

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a federal update including an update on relevant court cases. (CM26#4) [[text of report](#)]
2. Transmitting a communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following people to the **Family Policy Advisory Council**. (CM26#9) [[text of report](#)]
Appointments: Joseph Corazzini, Caitlin Dube, Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, David Weinstein
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000 received from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to the Public Investment Fund School Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund a feasibility study and schematic design costs for the roof replacement project at the Cambridgeport School, located at 89 Elm Street. (CM26#10)
4. Transmitting a communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as Public Weighers for the calendar year 2026 to operate scales at 500 Front St, Cambridge, MA 02142. (CM26#5)
5. Transmitting communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment or reappointment of the following people to the **Recycling Advisory Committee** for terms of three years. (CM26#11) [[text of report](#)]
Re-Appointments: Dailey Brannin, Debby Galef, Debby Knight, Richard Nurse, Meera Singh, Helen Snively, Elka Kuhlman, Stephanie Wasiuk, Tracie Gordon, Emily Lee, Carlie Peters, David Demme, Rob Vandenebee
New Appointments: Olufolakemi Alalade, Brian Goldberg, Eric Herman, Tristram Dammin, Sugandha Karmacharya, Suzanne Shaw, Tian Feng, Monica Yudron, Ashan Rodriguez, Ting Zhang, Jenna Zwanger
6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of **Claire Spinner** and **Ellen Semonoff** as Member of the **Cambridge Health Alliance Board of Trustees**. (CM26#13) [[text of report](#)]
7. Transmitting communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$226,880 from the Emergency Solutions Grant to the Grant fund Human Services salary & wages and other ordinary maintenance accounts. (CM26#6)
8. Transmitting communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$54,491 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Grant fund Human Services salary & wages and other ordinary maintenance accounts. (CM26#8)
9. Transmitting communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$58,056.80 from

- the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board to the Grant fund Human Services salary and wages account. (CM26#7)
10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment or reappointment of the following people as Constables for terms of three years. (CM26#12)
11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-69, regarding a review of the previous home rule petition and prepare a new petition that would allow Cambridge to enact a Real Estate Transfer Fee to be sent to the state legislature. (CM26#14) [[text of report](#)]
12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Cambridge Street Zoning Petition. (CM26#15) [[text of report](#)]

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager ask the appropriate departments to review the city's digital equity work to date, including the study's recommendations and all steps taken since the study conclusion in order to update the evaluation of existing internet access programs, assessing whether residents' digital needs are or could be better provided for and to propose how we can better meet their needs and to report back to the Council by June 2026 on internet access programs. Councillor Zusy, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#8)
2. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments regarding incorporating plant-based solutions into the Sustainable Cambridge initiative, incorporating plant-based purchasing practices in City-operated events, and using municipal communications channels to promote sustainable and affordable food and drink practices throughout the city. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui (PO26#16)
3. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to prioritize pilot projects in 2026 without the use of a consultant for an extensive pedestrianization study, and in the medium-term consider how additional pedestrianization of a section of Brattle Street by restoring two-way traffic to JFK Street could enhance the Square. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zusy (PO26#17)
4. That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Feb 23, 2026, be a Joint Roundtable/Working meeting with the School Committee to discuss the FY27 Cambridge Public Schools budget priorities. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#19)
5. That the City Council shall convene for its special summer meeting Mon, Aug 3, 2026. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#20)

6. That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Nov 30, 2026, be and hereby is canceled. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#21)
7. That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Dec 28, 2026, be and hereby is canceled. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#22)
8. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update regarding PO25#69 FY26 Operating Budget a continued commitment to Emergency Housing Vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing and Mixed Status Families, and the Transition Wellness Center. Councillor Al-Zubi, Councillor McGovern (PO26#23)
9. That the Mayor hereby appoints a committee, to screen applicants for the position of City Clerk. Mayor Siddiqui (PO26#24)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Final Landmark Designation Report for the Nathaniel Stickney House at 45 Mt. Auburn Street. [Charter Right – Al-Zubi, Jan 12, 2026]
2. That the City Manager is requested to conduct a comprehensive review of existing safety and security measures at Cambridge City Hall, which shall include an assessment of physical access controls, visitor screening practices, on-site security staffing and training, emergency response and evacuation protocols, and the use of security technologies such as surveillance systems and alarm monitoring. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Flaherty, Councillor McGovern (PO26#3) [Charter Right - Simmons, Jan 12, 2026]

ON THE TABLE

3. An Ordinance has been received from Interim City Clerk Paula M. Crane, relative to amend the Zoning Map and Articles 3.000, 17.000, and 19.000 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance as follows with the intent of establishing four new zoning districts for the Cambridge Street corridor. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Dec 8, 2025; Eligible to be Ordained Dec 22, 2025; Expires Jan 28, 2026] (ORD25#17) [[Revised](#)][[Published](#)]

APPLICATIONS & PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Joseph Correia representing Patagonia, requesting permission for one (1) projecting blade sign at the premises numbered 39 Brattle Street. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters. (AP26#1)
2. An application was received from Ricky Zeng representing Love Art Sushi, requesting permission for one (1) projecting blade signs at the premises numbered 1 Canal Park. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters. (AP26#3)

3. An application was received from Brian Lavelle, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 204 Garden 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. (AP26#5)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Aram Harrow – please upzone N. Mass Ave.
2. Betty Lee Saccoccio – Opposition to Largest Zoning Deregulations
3. Brennan Waters – Please build more housing on Cambridge St
4. Catherine Hoffman – Democracy Center SOS
5. Cathy Hoffman – zoning petition
6. Cathy Hoffman – PRAB
7. Cathy Hoffman – PRAB
8. Cathy Hoffman – PRAB
9. Charles Teague – Let Cambridge St zoning expire
10. Chuck Hinds – Cambridge St. Zoning Amendment
11. Dan Phillips – In support of Cambridge St.
12. Debra Shapiro – Public Comment for 1/12/26
13. Debra Shapiro – Development on Broadway
14. Ethan Frank – Support for Cambridge Street rezoning
15. Teddy Warner – In Support of Cambridge Street Upzoning
16. Susan Markowitz – Let Cambridge Street Upzoning Petition Expire
17. Hallie Trial – Support Cambridge Street Zoning Changes
18. Heather Maguire Hoffman – Police Review and Advisory Board
19. Helen Walker – On the Table #3: Cambridge Street Deserves Better
20. Henry H. Wortis – Cambridge St. Rezoning
21. Jean Spera – Cambridge St Upzoning VOTE
22. Kathleen Moore – Support Cambridge Street Upzoning
23. Kiersten Kerby-Patel – I support upzoning on Cambridge St.
24. Lee Farris – Residents Alliance: Please let Cambridge St. petition expire
25. Lee Farris – Support Democracy House landmark
26. Louise Venden – 1/12/26 Council Meeting Public Comment
27. Marie Saccoccio – Opposition to Largest Zoning Deregulation of Cambridge Street in over a Century
28. Matt Kelly – Cambridge Street upzoning proposal let it expire
29. Max Kaplan – Support Cambridge St. Upzoning!
30. Richard Krushnic – Cambridge St. upzoning
31. Young Kim – Correction to page references in email chain below re: zoning petitions
32. Young Kim – My Oral Comment re: Cambridge Street Corridor zoning petition
33. Young Kim – Follow-Up to My Oral Comment: Zoning Records Remain Inconsistent After Tabling

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the City Council formally go on record in extending its deepest condolences to the family of Donald Williams for their tremendous loss. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern
2. Condolences on the death of Renee Inomata. Councillor Flaherty
3. City Council announce and celebrate that Cambridge has achieved 2025 What Works Cities Platinum Certification. Mayor Siddiqui

4. Congratulations to Gato Exotico on its Grand Opening in Cambridge. Mayor Siddiqui
5. [Speedy Recovery wishes to Mr. Hatch Sterrett](#). Councillor Al-Zubi
6. Condolences to the family of Ann Sicari. Councillor Flaherty

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Housing Committee** and **Finance Committee** held a joint public hearing on Dec 3, 2025 to discuss the feasibility and potential impacts of implementing residential development incentives - such as tax incentives, public equity financing, and reduced fees and requirements - on housing production and city finances. (CC26#1) [[text of report](#)]
2. The **Human Services and Veterans Committee** held a public hearing on Dec 4, 2025 to review and discuss the Executive Summary from the Community Benefits Advisory Committee which was presented to the full City Council on May 19, 2025, CM25#128. (CC26#2) [[text of report](#)]
3. The **Public Safety Committee** held a public hearing on Dec 9, 2025 to further discuss the implications of deploying automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) and to discuss whether adjustments should be made related to the deployment of ALPRs since approval in February of this year, CM25#257, which was in City Council on Oct 20, 2025. (CC26#3) [[text of report](#)]
4. The **Health and Environment Committee** and **Housing Committee** held a joint public hearing on Dec 11, 2025 to review and discuss PO25#137, which asks the Community Development Department to draft zoning language to reduce the impact on solar energy systems, based on the recommendations discussed in the Sept 16, 2025 Health and Environment Committee meeting. (CC26#4) [[text of report](#)]

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. Updated regarding legislative activity. (COF26#1)
2. Proposed Amendments to Cambridge Street Zoning Petition. (COF26#2) [[text of report](#)]
3. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee. (COF26#4) [[text of report](#)]
4. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information about the search process for a permanent City Clerk. (COF26#5) [[text of report](#)]

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Jan 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Thurs, Jan 29

10:30am The **Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss City Council Rules for the 2026-2027 term.

Mon, Feb 2

3:30pm Roundtable/Working City Council Meeting to discuss the results of the 2025 Cambridge Resident Survey.

Mon, Feb 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Feb 10

11:00am The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on a Zoning Petition by the Cambridge City Council. The Petition proposes changes to Section 4.50 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance to allow as of right in all zoning districts, religious and educational uses, and childcare uses ([CM25#288](#)).

Mon, Feb 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 16

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Jan 26, 2026

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: Access to the internet, a modern utility, is a vital part of everyday life and essential for the citizens of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: In 2014 the City formed a Broadband Task Force to work on issues of internet access and evaluate the city's internet infrastructure with a final report delivered in 2016 with recommendations for future actions including a municipal broadband feasibility study and ways to ensure digital equity; and

WHEREAS: The city completed a citywide comprehensive digital equity study in 2021 which was a result of City Council actions and was meant to serve as a foundation for the city's future digital equity and broadband initiatives; and

WHEREAS: It is critical that we ensure that underserved audiences have internet access, which is very expensive; and

WHEREAS: To achieve this, over the past almost decade, the city has partnered with many to implement internet access programs; and

WHEREAS: In 2016, MIT, Google, Boston Properties, the City of Cambridge, and the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), established a free Wi-Fi network at Newtowne Court and Washington Elms public housing – this continues to function; and

WHEREAS: In December 2024, with \$1.1m of ARPA funds, Cambridge funded a three-year test program between Starry and the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) to provide internet access to the residents of the Frank J. Manning, Washington Elms and Newtowne Court apartments; and

WHEREAS: In 2022, the CHA launched a computer training program for senior residents at a few CHA properties, including Manning apartments, offering free Chromebooks, funded by Google; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge also provides public Wi-Fi in our schools, libraries and public buildings and the Cambridge Public Library offers a Digital Equity Initiative, offering free tech classes, help and take out technology; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Library just received a grant of \$100,000 to further fund their digital navigator program and equipment to provide greater internet access; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate departments to review the city's digital equity work to date, including the study's recommendations and all steps taken since the study conclusion in order to update the evaluation of existing internet access programs, assessing whether residents' digital needs are or could be better provided for and to propose how we can better meet their needs and to report back to the Council by June 2026 on internet access programs; and be it further

ORDERED: That this evaluation include exploration of the federal [USAC Lifeline](#) and [BEAD](#) programs.

O-2 Jan 26, 2026

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The global climate crisis is rapidly worsening, requiring bold and immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate its impacts, and in the face of quickly-worsening global climate impacts, the City of Cambridge has been increasing its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, as outlined in the [Sustainable Cambridge](#) initiative; and

WHEREAS: A plant-based diet is recognized as one of the most effective individual actions to improve global sustainability with research showing that plant-based diets generally have 25% of the environmental impact of high-meat diets and can help in reducing pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and preservation of water resources, while improving soil health and more efficient land use; and a plant-based diet has positive nutritional and health benefits for people of all ages and lifestyles; and

WHEREAS: A global initiative is underway calling for a [Plant Based Treaty](#) that through its three R's - Redirect, Relinquish, and Restore - aims to incentivize and promote a plant-based food system, halt the accelerating expansion of animal agriculture, rewild critical ecosystems in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and work to mitigate the climate crisis with fair, equitable transition plans, and the Plant Based Treaty is focused on reducing reliance on animal agriculture and promoting sustainable, plant-based food systems, serving as a companion to the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS: The [City of Los Angeles](#) and 64 other cities around the world have already expressed support for the Plant Based Treaty, aligning with growing global recognition of the need for food system reform to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has long prioritized climate action and sustainability with policies and initiatives outlined in Sustainable Cambridge, such as the Net Zero Action Plan, Zero Emissions Transportation Plan, and Zero Waste Master Plan, among others, and has committed to an established goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions community-wide by 2050; and

WHEREAS: Sustainable Cambridge includes all that we do to address climate change, including the steps that residents can take to be [sustainable at home](#) and details about Urban Agriculture, and there is an opportunity to add consumption goals for plant-based food choices; and

WHEREAS: Action to improve accessibility and promote the consumption of plant-based foods in Cambridge will help to mitigate and adapt Cambridge to the impacts of climate change, improve social justice and economic wellbeing, and support Cambridge in reducing its consumption-based emissions; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That this City Council formally endorses support for the Plant Based Treaty and encourages the Cambridge state and federal delegation to support the Plant Based Treaty as well as promote state and federal policies to reduce food-based emissions and prioritize plant food purchasing as a centerpiece of greenhouse gas emissions policies; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments to:

- incorporate plant-based solutions into the Sustainable Cambridge initiative including promotion of the personal and community benefits of plant-based food choices, and adding future calculations of consumption-based [greenhouse gas emissions](#) and;
- incorporate plant-based purchasing practices in City-operated events and work with the School Department to incorporate plant-based purchasing practices in School-related events; and
- use municipal communications channels to promote sustainable and affordable food and drink practices throughout the City, including details of the climate and health benefits of plant-based food and drinks and educating people on the best ways to achieve a balanced plant-based diet, while also appropriately highlighting the crisis of ever-increasing food poverty and the support available to respond to it; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back in a timely manner; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge state and federal delegation on behalf of the City Council.

O-3 Jan 26, 2026

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

WHEREAS: The City Council and the community have expressed support for more street closures in the Harvard Square area, including [POR 2022 #129](#), [POR 2020 #188](#), [POR 2019 #321](#), and [POR 2025 #103](#), and in September 2025, the City Manager announced plans to move forward with [pedestrianization on Lower Bow Street](#) in Spring 2026; and

WHEREAS: The Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning Committee held a meeting in [November of 2020](#) about increased pedestrianization of Harvard Square and a 2018 study on [Expanding Multimodal Access](#) in Harvard Square identified several opportunities for expanding pedestrianization via shared spaces and local/slow streets that would allow only for delivery and emergency vehicles; and

WHEREAS: The City Council, City administration, and local residents and property owners have had meetings including walk throughs of Harvard Square to explore options for a change in street use, and due to technology and newly accessible sources of data on transportation, a full comprehensive study may be accomplished in a more cost and time effective manner on possibilities for expanding pedestrianization options in Harvard Square; and

WHEREAS: The FY26 Budget (VI-27) appropriates \$300,000 towards a possible Harvard Square Pedestrianization Study, showing a commitment by the City Manager to pursuing long term pedestrianization strategies; and that amount has not been committed and questions were raised at the time about the high cost of such a substantial study; and

WHEREAS: In a difficult FY27 budget cycle, all departments were instructed to identify savings targets in departmental spending as well as reduce consultant contract spending; and

WHEREAS: There are clear and accessible opportunities for pilot pedestrianization projects in 2026 on Dunster Street, Palmer Street, Winthrop Street, and others that would not take significant studies and could be implemented with additional coordination with the Harvard Square Business Association and local property owners to assess operational needs for vehicle access in the area; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments to prioritize pilot projects in 2026 without the use of a consultant for an extensive pedestrianization study, and in the medium-term consider how additional pedestrianization of a section of Brattle Street by restoring two-way traffic to JFK Street could enhance the Square; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-4 Jan 26, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

ORDERED: That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026, be a Joint Roundtable/Working meeting with the School Committee to discuss the FY27 Cambridge Public Schools budget priorities.

O-5 Jan 26, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

ORDERED: That the City Council shall convene for its special summer meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026.

O-6 Jan 26, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

ORDERED: That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2026, be and hereby is canceled.

O-7 Jan 26, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

ORDERED: That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 28, 2026, be and hereby is canceled.

O-8 Jan 26, 2026

COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: In June 2025, as a response to [Policy Order 2025 #69](#) and significant community concern about the closure of the Transition Wellness Center, City Manager Huang increased the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) FY26 operating budget by \$1 million to establish a new Municipal Supportive Housing Voucher (MSHV) program for 25 unhoused individuals to transition into permanent housing with supportive services; and

WHEREAS: A concurrent June 2025 [update](#) anticipated that the soonest the MSHV could be up and running was late-August or September 2025; and

WHEREAS: On August 1, 2025, DHSP issued a [Request for Proposals](#) seeking to enter into a grant agreement with a not-for-profit organization to administer and operate the MSHV program, noting that “*the objective of the service is to assist voucher holders to make a successful transition from homelessness to permanent housing, maintain tenancy, and achieve stability through connections to additional services and supports*”; and

WHEREAS: On August 28, 2025, the City [announced](#) that the MSHV program would be administered by the Cambridge Housing Authority, reiterating that the program was expected to start up as early as late-August or September 2025, and noting that “*the City and CHA will work together to design a prioritization process to select tenants this summer. The program will likely prioritize individuals who have experienced long durations of homelessness and need continuing supportive services*”; and

WHEREAS: There has not since been a public update on the rollout of this program; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update to the council, including (but not limited to) the following:

1. Current implementation status, including the number of vouchers issued to date, the number of individuals successfully housed, and how many voucher recipients were former residents of the Transition Wellness Center
2. The final prioritization criteria and tenant selection process that was adopted
3. The staffing structure and support services available to voucher recipients, including case management and assistance with startup costs
4. Strategies being employed to address voucher discrimination and support successful lease-up
5. Program parameters, including payment standards, geographic restrictions, housing search timelines, and duration of voucher commitments
6. Any challenges encountered during implementation and the anticipated timeline for full program enrollment
7. Plans for ongoing program assessment and evaluation; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back on this matter within 30 days.

O-9 Jan 26, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

ORDERED: That the Mayor hereby appoints a committee, to screen applicants for the position of City Clerk; and be it further

ORDERED: That this committee shall be charged with reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and recommending finalists for consideration by the full City Council.