



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • JANUARY 9, 2023

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 Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an update on the fatal officer-involved shooting in Cambridgeport.

CMA 2023 #1

This communication is in response to the fatal police shooting of Sayed Arif Faisal in the Cambridgeport neighborhood on January 4, 2023. I want to extend my deepest condolences to the Faisal family and want you to know I am committed to a transparent investigative process. While any loss of life is tragic, the loss of such a young life at the hands of the police, and during what appeared to be a moment of crisis is especially tragic not only for Arif's parents, but also for our entire community. I understand the facts of the case are being gathered, and this process will likely take months to complete, but I look forward to a transparent and cooperative investigation from the District Attorney's office and the Cambridge Police Department. Many of us are wondering how we begin to move forward after such an event. To aid in this process, the City is hosting a community meeting this Thursday, January 12 from 6pm – 8pm at the Dr. Martin Luther King School (102 Putnam Avenue) where City Leadership and District Attorney Marian Ryan will share information about the investigation process and any updates thus far, and a Special City Council Meeting next Wednesday, January 18 from 3pm – 5pm to discuss this tragic event and steps forward. A meeting for the Cambridgeport neighborhood is also in the early stages of development with the Peace Commission and the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association as well as a community meeting for students at CRLS.

For those of you who are experiencing any symptoms of trauma-related stress or just want to talk to someone, counselors from Riverside Trauma Center are available for help. Please [reach out to me](#) directly if you would like to be connected.

Additionally, a [GoFundMe](#) has been set up for Arif's family. If you are able to, please donate what you can. All funds will go directly to the Faisal family to help them in their time of need.

The rules were suspended to bring Committee Report #6 forward for discussion with this item.

This communication and Committee Report #6 were both placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a public health update.

CMA 2023 #2

Testing Update: Although the City no longer offers free PCR testing, the CIC is available for the City to deploy if needed. The City has also received another shipment of 60,000 rapid test kits that will be available for pickup at the Cambridge Public Health Department (119 Windsor Street), and at other locations around the City that are to be determined. There was discussion about why the City does not reinstate the daily PCR testing and Dr. Dobberteen explained that we are now in a point of the pandemic where PCR testing is far more widely available than it was two or even one year ago, so the need for reliance on the City is lesser. Cambridge Public Schools also received their own shipment of rapid test kits and will continue to distribute them. For more information on testing, check the City's [COVID homepage](#).

Vaccine Update: So far, 78% of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 98% 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, over 50% of Cambridge residents have received their boosters. If you still need a booster or other vaccine, you can still get one at another location. To schedule a vaccine appointment, click [here](#).

For more information on upcoming vaccine clinics, check back [here](#).

Public Health Update: The 7-day (January 1 – January 9) moving average in Cambridge is [12.1 confirmed cases per day per 100,000](#) people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 8.82% for the two-week period ending on January 9. Middlesex County has now moved into the high risk zone as wastewater data indicates a sharp uptick in positive COVID19 cases. Masks are now strongly encouraged throughout the City in any indoor space, and people are encouraged to limit unnecessary indoor activities to reduce the risk of transmission. There was discussion about spreading that information to local businesses and it was shared that the CPHD is mainly using the Public Information Office to share public health recommendations.

For those who test positive and need assistance while isolating, please call the City's COVID hotline for help: 617-933-0797.

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

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of Rae Simpson as a new member of the Cambridge Health Alliance Board of Trustees for a term ending on 6/30/2023, and would be eligible for reappointment for an additional three (3) three-year term.

CMA 2023 #3

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

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of the following persons as Constables With Power for a term effective January, 2023: James Desrosiers and Philip Sciandra.

CMA 2023 #4

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

5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services, in the amount of \$49,970 to the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account, which will be used to purchase equipment which will help to maintain the readiness of response capabilities as well as to update and replace aging equipment and personal protective clothing which will enhance fireground and EMS capabilities.

CMA 2023 #5

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

6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in the amount of \$39,600.00 to the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to purchase 25 AED's/Automated External Defibrillators.

CMA 2023 #6

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

7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services, in the amount of \$1,360,077 to the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account, which will be used to repair and replace equipment.

CMA 2023 #7

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

8. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$321,900 received in donations to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Department Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used for costs associated with the BlueBikes bikeshare system.

CMA 2023 #8

The rules were suspended to bring City Manager Agenda Item #9 forward with this item.

Both this appropriation and the appropriation in City Manager Agenda Item #9 will be used to install new BlueBikes and docking stations and to replace old bikes and stations.

I raised a question about whether or not these new BlueBike docking stations would be equipped with electric bicycle charging capabilities, or if we would need new docks in the future to outfit the bikes. Assistant City Manager for Community Development Iram Farooq shared that the current e-bikes that are being rolled out by BlueBikes will run on a rechargeable battery that will be swapped out by the managing company, so at this time no new docks are needed. It is possible as the bikes change that new docking stations will need to be installed in the future. There was discussion about the funding of BlueBikes and it was shared that a majority of the funding comes from Blue Cross Blue Shield to support the use of alternative transportation.

This appropriation was approved.

9. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$250,000 from the Mitigation Revenue Stabilization Fund to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Extraordinary Expenditures account. These mitigation funds will be used for the purchase and expenses of Bluebikes bikeshare equipment.

CMA 2023 #9

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #8 for discussion.

This appropriation will be used to fund new BlueBikes and to replace old bikes and charging stations.

This appropriation was approved.

10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report recommending that the City Council not adopt the Patrick Barrett, et al., Zoning Petition.

CMA 2023 #10

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

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report recommending that the City Council not adopt the Duane Callender, et al., Zoning Petition.

CMA 2023 #11

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

12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan 5-Year Review and Update.

CMA 2023 #12

This communication was placed on file.

13. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Stretch Energy Code and Specialized Energy Code.

CMA 2023 #13

The rules were suspended to bring Policy Order #4 forward with this item.

The Stretch Energy Code and Specialized Energy Code are two initiatives that will help the City become completely free from fossil fuel dependency in buildings by 2050. The latest update takes effect this January in residential buildings, and this July for commercial buildings. These updates will look to increase energy efficiency and reduce the reliance on heating and cooling – a major source of energy use. To read the full report, click [here](#).

There was discussion about the City's planned community engagement process. It was shared that there will be a public forum in February or March, digital outreach, print outreach in CityView Magazine, and press releases along the way.

[Policy Order #4](#) asks the City Manager to adopt the Specialized Stretch Code with an effective date of July 1, 2023.

Councillor Toner exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

14. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of Vivek Sikri, Kimberly Kaufman, and Kathryn Carlson to the Cambridge Traffic Board pursuant to Chapter 455 of the Acts of 1961 (the "Special Act").
CMA 2023 #14

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

II. CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 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

No action was taken.

2. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Banning Limited Services Pregnancy Centers - Ordinance #2022-16
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL DECEMBER 19, 2022
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 9, 2023
ORD 2022 # 16**

This ordinance was adopted.

3. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Emissions Accounting Zoning Petition (Ordinance #2022-20)
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL DECEMBER 19, 2022
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 9, 2023
EXPIRES ON MARCH 6, 2023 ORD 2022 # 20**

No action was taken.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. A request was received from Mike Kimball representing Bank of America, regarding Revocation of Bond #14BSBCT0643 for Bank of America, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue. Response from the Inspectional Services Department has been received confirming said sign has been removed.
APP 2023 #1

This application was approved.

2. A request was received from Mike Kimball representing Bank of America, regarding Revocation of Bond #14BSBCT0644 for Bank of America, 28 Eliot Street and JFK. Response from the Inspectional Services Department has been received confirming said sign has been removed.
APP 2023 #2

This application was approved.

3. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Douglas Brown regarding Amending Article 4, 5 and 8 incrementally modernizing residential zoning
APP 2023 #3

There was discussion about whether or not zoning petitions were valid with only one signature of support. Clerk LeBlanc shared that Solicitor Glowa informed her that one person can submit a zoning petition if they are a landowner in the affected zoning district. The Council was also reminded that this petition would not be passed tonight, it would first be referred to the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board for hearing and report before returning to the Council for formal adoption.

This petition was referred to the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board for hearing and report.

4. An application was received from Deborah Fawcett, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 17 Fresh Pond Parkway; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. Response has been received from the neighborhood association.
APP 2023 #4

Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

5. An application was received from Jason Parillo representing The Engine, requesting permission for a projecting blade sign at the premises numbered 750 Main Street approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter proof of mailing has been provided.
APP 2023 #5

This application was approved.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. 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 Richard P. Dober.

Councillor Carlone, Councillor Toner

POR 2023 #1

Richard P. Dober was a Marine veteran, a planning and design veteran, and a Board Member of both the Shady Hill School and the Friends of the Longfellow House. He was well known for his work and dedication to Cambridge. This policy order asks for the Executive Assistant to the City Council to work with the Dedication Committee to consider dedicating a street corner in Mr. Dober's honor.

This policy order was adopted.

2. That the City Manager direct the Law Department to research whether the Barrett et al. petition would need to be refiled should there be a Letter of Commitment attached to the rezoning.

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern

POR 2023 #2

This policy order came out of the Ordinance Committee and asks for the Law Department to research whether the Barrett et. al. petition needs to be refiled if a Letter of Commitment is attached to the rezoning portion.

This policy order was adopted.

3. City Council and School Committee Joint Budget Roundtable

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2023 #3

There will be a joint roundtable discussion on Monday, January 30 to discuss priorities for Fiscal Year 2024.

This policy order was adopted.

4. That the City Council Council adopt the Specialized Stretch Code, as outlined in 225 CMR 22.00 and 225 CMR 23.00, with an effective date of July 1, 2023.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2023 #4

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #13.

This policy order asks the City to adopt the Specialized Stretch Code with an effective date of July 1, 2023. These new Stretch Codes would help reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and help the City reach its goal of becoming free from fossil fuels by 2050.

Councillor Toner exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting.

5. Expanding Municipal Employee Benefits Home Rule Petition
Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons
POR 2023 #5

This policy order contains Home Rule petition draft language that would expand municipal employee benefits. Upon passage, municipal employees would be able to include domestic partners as dependents, thus expanding coverage for many LGBTQIA+ couples. A Home Rule petition is a request from a city for an exception to a State law. The House, Senate, and Governor all have to approve any municipality to have a different rule than the State.

This policy order was adopted.

6. That the Assistant City Manager for Community Development be and hereby is requested to inform the Ordinance Committee on whether or not it is the case that the rate of rents being charged in the buildings located in the City squares is primarily driven by those who can pay the highest rent amounts. **Councillor Simmons**
POR 2023 #6

The rules were suspended to bring Policy Order #7 and Committee Report #5 forward with this item.

This policy order came out of the Housing Committee discussion and asked the Assistant City Manager for Community Development to inform the Ordinance Committee if the rental rate in buildings in City squares are determined primarily by renters who can afford to pay the highest amount.

This policy order was adopted.

7. That the City Manager is hereby requested to direct the CDD and the Law Department to examine the Citizen's Petition submitted by Suzanne P. Blier, et. al on the Harvard Square Zoning Petition Modification regarding Frontage of Financial Institutions and make recommendations for any amendments that are needed.
Councillor Zondervan
POR 2023 #7

The rules were suspended to bring Policy Order #6 and Committee Report #5 forward for discussion with this item.

This policy order asks the CDD and Law Department to review the citizen's petition submitted by Suzanne Blier et. al and make recommendations for any needed amendments.

This policy order was adopted.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Health and Environment Committee conducted a public hearing on November 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss how to expand the availability of electric vehicle charging across the City and to review the effectiveness and accountability built into the City's existing Green Fleet Policy.

Councillor Nolan proposed the following amendment to be added to page 2 of the committee minutes:

Councillor Nolan discussed accelerating the capacity of the police department to implement electric vehicle options, noting that police departments across the country are using specially outfitted Chevy Bolts and Teslas that have been available for several years. Councillor Nolan noted that the City should be accelerating electric vehicle purchasing timelines and discussing electric vehicle options during every vehicle purchase. Councillor Nolan also discussed the delay of the update to the Green Fleet policy, noting that in a committee meeting in 2018, an update was promised in 2019. Now that the updated policy report is promised in 2023, Councillor Nolan emphasized building accountability to the policy.

This amendment was adopted.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

2. Joint meeting of the Economic Development and University Relations Committee and the Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committee on December 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. to review and discuss the attached zoning petition regarding lab use.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file

3. The Housing Committee conducted a public meeting on December 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the results of the Inclusionary Housing Resident Experience Study.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

4. The Ordinance Committee held a public hearing on December 14, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. on Zoning Petition Recommendation – Removing Limit on BZA Compensation (Attachment F of CMA 2022 #207 in Council on October 24, 2022).

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

The Ordinance Committee voted to send proposed Ordinance #2022-23 regarding removing the limit on BZA compensation to the full Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading.

A. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Ordinance #2022-23 Removing the Limit on BZA Compensation

This ordinance was passed to a second reading.

(ORD 2022 #23)

5. The Ordinance Committee held a public hearing on December 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. regarding the Citizen's Petition submitted by Suzanne P. Blier, et. al regarding the Harvard Square Zoning Petition Modification regarding Frontage of Financial Institutions.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

6. The Public Safety Committee held a public meeting on December 14, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the implementation of the new Community Safety Department and integration with HEART.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Diane P. LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

COF 2023 #6

This communication contains updates on legislative activity the City is working on such as Home Rule petitions and hearing schedules.

The [Home Rule](#) petition that is needed to clear the way for a Fire Cadet Program that I originally introduced via [policy order](#) in 2019 unfortunately did not get signed by the Governor before the end of the last legislative session. Representative Decker assured the Council that she can refile the same updated language she received from the Council in December during this new legislative session. While I am disappointed that it took the City nearly 6 months to send updated language to our State partners, I am hopeful this petition will be signed soon and we can create the Fire Cadet training program that is so desperately needed.

The Home Rule petition that will clear the way for electric vehicle charging stations in Cambridge was signed by the Governor during the last legislative session.

This communication was placed on file.

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

COF 2023 #7

This communication was placed on file.