



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • MARCH 20, 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 the to new appointments of the following persons as members of the Police Review and Advisory Board for terms of five years. *CMA 2023 #75*

The Police Review and Advisory Board is an impartial body of residents who review the police department's policies, practices, and procedures as well as conduct investigations into complaints and develop community services to promote positive police engagement with the community. The following people have been appointed to the Police Review and Advisory Board for a 5-year term:

Maria Guadalupe Arlotto – an attorney who was born and raised in Los Angeles, went to law school in Chicago and began her career there, and has lived in Cambridge for 12 years. She has two children attending Cambridge Public Schools, and lives in East Cambridge. She works at a major law firm where she has moved from litigation to doing training and professional development for other attorneys in the firm. She would bring her own lived experience including negative interactions with the police, while also being trained in and committed to weighing all the information carefully before making any conclusions.

Brendan Koscher – an HR professional who has lived in the Boston area for a decade but is relatively new to Cambridge, and lives here with his partner. He has a long-standing interest in and passion for local government, stemming from his upbringing in central Connecticut where he served as a student member of his town's board of education and later interned in the office of the town's "first selectman" (the office of the town executive). In his work he has focused on ADEI and mitigating implicit bias, and has been an active mentor for LGBTQIA+ individuals, as an openly gay man who is particularly interested in supporting other young professionals and millennials.

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

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-05, regarding a report on beginning the process of obtaining police body worn cameras (BWC) for the Cambridge Police Department, and to work with all appropriate departments to produce policy recommendations that would allow body worn camera usage while also not violating civil liberties in compliance with the City's Surveillance Ordinance. *CMA 2023 #76*

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) submitted by Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toner, and myself in February asking the City to begin the process of obtaining body worn cameras for the Cambridge Police Department, and to ensure they are compliant with the City's [Surveillance Ordinance](#). The resurgence of support for body worn cameras comes after the fatal police shooting of Arif Sayed Faisal in January in a continued effort to increase the transparency of policing in the City. The report outlines the process that the Police Department plans to take to implement body cameras in their daily work, including assembling a team of employees from the CPD, the Public Safety Department, and the Law Department to research current body camera technology before crafting and submitting a Request for Information (RFI). After this request is fulfilled by an outside vendor, the CPD will be able to make an informed decision on the best body cameras to purchase for the Department's needs. A 1-3 month pilot program will take place so the CPD can determine which body cameras fit the needs of the department best. There will also be a robust community engagement process after the pilot ends, and a vendor is selected.

There was discussion about what obstacles stand in the CPD's way in relation to the Surveillance Ordinance. Commissioner Elow shared that there are no hurdles and facial recognition software is addressed in the report, stating that the City and Police Department will not be using footage or images captured on body cameras to make future arrests or profile potential suspects. Guidelines on when the cameras will be turned on and off will also be explicitly outlined in the formal report on body cameras that will be available after the preliminary process is complete.

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-09, regarding a report on engaging a third party, independent firm/consultant or university partner to review and examine the Cambridge Police Department's policies and practices regarding de-escalation methods, mental health calls for service, training, and more.
CMA 2023 #77

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) filed by Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Azeem, and myself asking the City Manager to engage a third party to review the Cambridge Police Department's policies and practices regarding de-escalation methods, mental health calls, training, and more. This is another potential policy change that has come out of the tragic incidents of January 4th. The report outlines that the [Police Executive Research Forum \(PERF\)](#) will be the independent firm tasked with this review of our police department. In addition to a broad review of the CPD's policies and practices, PERF will also conduct an independent review of the January 4 shooting of Arif Sayed Faisal to determine:

- If there is an opportunity to improve the CPD's crisis response training and specifically what that may entail.
- Whether CPD could benefit from additional less-lethal equipment, associated training, or other resources.

- Whether the recent fatal shooting revealed how and where community response can be enhanced – potentially by training and protocols that might involve multiple stakeholders in the City of Cambridge.

As someone who was pushing for an independent review of the tragic incident, outside of the District Attorney’s inquest, I am pleased that this review will include a comprehensive review of January 4th and how we can ensure that this does not happen again.

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to relative to Cost of Living Adjustment for retirees.
CMA 2023 #78

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

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to relative to Cost of Living Adjustment for retirees for fiscal year 2023.
CMA 2023 #79

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

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to recommendations for the block rates for water consumption and sewer use for the period beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024.
CMA 2023 #80

This [communication](#) shares the recommended water and sewer rates for FY24. There was discussion about how these increased rates help the City address its water concerns, and DPW Commissioner Kathy Watkins shared that the funds collected through the water and sewer rates directly help the City operate the water system, as well as contribute to capital improvement projects. Some of these capital projects include the sewer replacement on River Street and Willard Street, and the catch basin underneath the new Tobin School. These new pipe systems will help separate the combined sewer system from the single sewer system, reducing the amount of waste and flooding that may occur.

These are the new water and sewer rates for FY24 that will take effect April 1, 2023:

This communication was placed on file.

	Annual Consumption*	FY23 Water Rate	FY24 Proposed Water Rate	FY23 Sewer Rate	FY24 Proposed Sewer Rate	
	Block 1	0 - 40 CcF	\$3.11	\$3.32	\$14.59	\$15.34
	Block 2	41 - 400 CcF	\$3.33	\$3.55	\$15.42	\$16.21
	Block 3	401 - 2,000 CcF	\$3.54	\$3.77	\$16.57	\$17.42
	Block 4	2,001 - 10,000 CcF	\$3.76	\$4.01	\$17.84	\$18.75
	Block 5	Over 10,000 CcF	\$4.08	\$4.35	\$18.96	\$19.93

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointments and reappointments of the following persons as members of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD).

CMA 2023 #81

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is made up of 11 members. The following people have been appointed to the board for a 3-year term:

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin (appointment) has worked in several healthcare administrative positions. She self-identifies as a person with disabilities and is both the parent and sibling of individuals with disabilities.

Deepti Nijhawan (appointment) is a retired architect and the parent of two adult children with severe disabilities. She has significant experience advocating for disability rights in education, employment, and housing.

Loring Brinckerhoff (reappointment) has had a long career in education, specializing in the needs of students with learning disabilities and other hidden disabilities.

Avril dePagter (reappointment) is an educator and identifies as a person with a disability. She is the board's current Chair.

Mary Devlin (reappointment) has decades of work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and is the board's current Secretary.

Dan Stubbs (reappointment) is a person with a disability and an architect with experience in accessible and universal design.

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

8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Salvation Army Shelter and Daytime Program.

CMA 2023 #82

This [communication](#) shares the news that the City has taken on the operating costs of the Salvation Army Shelter and Daytime program to ensure 35 overnight beds and daytime programming for guests. Thanks to this funding, and the diligent work of Assistant City Manager for Human Service Programs Ellen Semenoff and Liz Mengers, the Salvation Army Shelter can continue to offer essential services to our unhoused community, many of whom rely on the shelter for a hot meal and a place to sleep at night. City staff from the Multiservice Center will be available to take on some of the staffing responsibilities as well. The City has entered into a contract to cover the \$1,000,080 cost of operation, and this cost will be added to the FY24 Budget this spring.

This communication was placed on file.

9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Order 2023 #35, related to the Allocation Plan for Cambridge's HOME-ARP funds.

CMA 2023 #83

This [communication](#) is in response to this [policy order](#) from February filed by Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, and Councillor Nolan asking the City Manager to extend the public comment period for the Home-ARP funds and to ensure the City's allocation meets the goals of the Council and the working group. This report outlines that the Community Development Department plans to use the funds for one-time capital expenses rather than long-term operating expenses to have the greatest impact. This will allow the City to build permanent housing, rather than providing a temporary shelter or day program that may get shut down when funding expires. This is a one time grant of \$2,325,283 from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. While the CDD has possible plans in the works, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Iram Farooq shared that they instead want to leave the categories as broad as possible so as to not pigeon-hole the City into one project. The projects funded through this grant would mainly prioritize those experiencing homelessness, those at risk of becoming homeless, and victims of domestic violence.

This communication was placed on file.

10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a summary of a Planning Board Meeting on the 2022 Town-Gown Reports and Presentations.

CMA 2023 #84

This communication shares a summary of a Planning Board meeting on the 2022 Town-Gown Reports and Presentations. These reports show our university partners' impact on the City, and offer insight into how the City can partner with them more. There was discussion about the ways we can continue to work together, especially with the combined enrollment of students at colleges and universities around the City accounting for roughly 20% of residents.

To read the full reports, they are linked here:

[Harvard](#)

[MIT](#)

[Lesley](#)

This communication was placed on file.

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the final report for the City's comprehensive year-long municipal broadband feasibility study.

CMA 2023 #85

This [communication](#) outlines the roundtable discussion from last Monday on Municipal Broadband and the findings from the year-long feasibility study. As we saw during the height of the pandemic, there are stark disparities in broadband coverage across the City, and it's time we give our residents a better option to access the internet. I've created a helpful guide to help break down municipal broadband, why we need it in Cambridge, and what our next steps are.

To access the guide, click [here](#).

12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Order 2023 #44 related to the Barrett, et al., Zoning Petition.
CMA 2023 #86

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

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to fund the HEART initiative and negotiate a contract for services with HEART, to include but not limited to HEART responding to certain 911 calls.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN
IN COUNCIL MARCH 6, 2023
POR 2023 #48**

The rules were suspended to bring Communications from Other Officers #3 forward for discussion with this item.

Councillor Toner and Councillor Simmons submitted these [questions](#) to City Manager Huang regarding HEART's possible implementation. One concern that was raised by Councillors Toner and Simmons was that any contract for services with a non-profit needs to follow the State's 30B procurement process relative to a bidding process and contracts. Councillor McGovern reminded us that 30B is not required for contract for services with non-profits. There was a brief discussion about the feasibility of funding HEART and how it would fit into the City. It was determined that the amendments to the policy order would suffice the questions.

This [policy order](#) was originally filed by Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Nolan, and Mayor Siddiqui at the last Council meeting. Following the discussion, Councillor Nolan offered the amendments to the original order that add clarifying language, including a start date of Fall 2023 for HEART accepting some 911 calls and an explanation of how funding will first be provided by ARPA funding and then through the Community Safety Office budget.

The amendments to this order were adopted.

This policy order was adopted as amended by a vote of 7-1-1. Councillor Simmons was marked present. Councillor Toner voted no.

Communication from Other Officers #3 was placed on file.

2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate City departments to ensure multi-family properties on the market are reviewed as quickly as possible as potential affordable housing acquisitions.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL MARCH 6, 2023 POR 2023 #49

This [policy order](#) was originally filed by Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, and myself at the last Council meeting. Councillor Simmons offered the following amendment to the order to strengthen the request in the final ordered paragraph:

“That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the appropriate City departments and affordable housing providers to determine the feasibility and efficacy of creating a program that would ensure multi-family properties on the market, and those that may be headed towards the market in the near future, are reviewed as quickly as possible as potential affordable housing acquisitions; and be it further”

These amendments were adopted.

Councillor McGovern and Councillor Carlone were added as cosponsors.

This order was adopted as amended.

ON THE TABLE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to a Zoning Petition from Patrick Barrett et al. North Mass Ave BA-5 Zoning District Petition (Ordinance #2022-21).
PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN CITY COUNCIL MARCH 6, 2023
TO BE ORDAINED APRIL 3, 2023
EXPIRES ON APRIL 3, 2023 ORD 2022 # 21

This petition cannot be ordained until April 3rd. No action was taken.

4. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc, relative to Ordinance # 2022-6 Article III Green Jobs 2.66.100 Definitions.
PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 27, 2023
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER MARCH 20, 2023
ORD 2022 # 6

This item was ordained.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Charles Jessup Franklin et al., regarding allowing new construction that is similar in size and shape as existing buildings for the purpose of promoting housing and first floor retail.
APP 2023 #11

This zoning petition would amend city Zoning to allow for new construction that is similar in size and shape to the existing buildings to be built around the City with housing and first-floor retail. This would make it easier for housing to be built and offer a possible solution to the ongoing housing crisis.

To read the full petition, click [here](#).

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

2. A Zoning Petition Has been received from Michael Monestine et al. regarding Outdoor Use Zoning Petition for the Central Square Cultural District.

APP 2023 #12

Starlight Square has been a beacon of hope over the last 3 years and has served as a multi-purpose open space for businesses, artists, churches, schools, and so many more to enjoy. During the pandemic, we saw firsthand the effect of not having space to gather, but through Starlight Square we were afforded the opportunity to once again come together for so many wonderful events. By amended the zoning, Starlight will not have to appear before the BZA on an annual basis for approval, and allow for more consistency. I appreciate the myriad people who spoke about the positive impact Starlight Square has had on them over the years, and I hope the Planning Board and Ordinance Committee can meet as quickly as possible to pass this necessary zoning change to allow for Starlight to operate this season and beyond.

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

3. An application was received from Martha Davis of the MIT Museum requesting permission for seventy (70) temporary banners from Sidney Street to Memorial Drive and Main Street announcing Curious from April 3, 2023 through the summer of 2023.

APP 2023 #13

This application was adopted.

4. An application was received from Kevin Richard, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 149 Upland Road; 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 #14

This application was adopted.

5. An application was received from Chuck Martins representing Kwench Juice Cafe, requesting permission for two (2) projecting signs at the premises numbered 678 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailing has been provided.

APP 2023 #15

This application was adopted.

VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That the City Council go on record supporting Enabling Legislation for a Real Estate Transfer Fee

Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan
POR 2023 #50

This [policy order](#) filed by Councillor Carlone, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, and myself asks the City Council to go on record supporting SD.1982 filed by Senator Comerford and HD.2857 filed by Representative Connolly that would enable a Real Estate Transfer Fee. The City Council already voted in favor of a [Real Estate Transfer Fee Home Rule petition](#) in March of 2020, but the corresponding House Bill expired in January of this year. If the new House and Senate bills pass, over \$23 million could be raised this year to support affordable housing development in Cambridge – something we desperately need to combat our growing housing crisis.

This policy order was adopted.

2. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council is requested to confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request to dedicate a street corner in honor of Ned Handy.

Councillor Carlone, Councillor Toner
POR 2023 #51

This policy order was adopted.

3. Policy Order for Garden Street Accommodations

Councillor Toner, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Carlone
POR 2023 #52

This [policy order](#) filed by Councillor Toner, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, and Councillor Carlone asks the City to implement the following changes to Garden Street:

- restoring the section of Garden Street from Linnaean to Huron as two ways for automobile traffic
- making a bidirectional bike lane on the north/Harvard side from Huron Avenue to Chauncy Street
- moving all parking to the north/Harvard side of Garden Street from Linnean to Chauncy Street
- install street signs on the corner of Raymond Street restricting traffic to abutters only between 7-9 and 4-6 along with other traffic calming measures
- continue to make adjustments to Walker Street to address the concerns of residents regarding cut-through traffic, excessive noise, and dangerous buses, trucks/large vehicles by improving traffic calming and signage

Councillor Zondervan exercised his Charter Right on this item, halting all discussion and action until the next Council meeting. The Traffic, Parking and Transportation department will be submitting data findings on Garden Street collected over the last several months at the next Council meeting as well, so we will have both the report and this Policy Order to review on April 3rd.

4. That the City Manager work with the Central Square Business Improvement District and provide a license agreement, as well as direct financial and regulatory support for the continued and uninterrupted operation of Starlight Square.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons
POR 2023 #53

This [policy order](#) asks the City Manager to work with the Central Square Business Improvement District and provide them with a license agreement to permanently operate Starlight Square. The order also asks the City Manager to work with the relevant departments to urgently pursue building a permanent building on Lot 5 to provide the same services that Starlight currently provides in its temporary structure. As we heard from many residents, small business owners, and community members during public comment, Starlight is an essential piece of Central Square and should continue to be able to provide arts space, business space, and gathering space for years to come.

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

This policy order was adopted as amended.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Finance committee met on May 7, 2019.

These minutes were amended to include the correct members of the Finance Committee from May 7, 2019:

Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Devereaux, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Mallon
Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Toomey.

The amended minutes were accepted and placed on file.

2. The Finance committee met on February 16, 2022 to consider the City Council goals in relation to the budget and to gather input and discuss priorities on the FY23 budget.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

3. The Finance Committee met on February 23, 2022 to reconvene its February 16, 2020 meeting to receive public comment regarding the City Council goals in relation to the budget and to gather input and discuss priorities on the FY23 budget.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

4. The Finance Committee met on April 20, 2022 to discuss the city's ARPA application/funding update status.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

5. The Finance Committee met on May 10, 2022 to conduct hearing on FY 2023 budget.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

6. The Finance Committee met on May 11, 2022 to conduct hearing on FY 2023 school budget.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

7. The Finance Committee met on May 17, 2022 to conduct hearing on FY 2023 budget.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

8. The Finance Committee held a public hearing on June 14, 2022 to receive an update on ARPA funding.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

9. The Human Services and Veterans Committee held a public meeting on February 28, 2023, to discuss the status of after school programming in Cambridge.

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

VIII. ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the City Council - Roundtable/Working Meeting - February 14, 2023 5:00 PM

These minutes were accepted and placed on file.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

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

COF 2023 #45

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

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

COF 2023 #46

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Councillor Toner, transmitting Questions regarding Requests to Fund Heart Using City Funds.

COF 2023 #47

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with Charter Right Item #1.

This communication was accepted and placed on file.