



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • FEBRUARY 27, 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 a public health update.
CMA 2023 #50

Testing Update: The City has distributed over 50,000 rapid test kits, and with federal funding soon coming to an end, it will be more difficult for the City to provide free test kits, but the Department of Public Health is committed to continuing to provide this essential service. Director of Public Health Derrick Neal also reminded folks that free rapid tests are available at pharmacies in places such as CVS, Walgreens, and Target each month. You can also report your rapid test results online via [makemytestcount.org](https://www.makemytestcount.org) to help the State triangulate where outbreaks are happening.

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. Director Neal stressed the importance of boosters, especially the Bivalent booster and reminded people that if it has been more than 2 months since your last booster, you can receive another one.

If you still need a booster or other vaccine, you can do so on Wednesdays at the Windsor Street Clinic.

To schedule a vaccine appointment, click [here](#).

Public Health Update: The 7-day (February 13 – February 27) moving average in Cambridge is [3.5 confirmed cases per day per 100,000](#) people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 6.96% for the two-week period ending on February 27. Middlesex County is now in the “low” risk category, but Cambridge is still not out of the woods yet. Director Neal reiterated to the Council and the public that the focus now is on masking and monitoring.

If you do test positive and need assistance, please call the Cambridge Public Health Department at 617-933-0797.

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

2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$143,333.33 in license renewal fees received from Comcast to the Public Investment Fund Cable Television Extraordinary Expenditures account to support the local Public, Educational and Government cable television stations.

CMA 2023 #51

This item 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 22-60, regarding streamlining the City's block party and Play Streets permit requirements. ***CMA 2023 #52***

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) I submitted alongside Councillor Nolan and Mayor Siddiqui in September of last year asking the City Manager to work with the Community Development Department to revise the Play Streets and block party permitting process. I was pleased to see this response and report from the Community Development and Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department that includes the following improvements:

- The Block Party permit will be renamed the Block Party/Play Street permit, to ensure all applicants can easily identify the permit they need.
- Permits will be free, no longer requiring a \$25 fee.
- Signatures will be needed from 25% of households or organizations on the impacted blocks (reduced from 75%), significantly reducing the amount of work required to apply for a permit.
- Applicants will be able to request a single Block Party/Play Street Permit for either one date or for a series of dates (such as “the first Sunday of June, July, and August in 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM”).
- Permit applications will be due 14 days in advance of the block party or Play Street event date (reduced from 30 days).
- The City will provide clearer information and guidance about how to seek a Block Party/Play Street Permit to help make the process easier to understand for people considering hosting a block party or Play Street event for the first time. This information will affirm that signatures are only required from along the block being closed to through traffic and not from adjacent blocks.

I posed a question about outreach, and how the City plans to share these improvements with past permit seekers and those who may be looking to host a Play Streets event or block party this summer. Assistant City Manager for Community Development Iram Farooq shared that the City is updating their dedicated homepage for block parties and will utilize the Public Space Lab's social media to further the message. It was also noted that the update should be translated for those who do not use English as their home language.

This communication was placed on file.

4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$550,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Finance Extraordinary Expenditures account to support EGov Projects.

CMA 2023 #53

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 in the amount of \$1,800,000, from Free Cash to the Public Works Public Investment Fund Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund accessibility improvements to City Hall including the reconstruction of Dorothy Dottie Doyle Way.

CMA 2023 #54

This [communication](#) is an appropriation request for \$1,800,000 to begin the process of improving Dorothy Dottie Doyle Way, the accessible and rear entrance to City Hall. The report comes in response to this [policy order](#) I submitted alongside Councillors Nolan and Azeem in May of last year asking the City Manager to work with the relevant departments to look into the feasibility of installing a bicycle rack behind City Hall. I am pleased to see this report from the Community Development Department, the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department and the Department of Public Works that outlines the plethora of improvements that will be coming to Dorothy Dottie Doyle Way, including 3 EV charging stations for municipal fleet and off-hour public use, covered bicycle parking, ADA accessible parking spaces and general use parking.

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Order 2023 #29, regarding the Clean Fleet timeline, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals and an implementation plan for a clean fleet.

CMA 2023 #55

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) I submitted alongside Councillor Nolan during the week before last's Council meeting asking the City Manager to engage the Volpe Center to help advance the City's Clean Fleet goals. Although I am happy to see the new Clean Fleet policy as a result of this report, there was significant discussion on why the Volpe Center was not ultimately chosen as a partner for this endeavor. Deputy City Manager Owen O'Riordan shared that the City has been using another entity, ER1, who has been making great strides to help Cambridge achieve our clean fleet goals. In regards to right-sizing our City's fire apparatus, Acting Chief Cahill shared that while Cambridge's firetrucks are over one foot longer than Boston's, the extra length alleviates the need for additional vehicles on the road to carry equipment, which is the case in Boston due to their manufacturer. There was also discussion about increasing the stretch goal to the recommended 60%, and it was shared that the 55% is more attainable, given the stipulation of relying mainly on individual drivers to account for the additional 5% reduction.

This communication was placed on file.

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a request for authorization to allow the Purchasing Agent to award a five (5) year contract for lease agreements to Enterprise Fleet Management.

CMA 2023 #56

This [communication](#) asks for the authorization to begin a 5 year lease with Enterprise Fleet Management to help the City acquire low or no-emission vehicles. There was discussion about why the City would choose to lease instead of purchase vehicles, and it was shared that a leasing agreement allows the City to try out more electric vehicle models at a fraction of the price.

This order was adopted.

8. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation in the amount of \$400,000, from Free Cash to the Public Works Public Investment Fund Extraordinary Expenditures account to support the purchase of a Mack LR Electric rubbish packer.

CMA 2023 #57

This [communication](#) and the next ask for an appropriation of funds to purchase a Mack LR Electric rubbish packer for the Department of Public Works. There was discussion about ensuring we are getting the best price for this electric apparatus, and the Council was assured that the City is working hard to negotiate.

This appropriation was adopted. This communication was placed on file.

9. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Massachusetts Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Electric Solicitation Grant, in the amount of \$305,625.15, received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to the Grant Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account to support the purchase of an all-electric rubbish packer.

CMA 2023 #58

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

10. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Green Communities Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), in the amount of \$97,461 to the Grant Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account.

CMA 2023 #59

This [communication](#) is an appropriation request to support reduced energy consumption in two municipal buildings and a pilot rental of an all-electric snow plowing truck. This grant will support retro-commissioning services at the Main Library and Alice K Wolf building and the rental of an early-model, all-electric snow plowing truck.

This appropriation was adopted. This communication was placed on file.

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as members of the Black, Indigenous, People of Color-Owned Business Advisory Committee for a term of two years, effective March 1, 2023: Margaret Pimental; Sukia Akiba; and Keisha Graves.

CMA 2023 #60

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

12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a report from CDD and the Law Department containing clarifying edits to the Climate Resilience Zoning Petition.

CMA 2023 #61

The rules were suspended to bring [Calendar Item #7](#) forward with this item for discussion.

This [communication](#) includes the additional proposed amendments to the Climate Resilience Zoning Petition (section 22.80 Flood Resilience) from the Community Development Department and the Law Department. These amendments included adding an effective date of September 1, 2024 and minor grammatical fixes.

The amendments were adopted and the petition was amended.

The petition was ordained.

This communication was placed on file.

13. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Orders Numbered 314, 315, and 316 from the meeting of 12/19/2022, regarding the Emissions Accounting Petition. ***CMA 2023 #62***

The rules were suspended to bring [Calendar Item #5](#) forward with this item for discussion.

In regards to the Emissions Accounting Petition, three policy orders came out of the December 6, 2022 Ordinance Committee. These policy orders asked the City Manager to work with the Community Development Department and Legal Department to [review the final language of the emissions accounting zoning petition, and make any recommended adjustments, including to the effective date, work with relevant stakeholders to provide a preliminary estimate of the cost and time burden of compliance with the emissions accounting provision, and work with relevant stakeholders to inform the design of future regulations associated with accounting for embodied emissions](#). This [report](#) is the response from the Community Development Department and the Law Department, outlining the suggested amendments.

These amendments were all adopted.

There was a motion to delay this vote one week to allow for more discussion on the amendments. This motion passed.

This communication was referred to the petition.

14. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-1, regarding a legal Opinion on whether the Barrett, et al. petition would need to be refiled should there be a Letter of Commitment attached to the rezoning, and whether the Barrett, et al. petition constitutes "spot zoning."

CMA 2023 #63

This [communication](#) is a response from the Law Department on whether or not the Barrett, et al. petition would need to be refiled should there be a Letter of Commitment attached to the rezoning, and whether the Barrett, et al. petition constitutes "spot zoning." This comes as a response to this [policy order](#) I submitted in January alongside Councillor McGovern and Councillor Zondervan. In the Solicitor's response, it is explained that the Barrett, et al. petition would not need to be refiled since there is no change to the fundamental character of the zoning petition. It was also explained that "spot zoning" spot-zoning occurs when a municipality singles out one lot or a small area for different, generally less restrictive treatment than that applied to similar lots with the sole purpose being to benefit the landowner of the particular lot or small area, and the Barrett et al. petition could be subject to "spot zoning" since there has not been a Planning Study conducted over the area.

This item was referred to the petition for discussion at this week's Ordinance Committee..

15. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the 2023 Goals and Metrics for the Annual City Manager Performance Review.

CMA 2023 #64

This [communication](#) contains the 2023 Goals and Metrics for the Annual City Manager Performance Review and the edits from the [February 16, 2023](#) Special Meeting to discuss the Annual City Manager Performance Review Goals and Metrics. We amended the language from the committee meeting to include moving the performance review language from "Culture" to "Management" and to add that a plan to do performance reviews for "all non-union City employees" would be developed and administered in 2024.

This amendment was adopted.

This item was placed on file.

16. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to relative to a request to move to Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property as discussion in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

CMA 2023 #65

The rules were suspended to enter into Executive Session, so as to not impact the negotiating position of the public body.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate departments and agencies to ensure the continuation of Riverbend Park closures on Saturdays and Sundays.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 13, 2023
POR 2023 #33**

Councillor Simmons and Councillor Azeem presented amendments to the [original policy order](#) that included more direct traffic mitigation strategies for side streets in the impacted neighborhood, as well as a call for more community meetings and increased notice. There was also discussion about engaging the DCR for a more robust discussion about traffic mitigation.

The amendments were adopted.

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

2. Policy Order Regarding Police Details

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 13, 2023
POR 2023 #34**

Councillor Zondervan offered amendments to the [original policy order](#): adding a “WHEREAS” to highlight the importance of traffic safety, and inserting an “ORDERED” about road construction detail staffing, since the City Manager has mentioned the staffing difficulties the City is facing.

The amendments were adopted.

This policy order was adopted as amended.

ON THE TABLE

3. That the City Manager is requested to look into the feasibility of automated traffic enforcement in Cambridge as well as using unarmed CPD traffic details for future discussion Automated/Unarmed Traffic Enforcement.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TONER
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 6, 2023
PLACED ON THE TABLE BY COUNCILLOR AZEEM IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 13,
2023
POR 2023 #19**

This item was taken off of the table for discussion.

Councillor Toner presented amendments by substitution to the [original policy order](#) that removed the language surrounding police details.

The motion to adopt Councillor Toner's amendments **failed** by a vote of 4-5. Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor Toner, voted yes.

This policy order was amended to add Councillor Nolan as a cosponsor by a vote of 6-3. Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor Toner were marked present.

This policy order was adopted as amended by a vote of 6-2-1. Councillor Carlone and Councillor Simmons were marked present. Councillor Toner voted no.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. 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

The rules were suspended to bring Application & Petition #1 forward with this item.

Former Councillor Craig Kelley refiled this petition (see applications and petitions section below), since his original petition expired in September of last year.

The original petition was placed on file.

5. 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.

6. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Ordinance 2022-2 Chapter 2.02 entitled "City Council".
**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 6, 2023
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 27, 2023
ORD 2022 # 2**

This ordinance was ordained.

7. An Ordinance 2022 #9 has been received from Diane LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to create a new Section 22.80 Flood Resilience Standards
PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 6, 2023

**TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 27, 2023 EXPIRES APRIL 26, 2023
ORD 2022 # 9**

This ordinance was ordained.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Craig Kelley regarding Cambridge Transportation Emissions and Car Sharing Act
APP 2023 #9

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

2. An application was received from Ender Saricay, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 112 Hampshire 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 2023 #10

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

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. In support of HD. 3252 and SD. 2006, An Act to Promote Yes In My Backyard
Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Azeem
POR 2023 #36

HD. 3252 and SD. 2006 filed by Representatives Andy Vargas and Kevin Honan, and Senator Brendan Crighton proposes innovative solutions to curb the State's housing crisis. The legislation would allow the region to more easily achieve its affordable housing goal by setting a statewide affordable housing production goal, allow accessory dwelling units or small apartments to be built in every municipality, allow duplexes, triple-deckers and other family friendly housing around public transportation, make it easier to pass inclusionary zoning bylaws, repurpose vacant commercial properties like strip malls and offices into affordable homes and prioritize state-owned land for affordable homes. I was happy to sign onto this policy order alongside my colleagues and even more pleased to see the order pass.

This policy order was adopted.

2. That the Petition from Suzanne P. Blier, et.al Harvard Square Zoning Petition as amended be sent to the full City Council with no recommendation.
Councillor Zondervan
POR 2023 #37

This policy order asks the Council not to adopt the Suzanne Blier, et.al Harvard Square Zoning Petition that sought to regulate bank size in Harvard Square.

This policy order was adopted by a vote of 8-1. Councillor Simmons voted no.

This petition was not passed to a second reading by a vote of 2-6-1. Councillor Nolan and Councillor Zondervan voted yes. Councillor Carlone was absent.

A motion was made to move reconsideration on this item. Reconsideration failed, making the vote on all items up to this point final tonight.

3. That the joint Economic Development and University Relations and Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committees forward the Callender Petition and Policy Order 2022 #161 to the full City Council with a negative recommendation.

Vice Mayor Mallon

POR 2023 #38

This policy order came out of the joint Economic Development and University Relations and Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committees on February 7, 2023. This order was discussed at length during the hearing, and was voted on by members of both committees.

This policy order was adopted.

This petition was not passed to a second reading by a vote of 1-8. Councillor Zondervan voted yes.

4. That the joint Economic Development and University Relations and Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committees forward the amended proposed Policy Order regarding Labs and Neighborhood Planning to the full City Council.

Councillor Toner

POR 2023 #39

To read the full proposed policy order, click [here](#).

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

5. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City Departments to work with Eversource to include in their annual reporting, updates on their work to move forward with providing the infrastructure required to move Cambridge toward electrifying the city.

Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toner, Vice Mayor Mallon

POR 2023 #40

This policy order asks the City Manager to direct the relevant departments to work with Eversource to include in their annual reporting, updates on their work to move forward with providing the infrastructure required to move Cambridge toward electrifying the city.

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

6. That a Roundtable be held on Monday, March 13, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber in place of the Regular City Council Meeting, for the purpose of receiving an update on the Municipal Broadband Feasibility Study.

Mayor Siddiqui

POR 2023 #41

There will be a roundtable discussion on Monday, March 13 from 5:30 – 7:30pm to discuss the Municipal Broadband Feasibility Study.

This policy order was adopted.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Civic Unity and Economic Development and University Relations Committees held a joint public meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 1:00p.m. to receive and update on the current state of the Cannabis industry in Cambridge and Massachusetts.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

2. The Economic Development and University Relations Committee conducted a public meeting on January 24, 2023, at 3:00p.m. to continue its November 22, 2022 discussion of the environmental and economic impact of BEUDO on residential, business, and academic properties/communities. This will be a roundtable discussion with the Community Development Department, representatives from Eversource, the business community, universities, and large commercial/residential property owners.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

3. The Economic Development and University Relations & Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee conducted a public meeting on February 7, 2023 at 3:00p.m. to continue its December 7th, 2022 discussion of the attached zoning amendments and the Callender citizen petition proposing a technical definition of lab use and a restriction on new instances of the lab use in fragile districts including Central Square, Harvard Square, and Cambridge Street and possible alternative recommendations to address neighborhood concerns.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

Two Policy Orders came out of this Joint meeting and appear on this agenda, POR 2023 #38, and POR 2023 #39.

4. The Ordinance Committee met on February 14, 2023, and voted favorably to send the Suzanne P. Blier, et.al Harvard Square Zoning Petition as amended to the Full City Council with no recommendation.

This action appears as POR 2023 #37 on this agenda

This policy order was adopted. The petition was not passed to a second reading.

5. The Ordinance Committee met on February 15, 2023, and voted favorably to send the proposed Ordinance #2022-6, Green Jobs, as amended to the Full City Council with a favorable recommendation to PASS TO A SECOND READING.

Ordinance #2022-6, Green Jobs

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

A. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc, relative to Ordinance # 2022-6 Article III Green Jobs 2.66.100 Definitions.

ORD 2022 # 6

This was passed to a second reading.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information on behalf of the School Committee.

COF 2023 #36

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

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

COF 2023 #37

This communication was accepted and placed on file.