of Somerville, and is operated by our Department of Human Service Programs. For eligibility requirements and more information, click [here](#).

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

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report with no positive or negative recommendation on the Craig Kelley, et. al. Zoning Petition.  
**CMA 2022 #128**

This [Zoning Petition](#) from former Councillor Craig Kelley seeks to create new categories for the following items: "Shared Vehicle", "Publicly-accessible, Privately-owned Electric Vehicle Charging System", and "Shared Mobility Device." The petition also asks for new associated definitions and additional limitations for the number of Shared Mobility Devices that may be located on a property of less than 10,000 square feet. This would regulate how many shared mobility devices could be at one property. While the petition is in line with the City's [Envision Goals](#) and is on par for a greener future, the Planning Board came to the conclusion that this matter does not fall under zoning and would be difficult, if not impossible to enforce. The Planning Board report was referred to the City Council, where we voted to refer it to the petition..

This item was referred to the petition.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation to adopt, with additional comments, the Emissions Accounting Zoning Petition.  
**CMA 2022 #129**

The rules were suspended to bring Calendar Item 5 forward with this item.

There was discussion about the new requirement to have an [emissions assessment](#) included in the initial design review of new buildings. The Planning Board is in favor of this recommendation, and suggested requiring all new buildings part of the Green Building Project to provide this emissions assessment to be better in line with the [Net Zero Action Plan](#).

This item was referred to the petition.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the second Progress Report due under the Cycling Safety Ordinance (Chapter 12.22 of the Cambridge Municipal Code), which is required to detail "...progress towards meeting the requirements set forth in Subsections C, D, E, F, G, and H.

***CMA 2022 #130***

This item provides an update on the progress of the Mass Ave Bike Lane project. There was discussion about Councillor Toner working with the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department to come up with a supplemental report to answer constituent questions that have arisen and were not answered in this report around economic impacts, the advisory committee that has yet to be formed, and others. The City Manager responded to this request by agreeing to an addendum to the original report provided here that Councillor Toner and Director of Traffic, Parking & Transportation Joe Barr will work together prior to presentation to the full City Council.

This item was placed on file.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to order requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$49,000,000 to provide additional funds for the construction of the Tobin Montessori and Vassal Lane Upper Schools project located at 197 Vassal Lane.

There was discussion about this drastic increase in price to finish the Tobin Montessori and Vassal Lane Upper Schools project, and it was shared that due to rising costs of materials, as well as supply chain issues and general inflation, this number is disappointing, but on par for construction projects today. It was expressed by the body that we should do all we can to build schools efficiently and cost effectively, in order to ensure that there are funds available for other school buildings that have not yet been touched. It was suggested that a running list with materials and cost be made available to the public so residents can see where the money is going. The full cost of this project will now be over \$300 million dollars, much higher than we had originally agreed to, however the design was conceived with the community and to change the design or scope at this point is not advisable.

This item was passed to a second reading by a vote of 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

The rules were suspended to vote on reconsideration.

Reconsideration failed, making this item final.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-15, which requested a review of recent crashes at the intersection of Broadway and Highland Avenue.

***CMA 2022 #132***

This communication is in response to the [policy order](#) I submitted in March asking the City Manager, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department, and the Police Department to look into safety measures that can be added to the intersection of Broadway and Highland Ave. After [reviewing crashes](#) at the intersection over the last three years, it was determined that there was only one serious crash, but the following safety measures will be put in place to better protect pedestrians:

- Restrict one parking space on Broadway on the northeast corner of the intersection, to improve the visibility of pedestrians waiting to cross Broadway.
- Add pedestrian crossing warning signs on the left side of Broadway in both directions, to better mark the crosswalks on Broadway.

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

10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a recommendation that the City Council approve an Order to take by a so-called “friendly” eminent domain proceeding a 3- story office building comprising approximately 25,385 square feet (30,227 square feet with usable basement space) on a 0.23 acre lot located at 689 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

***CMA 2022 #133***

The [purchase of this building](#) will allow for more office space for City Departments that are currently overcrowded as the City has expanded its workforce over the years. The 3-story building is currently occupied by one company, UUSC on a 5-year lease, with a one-time option to renew for an additional 5 years. This will allow for this building to be used for purposes other than office space in the future when UUSC moves out.

The appropriation of \$11,551,208 from Free Cash to the General Fund Law Department Travel and Training (Judgment and Damages) Account to cover the *pro tanto* payment was approved 9-0.

The order of taking was approved 9-0.

The second appropriation of \$2,212,349 from Free Cash to the General Fund Law Department Travel and Training (Judgment and Damages) Account to fund the settlement of UUSC’s remaining eminent domain damages claim was approved 9-0.

The third appropriation of \$2,750,000 from Free Cash to develop plans, acquire the fit-out and furnishings and to undertake minor renovations for City departments to use and occupy the building for municipal office use was approved 9-0.

The rules were suspended to vote on reconsideration. Reconsideration failed, making this item final.

11. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for \$102,968.50 to the Public Investment Fund Water Department Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used for the for the Twin Pond Land Acquisition Project.

***CMA 2022 #134***

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

## **II. CALENDAR**

### **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department review the area around the crosswalks at Glacken Field and consider possible traffic calming efforts and safety measures to improve pedestrian safety.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUCILLOR TONER  
IN COUNCIL JUNE 6, 2022 POR 2022 #113**

It was reported that the City is already working on a new sidewalk path to Glacken field to mitigate traffic incidents. Councillor Toner proposed the following amendment by substitution:

WHEREAS: Glacken Field has recently reopened and there is an increased amount of activity from the golf course, the baseball fields and tot lot; and

WHEREAS: The increased activity results in families and children crossing back and forth at different points along Huron Avenue; and

WHEREAS: \$1.2 Million was budgeted for a Sidewalk / Path connection for cyclists and pedestrians travelling between Fresh Pond Parkway and Glacken Field as part of the Reconstruction of Glacken Field and Playground; be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the City Council on the progress being made towards the completion of the new path and direct the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to review the area around the crosswalks at Glacken Field and consider any immediate traffic calming efforts and safety measures to improve safety for all parties in the area.

This amendment was adopted.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting a communication about the Charter Review Committee.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUCILLOR AZEEM  
IN COUNCIL JUNE 6, 2022  
COF 2022 #73**

The rules were suspended to bring Calendar Item #3 forward with this item.

The communication was placed on file.

3. Creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee for ad-hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing and selecting self-nominated residents and stakeholders to be on the Charter review Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUCILLOR AZEEM  
IN COUNCIL JUNE 6, 2022  
POR 2022 #114  
ON THE TABLE**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with Calendar Item #2.

Councillor Nolan offered amendments to the original policy order to ensure there was room for discussion in regards to this process, and added clarity around the word “input.”

The following amendment from Councilllor Nolan to delete the final “ordered” and replace it with the language below was adopted:

ORDERED: That the ad-hoc committee distribute a self nomination form calling for Charter Review Commission Members as soon as possible and announce the list of commission members by the July 1 deadline.

A second amendment from Councillor Simmons to add an “ordered” was adopted:

ORDERED:	That the City Council make a truly concerted effort to ensure that a diversity of voices, particularly from traditionally underrepresented and marginalized communities, be represented on this ad-hoc committee; and be it further
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One final amendment to change the word “commission” to “committee” in both the Communication from other officers and the original policy order was adopted.

The policy order was adopted as amended.

4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Director of the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department to limit the blocking off of Memorial Drive to vehicular traffic to Sundays.

**TABLED IN COUNCIL JUNE 6, 2022**

**POR 2022 #102**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No action was taken.

5. Amendment to Article 22 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge entitled “SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT” to insert a new section.

**POR 2022 #23**

There was discussion about allowing this current version to expire, then submitting a new version with the added language changes.

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #6.

### **III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. An application was received from Cambridge School Department requesting permission for 20 temporary banners in Central Square and around CRLS/Broadway announcing "Congratulations CRLS Class of 2022".

***APP 2022 #28***

This application was approved.

2. An application was received from Jason Gagnon representing The Friendly Toast, requesting permission for One Awning, One Projecting Sign and One Retractable Awning sign at the premises numbered 1230 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

***APP 2022 #29***

This application was approved.

3. An application was received from Joseph Correia representing Kittie Knox Community Cycle Center, requesting permission for an awning and blade sign at the premises numbered 181 Morgan Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.

***APP 2022 #30***

Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and progress on this application until the next regular Council meeting,

## IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Cynthia Broner, regarding Brattle Street Parking Petition.  
**COM 527 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Phyllis Benjamin, regarding Hoyt Field Dog Group petition.  
**COM 528 #2022**

The rules were suspended to bring PO #1 forward with this item. For more information, see Policy Order #1.

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Suzanne Preston Blier, regarding Thank you for your thoughtful selection of a new city manager last night.  
**COM 529 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Sheli Wortis, regarding Public comment at 6622 City Manager selection meeting.  
**COM 530 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Joseph Poirier, regarding City Council Health Environment Committee Leaf-blower comment.  
**COM 531 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Heather Hoffman, regarding Voting in Cambridge Part 2-- destroying the ballots.  
**COM 532 #2022**

This communication was placed on file.

## V. RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to William F. Courier on his retirement from the Cambridge Public Library.  
**Councillor Toner**  
**RES 2022 #141**

This resolution was adopted.



2. Congratulations to Rose Francois on being named the next Executive Director of Enroot.  
**Councillor Nolan, Councillor Azeem, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan**  
*RES 2022 #142*

This resolution was adopted.

3. Congratulations to Ryan Harris on his Induction Into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame.  
**Councillor Toner**  
*RES 2022 #143*

This resolution was adopted.

4. Congratulations to Debra Wise Artistic Director of the Underground Railway Theater, in recognition of her achievement, and thank her for her long career on behalf of the Cambridge and wider Boston community, and especially for her devotion to successfully mentoring young people from all backgrounds.  
**Councillor Nolan, Councillor Carlone, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui**  
*RES 2022 #144*

This resolution was amended (in blue): “May 2022 play, Ain’t Misbehavin, produced by [Young Nerds of Color](#)”

This resolution was adopted as amended.

## VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to establish evening, off-leash dog hours during times when Hoyt Field is not being used for other purposes.  
**Councillor McGovern**  
*POR 2022 #117*

The rules were suspended to bring this policy order forward with Communication #2.

This policy order is in response to a request from roughly 100+ neighborhood members who signed a petition to have off-leash dog hours at Hoyt Field. The park hours would not be extended, and the dogs would be relegated to the field, which is already enclosed.

An amendment was proposed to include “work with the community, including, but not limited to direct abutters” in the final “ordered” paragraph.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

2. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request to dedicate a street corner in honor of John Francis Knox.

**Councillor McGovern**  
***POR 2022 #118***

This policy order asks for a street corner dedication in honor of John Francis Knox.

This policy order was adopted.

3. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish a “community healing initiative” plan to address the issues in our city.

**Councillor Simmons**  
***POR 2022 #119***

In the wake of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, many people all over the City have expressed feelings of stress and tension. Covid has had an impact on mental health and community mental health due to its isolating nature. As we begin to return to a new normal, it is time we address and support those in our community who are feeling “on edge” and need relief. It was suggested that we call on Chandra Banks, who leads healing circles as part of her role as CPSD Conflict Mediator, as well as other facilitators in the City to host healing initiatives.

This policy order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish a notification system to all neighborhood residents, regardless of whether they own or rent their homes, within a set area where neighborhood disruptions such as infrastructure work or demolitions are scheduled to occur. **Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2022 #120***

This policy order seeks the creation of a city-wide notification system for residents to alert them to construction, demolition, or other infrastructure work and interruptions. This policy order is in response to an April occurrence when only homeowners were sent notification letters, as required, but not renters. This policy order would include renters and eliminate any gaps in communication.

This policy order was adopted.

5. Recognize June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth in the City of Cambridge, and in urging all Cambridge residents to reflect upon the meaning of this important day.

**Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***POR 2022 #121***

Juneteenth marks the day the enslaved in Texas were finally told they were free. There will be many celebrations all over the city to mark the holiday. For a complete list of events, click [here](#).

This policy order was adopted.

6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with DCR and all relevant City departments to expand Memorial Drive closures in the summer and fall of 2022.

**Councillor Zondervan**  
***POR 2022 #12276***

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the DCR to pilot an eastbound Memorial Drive Closure this summer and fall on one or two weekends from Amesbury Street to Land Boulevard while maintaining Westbound driving traffic and access to MIT facilities. To see the proposed closure and traffic patterns, click [here](#). There was discussion about activating the riverfront to include family-based programming that includes something structured for kids to do as a way to attract more people and make them feel invited. There was also discussion about including deep community engagement throughout this pilot process to ensure all voices are heard.

Councillor Simmons added language around expectations for the pilot, some community meetings, outreach, and more. Councillors Zondervan and Toner offered additional amendments regarding the number of community meetings. After adopting all amendments, this is the final version:

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that Boston [is currently piloting](#) a ten-day closure of Dartmouth Street between the Boston Public Library and Copley Square which will include an expanded farmer's market, additional library activities, café seating, food trucks, performances, block parties, outdoor yoga and dance lessons, and more; and

WHEREAS: Boston [will pilot](#) additional citywide street closures on single days throughout the summer, including on Blue Hill Avenue and Dorchester Avenue, which will include food trucks, games, photo installations, performances, and more; and

WHEREAS: On March 7, 2022, the City Council asked the City Manager to work with DCR to pilot an expansion of Memorial Drive closures along any segments east of Western Avenue that could be used as parkland, as a matter of equity; and

WHEREAS: One highly feasible way to implement this request would be to pilot a closure of Memorial Drive in the Eastbound Direction from Amesbury Street to Land Boulevard, while retaining appropriate access to MIT river facilities, Charles River Yacht Club, and Crimson Sailing Academy, and detouring eastbound traffic via Amesbury, Vassar, Galileo Galilei, and Binney (proposed design attached); and

WHEREAS: The best way to study the impact of such a closure and examine the positive and negative impacts on flows of pedestrians, bikes, cars, buses, and more would be to follow Boston's lead and just try it over the course of one or more weekends during the summer of 2022; and

WHEREAS: Such examination should include both a pre-pilot and post-pilot study exploring the impact to travel patterns in and around the location, including data collection on motor vehicle counts and travel times, pedestrian counts and surveys, and

bicycle counts, both before, during, and after the pilot period, including at any and all major intersections on primary approaches as well as potential reroute paths; and

WHEREAS: Such a pilot project should include community engagement in the form of no fewer than two community meetings, two prior to implementation and one following implementation (specifically including East Cambridge, Wellington Harrington, The Port, and Central Square) and discussion with stakeholders both before and after, including (but not limited to) MIT, area residents, the business community, and the community of riverfront facilities; and

WHEREAS: Such a pilot project creates an opportunity to bring the community together around engaging and fun programming that promotes mental health and wellbeing, including the potential for a one-of-a-kind evening celebration along the river featuring live music, art, games, food, pop-up retail, activities, family-based programming, and more; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with DCR and all relevant city departments to implement such a pilot project over one or more weekends in the summer and fall of 2022, and to report back to the City Council on this matter as soon as possible.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

7. Congratulations to History Cambridge in recognition of their continued work to inspire and their mission “to explore how the past influences the present in order to shape a better future.  
**Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Azeem, Mayor Siddiqui**  
***POR 2022 #123***

History Cambridge, a local history museum on Brattle Street, as part of its ongoing work illuminating the history of Cambridge, has installed an exhibit on the [Forgotten Souls of Tory Row](#), honoring the Caribbean tradition of bottle trees brought to the United States by enslaved people in the Caribbean. During Caribbean-American Heritage month, it is important to highlight the contributions of this community, and we are grateful to History Cambridge for doing so in an educational and beautiful way.

This policy order was adopted.

8. Proclaim June 25, 2022, to be "Pit Rat Day" to honor the history of The Pit and all of those who called it home.  
**Councillor McGovern**  
***POR 2022 #124***

The Pit was created in 1982, during the Red Line expansion project and became a gathering space for young people self-identifying as misfits, giving them a home away from home. Now, as The Pit begins to undergo construction to be leveled off into a plaza, losing its original appearance,

Pit-a-Palooza on June 25 from 5-10, seeks to celebrate the history and people of The Pit. In addition, June 25th will be declared “Pit Rat Day” in celebration of the day.

This policy order was adopted.

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

1. A communication was received from Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

***COF 2022 #74***

This communication was placed on file.

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

***COF 2022 #75***

Congratulations to the 2022 graduates of CRLS and The High School Extension Program! We are so proud of your accomplishments and cannot wait to see what’s next in store for you.

[DHSP afterschool program](#) lotteries are open for the upcoming school year. Cost is based on family income and programs are open to all Cambridge students entering Junior Kindergarten – 5th grade. If you have questions, you can contact DHSP at 617-349-6200 or email [askdhsp@cambridgema.gov](mailto:askdhsp@cambridgema.gov).

This communication was placed on file.

The rules were suspended to allow a vote on reconsideration for all items on tonight’s agenda. Reconsideration failed, making all items final tonight.