



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber 5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Safer Communities Initiative Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, received from the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, through the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$10,043.47, to the Grant Fund Police Department Salary and Wages account, which will be used to support overtime costs for patrols in areas where gun violence is known to occur and help increase the visibility and presence of officers in the area to suppress violence, and support the community.

CMA 2022 #211

This communication asks for the appropriation of \$10,043.47 to help support the cost of overtime patrols in areas where gun violence is prevalent. Commissioner Elow shared that the Cambridge Police Department has already increased their presence in both the Port and Central Square areas. There was discussion about support for seniors, as many senior buildings are in and around Central Square and many have expressed fear of the uptick in gun violence. Lieutenant Cabral of the CPD shared that officers are also hosting community meetings with seniors to discuss their concerns. A question was raised about why appropriations come to the City Council for approval. City Manager Huang explained that grant appropriations require approval from both the City Manager and the City Council.

This appropriation was approved and the communication was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to approval requested for an appointment new members of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD). ***CMA 2022 #212***

The two appointees, Keisha Greaves and Robert Goss are both Cambridge residents who have many years of experience working with individuals with disabilities. The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities have had to cancel two meetings due to a lack of membership, so it is imperative that these two appointees be confirmed to join the board as soon as possible so their work can continue.

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

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-58, regarding directing the appropriate City staff to establish a fund designed to

assist those City employees in same-sex marriages with paying for surrogacy services.

CMA 2022 #213

This communication in response to this [policy order](#) from Councillor Simmons asking the City to establish a fund to financially assist City employees in same-sex marriages with the cost of surrogacy services. The [report](#) from the City Solicitor states that the City does not provide financial assistance to any couples, regardless of sexual orientation, as none of the health insurance options offered by the City cover surrogacy. Additionally, the City cannot provide help to those seeking surrogacy because it is a service provided to a third-party, and not the employee or the dependent. Councillor Simmons expressed her disappointment in this response, and it was further discussed that a Home Rule petition may be needed to make this change possible.

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report with a recommendation to adopt the Incentive Zoning Rate Study Petition, with clarifying changes. ***CMA 2022 #214***

This communication shares the Planning Board's recommendation to adopt the Incentive Zoning Rate Study Petition with one minor clarification. This clarification was already added to the petition and passed to a second reading from the Council.

This communication was referred to the petition.

5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$600,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Human Service Programs Extraordinary Expenditures account, to support softball field improvements at Danehy Park.

CMA 2022 #215

This communication outlines the [improvements](#) that will be made to Girls' Softball and requests the approval of a \$600,000 appropriation from Free Cash to finance these improvements. There are both short term and long term projects that the City will be taking on such as: painted fence posts and new fence fabric, backstop and team area windscreens, replacing the Field 1 infield, regrading infield lips and depressions, new team benches, new bleachers and trash receptacles. These changes will be made before the spring softball season begins. Longer term projects such as lights and batting cages will take place next year during the off season to be in place before the spring 2024 season. There was discussion about using temporary lights, and DPW engineer Kathy Watkins explained that the temporary lighting options that are currently on the market often use diesel which is not in line with the City's environmental goals. I want to take a moment to recognize the many young girls who advocated for their needs and spoke up when they saw an imbalance in their opportunity. It's important that we show girls and young women that their voices matter and will be heard.

This appropriation was improved and the communication was placed on file.

6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Adult and Community Learning Services grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the amount of \$6,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account, which will be used to pay for a portion of teachers' salaries to participate in The Standards That Matter (TSTM) Train the Trainer Academies.

CMA 2022 #216

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

7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of various donations to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$42,317.09 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account, which will be used to support services for Cambridge Older Adults, including food and entertainment for Senior Center events, the purchase of fans for low- income seniors, support of social groups and transportation for Senior Center trips.

CMA 2022 #217

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

8. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$9,615.00 received from the Cambridge Public Health Commission, Agenda for Children, to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account for the Center for Families program, these funds will be used to provide family programming and curriculum development, pre-bagged refreshments for outside and in-person events and activity bag giveaways. ***CMA 2022 #218***

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

9. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$15,000.00, received from the Cambridge Community Foundation, to the Grant Fund Human Service Department Programs Salary and Wages account for the College Success Initiative (CSI).

CMA 2022 #219

The [College Success Initiative](#) provides individualized college coaching for students attending UMass Boston and for graduates of the Community Learning Center's Bridge to College program who attend Bunker Hill Community College. This appropriation is used to help pay the college success coach's salary. There was discussion about receiving a success report in the coming years outlining the program's wins.

This appropriation was approved and the communication was placed on file.

10. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance grant funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$103,339.03 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$68,889.03), and to the Grant Fund Human Service

Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$34,450.00), which will be used for costs related to the Carey Men's Permanent Supported Housing Program operated by the Multi-Service Center.
CMA 2022 #220

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

11. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,057.58 from a preschool family fundraiser to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account, which will be used to support the cost of music enrichment sessions for the children.

CMA 2022 #221

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

12. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant received from AECOM Technology Corporation, in the amount of \$5,000.00, to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account, which will be used to support the wages of one Cambridge teen summer internship.

CMA 2022 #222

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

13. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of donations to The Cambridge Program for Individuals with Special Needs in the amount of \$12,872.92 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account, which will be used to support the participants of The Cambridge Program and will be used to purchase supplies and equipment to better support participant and program needs.

CMA 2022 #223

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

II. CALENDAR

ON THE TABLE

1. Policy Order Seeking Development Analysis

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN IN CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 17, 2022
POR 2022 #267**

No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. That the Ordinance Committee refer Categories M (Shared Vehicle) and N (Publicly-accessible, Privately-owned Electric Vehicle Charging System) of the Cambridge Transportation Decarbonization and Congestion Mitigation Bill, along with definitions, to the full City Council

with a favorable recommendation. Ordinance #2022-13 as Amended
EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 POR 2022 #150

This petition has expired. No action was taken.

3. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Reevaluation of Housing Contribution Rate, Incentive Zoning Petition, Section 11.202 (d) of Article 11.000 entitled SPECIAL REGULATIONS, Ordinance #2022-18, as amended.
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 31, 2022
TO ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 21, 2022 ORD 2022 # 18**

No action was taken.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. Policy Order Regarding Traffic Flow on Garden Street
Councillor Toner, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Carlone
POR 2022 #282

This policy order asks for a meeting between the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department, the Department of Works, and Garden Street neighborhood residents to discuss the impact of the newly reversed traffic flow on Garden Street. During public comment, we heard from many residents of the surrounding neighborhood who offered valuable feedback about the street direction change. I asked what the iterative process would look like for future bike lane implementations, and how residents would be able to share their input with the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department. There was also discussion about the need to increase the City's communication efforts when it comes to road changes. Councillor Zondervan presented an amendment by substitution, which moved the original date in the ordered paragraph up to November 21, 2022.

Councillor Simmons exercised her Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and further action until the next City Council meeting.

2. Ban Turns on Red Citywide
Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Azeem
POR 2022 #283

This policy order asks the Law Department and the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department to begin looking into how turns on red can be banned citywide. This order also asks the City to begin discussions with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT), and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) to ban turns on red on the roads controlled by these two divisions of the State. Turns on red are already banned at over half the intersections in Cambridge due to their dangerous nature. Permitting turns on red increases the risk of right-hooking cyclists and pedestrians, two groups that have significantly grown on Cambridge streets as the City becomes more multimodal. Banning turns on red will

only help us advance our [Vision Zero](#) goals, and align with more cities who are taking the step to ban this hazardous road practice such as Washington D.C. and AnnArbor, Michigan, and New York City. I want to thank my colleague Councillor Azeem for working with me on this effort, and Petru Sofio for helping to move this important issue forward. Councillor Toner presented an amendment that would allow TP&T to use their discretion to ban or permit turns on red at all intersections, which is currently the practice in place. In response to this amendment, I offered the following amendment to the first ordered paragraph:

ORDERED: That the City Manager is directed to work with the Law Department and the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to investigate how to ban turns on red Citywide, with the flexibility to permit turns on red where Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department deems it allowable without any negative safety impacts; and be it further

This amendment was adopted.

This order was further amended to add Councillors Carlone, Nolan, McGovern, and Zondervan as cosponsors.

Councillor Nolan presented a further amendment to the second ordered paragraph:

ORDERED: That the City Manager is directed to contact the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, to begin discussions of banning turns on red movements on roadways in Cambridge controlled by those state entities, with the intent they would have the flexibility to permit turns on red where the Mass. DOT deems it allowable without any negative safety impacts; and be it further

This amendment was adopted.

This policy order was adopted as amended by a vote of 7-2. Councillors Simmons and Toner voted no.

3. Policy Order to Light Up City Hall in Purple on November 17, 2022 for World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day

Councillor Toner, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan

POR 2022 #284

Pancreatic Cancer affects thousands of people every year, and is the third-leading cause of cancer death in the United States. This policy order asks the City to light up City Hall in purple on November 17th in honor of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day and to promote awareness about prevention and treatment of the disease.

This policy order was adopted.

4. MBTA Pass

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon

POR 2022 #285

Currently, the City offers monthly MBTA passes for full-time non-union employees with a reimbursement rate of up to 65%. With the recent implementation of a hybrid work schedule for many full-time employees throughout the City, fewer City staff are commuting into work every day, and as a result many have opted out of the monthly MBTA pass option. Instead, the City is seeing more staff drive in or take the T without a reimbursement from the City. Recently, the [City of Boston](#) introduced a [2-year pilot program](#) that was created by MIT that allows enrolled employees to be reimbursed for any MBTA trips at the end of every month. So far, Google and Sanofi – two Cambridge-based employers have also taken part in the pilot. This policy order asks for the City Manager to work with the Finance Department, Personnel, Payroll, and other relevant City departments to determine the feasibility of joining this pilot for two years. It is my hope that the City can join this pilot to make it less expensive and more enticing for City staff to take advantage of mass transit to and from work, and continue to reduce the amount of cars on our streets.

This policy order was adopted by a vote of 7-2. Councillors Carlone and Toner were marked absent.

5. Roundtable on Broadband

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2022 #286

On Monday, November 28, 2022, a roundtable discussion to receive an update from the City Manager on Municipal Broadband will take place from 5pm – 7pm.

This policy order was adopted.

6. Capitol Projects Finance Meeting

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Carlone

POR 2022 #287

The City's Capital Budget is \$164,063,235. These funds are to be allocated for a variety of projects throughout the City, such as Affordable Housing, safety improvements for Vision Zero, upgrades for efficiency and more. The City Council has expressed interest in learning more about how the Capital Budget is formed, and formally requested a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the FY24 Budget process as well as possible future investments.

This policy order was adopted.

7. Revised MBTA Bus Redesign

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Azeem, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Toner

POR 2022 #288

This policy order asks the City Manager to request a meeting with the MBTA to discuss the need for more improvements to the second part of their [bus network redesign](#), and hold them accountable for the promised 25% increase in service. The newly implemented bus routes cut vital service, especially for CRLS students who rely on the 68, 69, 74, and 75 to not only get them to school on time, but also to a variety of afterschool activities from the hours of 3:00pm – 8:00pm. Councillor Nolan presented an amendment by substitution to add specificity to the order. There was discussion about the 47 bus route being included on this order, and it was determined that a separate order would be best to address those concerns.

Councillor Nolan's amendment was adopted.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Diane P. LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting updated legislative activity.
COF 2022 #133

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Vice Mayor Mallon, transmitting information regarding Cambridge Community Electricity (CCE).
COF 2022 #134

Cambridge Community Electricity (CCE) is the City's electric supply that offers renewable energy at the lowest rates in the entire state. This winter when many will experience rate increases, those enrolled in CCE will continue to see savings as CCE's rate is locked in until January 2024. So far, the 41,000+ households that are already enrolled in CCE have saved a collective total of \$22 million in home energy costs. To join the 41,000+, check your Eversource Bill at the top for "Your electric supplier is CAMBRIDGE COMM ELEC DIRECT ENERGY." If your bill does not say this, visit masspowerchoice.com or call 844-379-9934 to switch today. Please beware of scammers pretending to be Eversource or other companies offering low home energy rates. These people/groups are not affiliated with Eversource or the City. **An Eversource representative will never knock on your door or call you to discuss your energy bill.** You can also take advantage of the services provided by [All In Energy](#), a third-party company the City has partnered with to help residents search for lower cost energy options by visiting their web address or calling 617-430-6230. I urge everyone to consider switching before the bulk of home energy bills begin to come in. No one should have to make the choice between heating and eating all winter long.

This communication was placed on file.

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

Mayor Siddiqui

COF 2022 #135

This communication was placed on file.