



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • JUNE 5, 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 amendments to the FY24 Submitted General Fund Budget.  
*CMA 2023 #149*

This [communication](#) shares two amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Budget. Those two amendments are:

- A \$1,600,000 increase to the Affordable Housing Trust, which is a 7.1% overall increase to the Affordable Housing Trust fund. This new allocation brings the AHT to \$24,645,750.
- An increase of \$416,000 to the Cambridge Health Alliance to help preserve four positions that would have been eliminated without this increase in funding.

The rules were suspended to bring policy orders #3 and #4, committee reports #1–#3, and unfinished business items #3-8 forward for discussion with this item.

[Policy Order #3](#) asks the City Manager to adjust the Health Alliance Budget to ensure all services provided by the Cambridge Health Alliance are properly staffed and supported. While the new adjustment to the budget will preserve five positions that would have been cut, the CHA did not accept the City Managers offer to fully fund all 7 positions that were due to be laid off. Although this is difficult to hear, the Council was ensured that there will be no reduction in services. In addition to funding staffing positions, the increase in the budget was also requested to support the needed repairs at the Windsor Street Clinic. The Council was informed that per the lease, the CHA is responsible for repairs, so the City is working closely with them to determine what is needed. Assistant City Manager of Finance David Kale shared that the City is preparing to come before the Council with a feasibility study related to the necessary repairs and renovations. I went on record asking that the Community Arts Center which is housed in the same building as the Windsor Street clinic not be asked to bear any financial costs due to these upgrades. There was also discussion about the need for a larger conversation about the CHA contract and how to make sure both the CHA and Cambridge Public Health Department work together to provide excellent service for residents. Councillor Nolan and I will be holding joint hearings on this topic, and what makes sense as a City to move forward with in terms of the relationship to the Cambridge Health Alliance.

This policy order was adopted.

[Policy Order #4](#) asks the City Manager to increase the budget allocation for the Affordable Housing Trust by 7.1%, increase the Affordable Housing Trust by \$20 million through Free Cash, and engage in creating a 3-year plan to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget to 10% of the overall City budget. There was discussion about splitting this policy order into two separate orders to best accommodate the need for additional funding. The first order would read:

“That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget in FY24 by 7.1% to equal the increase of the overall city budget”

The second ordered would read:

“That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget by \$20 million through a free cash appropriation, outside of the FY24 budget, and engage in creating a 3-year plan to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget to 10% of the overall City budget.”

There was discussion about keeping funds in the free cash account rather than acclocating them to the trust to allow the City to be more nimble when it comes to purchasing and acquiring properties. City Manager Huang informed the Council that there is currently \$155 million in the Affordable Housing Trust, of which \$100 million is already committed to projects and roughly \$33 million has already been requested for additional projects.

The motion to split the original policy order into two (see above) was adopted 7-2. Councillor Simmons and Councillor Zondervan voted no.

The first policy order was adopted unanimously.

There was a motion to further split the second policy order into two more orders. The first would read:

“That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget by \$20 million through a free cash appropriation, outside of the FY24 budget.”

The second would read:

“That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to engage in creating a 3-year plan to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget to 10% of the overall City budget.”

The motion to further split the order was adopted.

The second policy order was adopted by a vote of 5-4. Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner, and myself voted no. The Affordable Housing Trust will received additional allocations of funding from current projects in the City, and having free cash to be available to get site control, or fund other council priorities related to affordable housing such as more funding for

affordable home ownership, municipal vouchers and other progressive housing ideas is a preferable way to move forward to ensure housing stability.

The third policy order was adopted by a vote of 6-3. Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, and Councillor Toner voted no.

The recommended amendments to the general fund budget were adopted unanimously.

Committee reports #1 and 2 were placed on file.

Committee report #3 was adopted as amended and placed on file.

Councillor Zondervan made a motion to amend the general budget to reduce the Cambridge Police Budget to \$73 million (the FY23 Cambridge Police operating cost) and to defund ShotSpotter. City Manager Huang shared that ShotSpotter is funded through a grant that the City has not received in several years. The motion to reduce the police budget failed 2-7. Councillor Zondervan and Mayor Siddiqui voted yes.

The motion to adopt the General Fund Budget for FY24 was adopted 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.

The motion to adopt the water fund budget was adopted.

The motion to adopt the public investment fund budget was adopted.

The motion to adopt unfinished business items #3-8 was adopted.

Reconsideration on all votes failed, making the votes tonight final.

2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$117,500, to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expenditures account for acquisition of equipment and upgrades to the City of Cambridge Emergency Operations Center (EOC). ***CMA 2023 #150***

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

3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$32,500, to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expenditures account for acquisition of equipment and upgrades to the City of Cambridge Emergency Operations Center (EOC). ***CMA 2023 #151***

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

4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000, to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expenditures account for acquisition of replacement radio consolettes to continue to enhance interoperable

communications between Metro Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR) jurisdictions.  
*CMA 2023 #152*

*This appropriation was adopted by a vote of 7-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.*

5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$70,000 from the General Fund Traffic, Parking and Transportation Salary and Wages account to the General Fund Traffic, Parking and Transportation Travel and Training (Judgment and Damages) account to cover current and anticipated medical services and/or prescription reimbursement costs for the remainder of the fiscal year for Traffic and Parking personnel injured in the performance of their duties.

*CMA 2023 #153*

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

6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$35,000 from the General Fund Veterans Travel & Training (Benefits) account to the General Fund Veterans Other Ordinary Maintenance account to cover costs related to a re-imagined Memorial Day and Decoration Day.

*CMA 2023 #154*

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

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR 23-29, regarding amendments to the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance.

*CMA 2023 #155*

*This [communication](#) shares the final draft language from the Community Development Department for the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance. A few of the changes that were made in this iteration include more specific review board criteria, and writes the Avid Plus framework into law. When BEUDO is codified, it will be a groundbreaking ordinance that many other cities and towns can look to when creating their climate mitigation strategies.*

*The motion to amend BEUDO by substitution with the recommended language was adopted.*

*This ordinance was passed to a second reading by a vote of 8-1. Councillor Simmons was marked present. The final vote on this ordinance will be Monday June 26th.*

*This communication was placed on file.*

## **II. CALENDAR**

### **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. That the “Amendments to Protect Family Inclusion and Relationship Diversity” be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee for discussion and recommendation.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS  
IN COUNCIL MAY 22, 2023  
POR 2023 #97**

The original policy order asks for the [proposed amendments](#) to the Family Inclusion and Relationship Diversity be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee and further asks the City Manager to work with the relevant departments to provide comments on the amendments. These amendments recognize the many ways families can be defined and seeks to protect diversity and inclusion throughout the City in housing, employment, public accommodations, and more. After discussion with community members, and assurance that the amendment process will happen in steps, Councillor Simmons was happy to move this forward.

This policy order was adopted and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

2. An application was received from Andrew Plumb, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 96 Henry Street Unit 1; 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.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL MAY  
22, 2023  
APP 2023 #31**

This application was approved 8-1. Councillor Zondervan voted no.  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$50,000,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of the Mass Avenue between Waterhouse Street and Alewife Parkway.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 1, 2023  
REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE  
CMA 2023 #106**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This appropriation was approved.

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appropriation and authorization to borrow \$35,350,000 to provide funds for the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan. Funds will support upgrades to the 689 Mass Avenue Interior; upgrades at the Moses Youth Center; Interior fit-out of Rindge Pre-K building; electric vehicle charging station infrastructure at several municipal buildings; and additional work at Inman and East Cambridge Fire Houses; First Street Garage upgrades to stairs and elevator; and other City building upgrades.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 1, 2023 REFERRED TO**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**CMA 2023 #107**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This appropriation was approved.

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,500,000 to provide funds for the construction of the Peabody School Playground and Corcoran (Raymond Street) park.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 1, 2023**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE CMA 2023 #108**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This appropriation was approved.

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,800,000 to provide funds for financing school building upgrades.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 1, 2023**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**CMA 2023 #109**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This appropriation was approved.

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$51,500,000 to provide funds for the construction of sewer separation, storm water management and combined sewer overflow reduction elimination improvements within the Port and River Street areas as well as the Sewer Capital Repairs Program and climate change preparedness efforts.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 1, 2023 REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**CMA 2023 #110**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This appropriation was approved.

8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$26,000,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of various City streets, sidewalks and bike facilities. \$15,000,000 of this loan order is attributable to the improvement project related to sewer infrastructure upgrades on River Street, which include full depth roadway reconstruction, new sidewalks, new street trees and various other street improvements.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 1, 2023 REFERRED TO  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
CMA 2023 #111**

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This appropriation was approved.

9. An Ordinance has been received from Craig Kelley et al, relative to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge regarding EV and car share Zoning change.

**PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MAY 15, 2023  
TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER JUNE 5, 2023 EXPIRES AUGUST 1, 2023  
ORD 2023 # 2**

No action was taken on this item. The City Council asked several questions of the City Solicitor and those answers will be shared at the Monday, June 12th meeting. We can take action then, as this petition does not expire until August 1st.

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

1. An application was received from Michael Monestime of the Central Square Business Improvement District requesting permission for thirty (30) temporary pole banners along Massachusetts Avenue, Hancock Street, Inman Street, Pleasant Street, Prospect Street Essex Street, Pearl Street, Norfolk Street, Brookline Street, Douglas Street and Sidney Street announcing In Central I Can from June 1, 2023 through December 30, 2023.

***APP 2023 #33***

This application was approved.

2. An application was received from John Connolly of Harvard Art Museum requesting permission for twenty three (23) temporary pole banner along Quincy Street, Broadway to Harvard, Cambridge Street, Hovey to Felton, Massachusetts Avenue, Trowbridge to Remington Street, Massachusetts Avenue and Hotel Veritas to Plympton announcing Open to Everyone from July 2023 through November 2023. ***APP 2023 #34***

This application was approved.

### **VI. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST**

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish a new phone number and email address for Inclusionary Tenants to utilize for complaints and emergency issues as they arise, ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed in a timely and effective manner. **Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2023 #99***

This [policy order](#) seeks to have a dedicated phone number and email address for inclusionary tenants to voice concerns regarding their housing. This would allow residents who have taken advantage of the inclusionary program to benefit from a direct contact in the City to help troubleshoot problems they may have at their home.

This policy order was adopted.

2. Recognizing June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth in the City of Cambridge, and in urging all Cambridge residents to reflect upon the meaning of this important day.

**Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui**

***POR 2023 #100***

This policy order recognizes Monday, June 19th as Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the day that the last remaining slaves in Galveston, Texas were informed of the Emancipation Proclamation and abolition of slavery. To celebrate the holiday, there will be a parade on Juneteenth beginning at City Hall and ending at Riverside Press Park. The festivities will begin at 10am and end at 3pm. All are welcome to come celebrate!

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

3. That City Manager is requested to adjust the Health Alliance Budget to ensure that all services provided to the City of Cambridge by the Health Alliance for Public Health Department needs and staff are fully funded, and to adjust the Capital Budget to ensure all necessary repairs are made to the Windsor Street Clinic. POLICY ORDER FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 16, 2023 AND MAY 18, 2023

**Councillor Zondervan**

***POR 2023 #101***

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This policy order was adopted.

4. That the City Manager is requested to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget in FY24 by 7.1% to equal the increase of the overall city budget, increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget by \$20 million through a free cash appropriation, outside of the FY24 budget, and engage in creating a 3-year plan to increase the Affordable Housing Trust budget to 10% of the overall City budget. POLICY ORDER FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 16, 2023 AND MAY 18, 2023

**Councillor Simmons**

***POR 2023 #102***

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1

This policy order was adopted as amended.



5. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department to provide further study on the proposed changes by the Franklin Petition, as well as a careful review of the language to remove any potential conflicts and ambiguities and is requested to direct the Law Department to provide guidance on any legal issues and questions raised by CDD and the Planning Board by the Franklin Petition.

**Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon**  
***POR 2023 #103***

This policy order asks the City Manager to direct the Community Development Department to prepare a study on the proposed changes that are outlined in the Franklin Petition and to review the language to make sure there is no conflict or vague wording. This order also asks the Law Department to provide legal guidance on any legal issues that might arise from the CDD and the Planning Board during this review. The Franklin Petition would allow new construction that is similar in size and shape as existing buildings for the purpose of promoting housing and first floor retail.

This policy order was adopted.

6. That the City Manager is requested to work with appropriate City staff, leadership of other impacted communities, state and congressional delegations and other appropriate officials to advocate and lobby for solutions to aircraft noise.

**Councillor Toner, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2023 #104***

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the relevant staff and departments to lobby for solutions for aircraft noise above the City. This is an ongoing issue throughout Cambridge, and many residents have expressed concern and frustration with the noise. Aircrafts especially affect the North and West Cambridge neighborhoods, who have been most impacted by the flight pattern changes at Logan Airport. While Mayor Siddiqui has already forwarded a letter to the Congressional delegation, this order further asks the City Solicitor to review whether any legal action could be successfully taken to change the flight patterns.

This policy order was adopted.

7. That the City Manager is requested to convene a working group, including representatives from the LGBTQ+ community, city officials, and other relevant stakeholders, tasked with establishing plans for a citywide celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Councillor Simmons**  
***POR 2023 #105***

This policy order asks the City Manager to create a working group that includes representatives from the LGBTQ+ community, city officials, and other relevant stakeholders to create plans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts in May

of next year. This is an especially happy occasion, as Cambridge was the first in the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004.

This policy order was adopted.

8. That City Manager is requested to ensure adequate funding to fully repair the irrigation system in Danehy Park immediately.

**Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone**  
***POR 2023 #106***

This policy order asks the City Manager to adequately fund all repairs of the Danehy Park irrigation system. Last year, many trees were lost due to insufficient watering during the drought, and an improperly working irrigation system did not make things better. This system is critical to tree health, and ultimately, climate change mitigation as our trees provide essential cover from the sun and balance our ecosystem.

This policy order was adopted.

9. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to refresh and repaint the crosswalk and benches if necessary, in the colors of the Trans Flag, the Pride Flag, the Bi Flag, and the People of Color Pride Flag, and light City Hall up in rainbow colors in recognition of Pride Month for the month of June.

**Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zondervan**  
***POR 2023 #107***

This order asks the City Manager to direct the relevant departments to refresh the crosswalks and benches that are painted to represent the Trans, Pride, Bi, and People of Color Pride flags, and to light City Hall up in rainbow colors to recognize Pride Month for the month of June.

This policy order was adopted.

10. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Fire Department, the Police Department, Emergency Communications Department, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, the Department of Public Works and the Harvard Square Business Association to determine if permanent automatic bollards could be feasible in the area of Winthrop Street.

**Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2023 #108***

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the Fire, Police, Emergency Communications, Traffic, Parking, & Transportation, and Public Works Department as well as the Harvard Square Business Association to determine if permanent automatic traffic bollards could be used in the area of Winthrop Street. The street has been closed to cars and other motor vehicles from 11am – 2am for many years, but with the increase in delivery drivers and Ubers, the moveable planters at the top and bottom of the street often get removed for the convenience of cars. This creates a dangerous area, as pedestrians expect the road to be blocked off from vehicular traffic. I was happy to submit this policy order asking the City to investigate the

feasibility of permanent bollards because they have been used in many other areas and cities to prevent cars from traveling down prohibited roads. The bollards come with a remote control that can raise and lower them if necessary – something our emergency response personnel would be using. I want to thank Molly Lindbergh at the Red House Restaurant for bringing this to our attention, and Councillor Nolan for cosponsoring this order with me.

This policy order was adopted.

11. That the Transportation and Public Utilities and Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committees work with the City Manager and appropriate city departments and staff, to hold a joint hearing to receive input from city staff and the community to review the effectiveness and develop recommendations on methods to collect data and establish measurable benchmarks and standards as it relates to the Cycling Safety Ordinance.

**Councillor Toner, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan**  
***POR 2023 #109***

This policy order asks the Transportation and Public Utilities as well as the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts, and Celebration Committees to work with the City Manager and any other relevant departments to hold a joint meeting to hear input from City staff and community members on the effectiveness of the Cycling Safety Ordinance. This order seeks to determine what data should be collected to determine the effectiveness of the CSO and develop measurable benchmarks of success.

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

12. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate departments to provide a legal opinion on whether the city could, without violating state law, use traffic cameras, regulated under the Surveillance Ordinance, to inform motorists of potential traffic violations or dangerous actions, without issuing any citations or formal warnings.

**Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Carlone**  
***POR 2023 #110***

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the relevant departments to provide a legal opinion to the Council on whether or not the City could use traffic cameras to inform drivers of potential traffic violations without issuing citations or warnings. This order asks the Law Department to work within the Surveillance Ordinance when delivering this opinion.

This policy order was adopted.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. The Finance Committee conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. to discuss the City and School budgets covering the fiscal period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

2. The Finance Committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 6:00p.m. – 11:00p.m. to discuss the School Department budget covering the fiscal period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

3. The Finance Committee conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 and reconvened on May 18, 2023, to discuss the City and School budgets covering the fiscal period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #1.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

A. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the FY2024 submitted budget and appropriation orders.

***CMA 2023 #105***

4. The Public Safety Committee held a public meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 to discuss the 2022 annual surveillance reports.

This report was accepted and placed on file.

## **VIII. 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 #98***

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

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

***COF 2023 #99***

This communication was accepted and placed on file.