

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, relative to a federal update including an update on relevant court cases. (CM26#34) [[text of report](#)]
2. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding appropriation of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) grant, in the amount of \$84,500, to the Grant Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance Account. (CM26#36) [[text of report](#)]
3. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding appropriation of the federal fiscal year 2025 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) community connections grant, in the amount of \$214,766.64, to the Grant Fund Transportation Department Extraordinary Expenditures Account. (CM26#37) [[text of report](#)]
4. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding appropriation of the Massachusetts Housing And Shelter Alliance Grant funded by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, in the amount of \$6,007, to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages Account (\$200), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$5,807). (CM26#38)
5. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding appropriation of funds to the Center for Families received from the Cambridge Public Health Department in the amount of \$9,115 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance Account. (CM26#39)
6. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding appropriation of a private donation to the Home Energy Assistance Program in the amount of \$200 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance Account. (CM26#41)
7. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding the appropriation of a private donation received from Troy Anthony Barber Shop, in the amount of \$500, to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to support the Cambridge Recreation Junior Golf Program. (CM26#42)
8. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, relative to AR26#13, regarding an update on the establishment of a municipal supportive housing voucher program. (CM26#33) [[text of report](#)]
9. Transmitting a communication from City Solicitor Megan Bayer regarding amendments to the transfer fee home rule petition. (CM26#35) [[text of report](#)]

ORDERS

1. Order in support of transparency and consistent publication of meeting agendas and materials. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler (PO26#37)
2. Order re capital budget lifecycle reconciliation prior to FY27 approval. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Flaherty (PO26#38)
3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct all City departments, boards, commissions, and offices to discontinue all official posting and engagement on X within 60 days; and to include an explanation of why the City will no longer use X. Councillor Al-Zubi, Councillor Nolan (PO26#39)
4. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City staff and report back with information as the first step in the exploration of a potential Cambridge Snow Corps Program. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Al-Zubi (PO26#40)
5. That the Cambridge City Council supports House Bill H.3754, and Senate Bill S.2344, "An Act Relative To Traffic Regulation Using Road Safety Cameras"; and that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to review the state bills referenced as well as the previously filed home rule petition and prepare a new home rule petition that would allow Cambridge to install and operate cameras to enforce red light, speeding, or other moving violations as outlined in H.3754 and S.2344 and the prior home rule. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern (PO26#42)
6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments as well as the Election Commissioners to review guidance from the IRS and consult with other municipalities in order to simplify our processes for paying election workers and pay workers by stipend without mandatory withholdings or municipal retirement contributions. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy (PO26#43)
7. That the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, Apr 6, 2026 be a roundtable/working meeting to discuss the best future uses of City-owned properties and associated redevelopment processes, as requested in PO26#5. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#44)
8. That the City Council recognize March 15, 2026 as International Long Covid Awareness Day in the City of Cambridge and that City Hall be illuminated in teal and gray on March 15, 2026. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#45)
9. Recognize May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Cambridge and that the City Manager direct the appropriate City staff to illuminate City Hall in green for

Mental Health Awareness Month from May 4 – May 10, 2026. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor McGovern (PO26#46)

10. City Council support of S.2726/H.3594: “An Act Regarding Free Expression”. Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Al-Zubi (PO26#47)

11. Recognize May 14, 2026, as MEF2C Awareness Day in the City of Cambridge and direct the City Manager to illuminate City Hall on May 14, 2026 in recognition of MEF2C awareness day. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Azeem (PO26#48)

12. City Council support of S.428/H.4207: “An Act Relative to School Libraries”. Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Al-Zubi (PO26#49)

13. Include discussion of other changes to the Cambridge Street zoning at the upcoming Ordinance Committee meeting about active ground floor use. Councillor Zusy, Councillor Nolan (PO26#50)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to raise the fee of the parking permit program for all residents to \$75, consider how to include a self-identified check off option so as not to increase administrative costs for a subsidized fee of \$25 for residents who live in affordable housing, are enrolled in a program such as SNAP or are low income, remove the senior exemption for the residential parking permit program and lower the number of cars that individual residents are allowed to get a residential parking permit for from four to two. [Charter Right – Simmons, Feb 9, 2026]

2. That the City Manager is requested to work with the City Council and relevant City departments on the process by which Cambridge can expand free early child care offerings, including models for means-tested programming, and exploration of non-City funding sources, from the state or foundations. [Charter Right – Simmons, Feb 9, 2026]

ON THE TABLE

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR25-69, 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. [Charter Right – Nolan, Jan 26, 2026; Tabled as Amended Feb 9, 2026]

4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a plan to align all housing and homeless services and programs into a unified Housing Department. [Tabled – Feb 9, 2026]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Kendall Square Association requesting permission for fourteen (14) temporary banners along Third Street, Galileo Galilei Way and Main Street announcing Kendall Square Association banner artwork from February 2026 through December 2026. (AP26#13)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Alex Wang - PO#5 support.
2. Andrew Szendrey – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
3. Camilla Elvis – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
4. Carol Lee Rawn – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
5. Cathryn Herbst – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
6. Conor Henrie – In support of PO#5 to update the parking program.
7. Dan Phillips – Housing agenda items.
8. Daniel B. Fisher – City ordinances regarding ICE, testimony.
9. Emily Massey – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
10. Ethan Frank – Parking permit fee.
11. Francesca Gordini – Snow Clearance.
12. Georgene Herschbach – PO#5.
13. Heather Hoffman – real estate transfer tax.
14. Heewon Kim – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
15. Hossein Alidaee – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
16. Hunter Hunter – Support PO#5.
17. Irene Kang – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
18. Janie Katz-Christy – Please vote Yes on PO#5.
19. Jeffrey S. Oishi – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
20. Jeremiah Schuur – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
21. Jon Chen – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
22. Julia Fuller – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
23. Katinka Hakuta – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
24. Laura Wacker – Please support PO#5.
25. Linda Moussouris – This week: parking permit policy, PO#5 Need for Accommodations for Disabled & Elders.
26. Lise Capet – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
27. Mark Boswell – Support for PO#5 Resident Parking Permit.
28. Nate Sharpe – Support for PO#5 to update the parking permit program and Follow-Up on Car-Free Resident Provisions.

29. Rob Vandenebeele – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
30. Ruthann Ruthann – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
31. Sarah Griffith – parking.
32. Sarah Stone – Support of Policy Order on the parking permit program.
33. Susan Ringler – Flock Cameras MUST be removed.
34. Susan Ringler – Screen Shot 20260219 at 1:42:21pm.
35. Susanne Schindler – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
36. Theresa Cloutier – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
37. Thomas A. Collet – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
38. Thouis Jones – Please support PO#5 to update the parking permit program.
39. Tim Mackey – Please support PO#5.
40. Young Kim – My Comment 2/9/2026.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to HSBA 2026 Foundation Award recipients. Councillor Simmons
2. Resolution congratulating Angela Peri. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern
3. Condolences to the family of Clara Elder. Councillor Simmons
4. Resolution on the 89th birthday of Peter Parise, Jr. Councillor McGovern, Councillor Al-Zubi
5. Condolences to the family of the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson. Councillor Simmons
6. Congratulation Helena Braga Puim on her 100th birthday. Councillor Flaherty
7. Condolences to the family of Carole Anne Lee (Thompson). Councillor Flaherty
8. Condolences to the family of John A. Quinn. Councillor Flaherty
9. Congratulations to the 40th annual NAACP Brunch honorees for their tremendous contributions to the Cambridge community and the Cambridge branch of the NAACP for this historic 40th milestone. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons
10. Condolences to the family of John J. “Jack” Reardon, Jr. Councillor Flaherty
11. That the Cambridge City Council go on record honoring the life and legacy of Frederick Wiseman. Councillor Al-Zubi
12. Resolution on the death of Adam David Sacks. Councillor Al-Zubi

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A Special Meeting of the **Cambridge City Council’s City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee** was held on

Sept 9, 2025. The committee moved to executive session to consider applicants for the position of City Clerk, because doing so in open session would have detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. [\[text of report\]](#)

2. A Special Meeting of the **Cambridge City Council’s City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee** was held on Sept 19, 2025. The committee moved to executive session to consider applicants for the position of City Clerk, because doing so in open session would have detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. [\[text of report\]](#)
3. A Special Meeting of the **Cambridge City Council’s City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee** was held on Sept 24, 2025. The committee moved to executive session to consider applicants for the position of City Clerk, because doing so in open session would have detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. [\[text of report\]](#)
4. A Special Meeting of the **Cambridge City Council’s City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee** was held on Oct 10, 2025. The committee moved to executive session to consider applicants for the position of City Clerk, because doing so in open session would have detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. [\[text of report\]](#)
5. The **Economic Development and University Relations Committee** held a public hearing on Dec 16, 2025 with the Office of Tourism to provide an update on the Tourism Office’s efforts as it relates to destination marketing, visitor services, as well as an update on the tourism destination marketing district program. [\[text of report\]](#)
6. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on Tues, Feb 10, 2026 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](#)). The committee voted favorably to forward the petition to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a Second Reading. [\[text of report\]](#)

Amend section 4.50 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance as follows with the intent of permitting the use of land for the following purposes as-of-right in all zoning districts: religious purposes; educational purposes on land owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies, subdivisions or bodies politic or by a religious sect or denomination, or by a nonprofit educational corporation; and for a child care center, school-aged child care program, family child care home, or large family child care home as defined in section 1a of Chapter 15d of Massachusetts General Laws. (ORD26#01)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. Update regarding legislative activity. (COF26#19)

2. Communicating information from the School Committee.
(COF26#20) [[text of report](#)]

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Mar 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Mar 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting

6:30pm The City Council will hold a public hearing pursuant to Article 5, Section 5-1 of the Charter of the City of Cambridge, to consider the recommendation of the City Manager Yi-An Huang, on the **reorganization of the Housing Department** to consolidate City housing and homeless service programs currently provided across three City departments into one City department.

Tues, Mar 10

10:00am The **Finance Committee** will hold a public meeting to review and discuss the Police Department budget for FY27 before it is submitted to the City Manager, as required under Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 2.74.040.

Wed, Mar 11

11:00am The **Human Services and Veterans Committee** will hold a public meeting to discuss support services and planning considerations for disabled residents in Cambridge.

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 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to ensuring that residents can fully understand, engage with, and participate in public meetings and decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS: Timely access to meeting agendas and supporting documentation – such as presentations, background memos, and related materials – allows members of the public to prepare informed public comment, follow discussions more effectively, and remain meaningfully involved in civic matters; and

WHEREAS: While many City departments and boards regularly publish detailed agendas and accompanying materials in advance of public meetings, the level of detail and timing of publication can vary, and not all meetings consistently post supporting documents ahead of time; and

WHEREAS: Residents have noted that the City's website, though robust, can present inconsistent navigation paths to meeting information, with some links leading only to an agenda and others leading to full packets of materials – making it difficult for users to reliably locate all relevant documentation; and

WHEREAS: Improving consistency, transparency, and ease of access would strengthen public trust, enhance civic participation, and support the City's long-standing commitment to open government; now therefore be it

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

strive to publish, whenever practicable, meeting agendas and all supporting documents, presentations, and related materials sufficiently in advance of public meetings to allow residents time to review and prepare; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to assess opportunities to improve the consistency of how meeting information is posted and accessed on the City's website – including clearer navigation paths, standardized posting practices, and improved user-friendliness – and report back to the City Council on recommended steps in a timely manner.

O-2 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is entering the FY27 capital budget cycle in a constrained fiscal environment characterized by growing tax-supported debt service relative to the operating budget and increasing pressure to prioritize capital commitments; and

WHEREAS: Funding for major capital initiatives is frequently dispersed across multiple fiscal years, program names, and budget categories, such that the total authorized cost of a given initiative is not readily visible in any single adopted budget document; and

WHEREAS: Without a clear picture of what has already been approved, borrowed, spent, and still owed on existing projects, the City Council cannot make fully informed decisions about whether to take on new spending commitments; and

WHEREAS: Good fiscal governance requires that the Council have access to a clear and consolidated understanding of existing capital authorizations, bond obligations, expenditures, and estimated costs to completion before layering new commitments on top of prior-year decisions; and

WHEREAS: Departments are currently being asked to identify savings and limit growth, making lifecycle transparency for capital projects an important prerequisite to informed fiscal stewardship; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to produce and deliver to the City Council, prior to the adoption of the FY27 Capital Budget, a consolidated capital lifecycle reconciliation for all major capital initiatives at or above \$15,000,000, presenting at minimum:

- (1) Total capital appropriated to date, by fiscal year and project name;
- (2) Bond authorizations and stated purposes;
- (3) Bonds issued to date;
- (4) Expenditures to date;
- (5) Committed but unspent balances;
- (6) Current estimated cost to completion; and
- (7) Explicit reconciliation where scope descriptions or project naming conventions have changed across fiscal years; and be it further

ORDERED: That said reconciliation be made available to the Finance Committee for review and discussion at the appropriate stage of the FY27 budget process, and prior to any vote on additional capital appropriations; and be it further

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

O-3 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: A core function of City government is the dissemination of information, including through online social media platforms; and

WHEREAS: The City is obligated to provide its services in such manners and venues that do not unduly burden certain segments of the public, or expose them disproportionately to harm and abuse; and

WHEREAS: The City has, from time to time, severed relationships with businesses engaging in practices deemed antithetical to Cambridge values, such as dignity and inclusivity; and

WHEREAS: Elon Musk, the owner of X (formerly Twitter), is a white nationalist who has, including but not limited to, incited violent anti-immigrant riots in the UK, led a devastating assault on the United States federal government in the form of “DOGE”;

WHEREAS: Upon Musk’s purchase of Twitter in 2022, he swiftly moved to fire 80% of its Trust & Safety staff and eliminated guardrails against hate speech, harassment, and disinformation; and

WHEREAS: Musk personally intervened to not just welcome back but monetize the accounts of extremists who had previously been banned from the platform, including far right influencer Dom Lucre, who had been banned for posting Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM); and

WHEREAS: The Grok AI chatbot built into X generated an estimated 3 million sexualized images, including 23,000 of children, in just one 11 day period – a fact that can only be attributed to willful and malicious negligence, given that all other major AI firms have instituted guardrails against such use; and

WHEREAS: The cumulative impact of Musk’s interventions has been to make the platform that profits off its hostility towards women, queer people, people of color, Jews, Muslims, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge currently maintains X accounts for at least 15 departments, boards, and commissions including the City of Cambridge account, Police Department, Fire Department, Cambridge Public Schools, Public Works, and numerous other departments and commissions. This municipal presence has functioned to legitimize and drive traffic to X despite its transformation under current ownership; and

WHEREAS: The City maintains robust emergency communication infrastructure independent of X, including the City website (cambridgema.gov), CodeRED emergency notification system, email alerts and newsletters, SMS messaging systems, partnerships with local media outlets, and presence on multiple social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Bluesky, and Threads); and X accounts can be effectively replaced by other means of communication, and

WHEREAS: Recent developments, including international government responses to [Grok AI’s synthetic abuse material capabilities](#) and the [Brazil Supreme Court’s 2024 decision](#) to block X nationwide due to platform non-compliance with content moderation orders, demonstrate growing institutional recognition that X’s transformation requires reassessment of government presence on the platform; therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct all City departments, boards, commissions, and offices to discontinue all official posting and engagement on X within 60 days; and to include an explanation of why the City will no longer use X, and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ensure that existing City accounts post a final notice to the public directing all further communication to alternative platforms, including the official City website (cambridgema.gov), email notification systems, alternative social media accounts, and SMS alerts.

O-4 March 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

WHEREAS: Since the beginning of the year, Cambridge has experienced multiple snowstorms that have dropped several feet of snow on the city, including a blizzard on February 22-23 that deposited more than 30 inches of precipitation; and

WHEREAS: Clearing this snow has required a tremendous amount of work from the City’s Department of Public Works staff, contractors, and Cambridge residents; and

WHEREAS: Currently the City of Cambridge is responsible for clearing snow from City-owned streets and sidewalks next to parks, schools, and municipal buildings – as well as curb cuts at crosswalks – with other sidewalk snow clearance the responsibility of private property owners; and

WHEREAS: While many sidewalks, bus stops, and crosswalks are well cleared 12 hours after snow stops – which is the requirement in Cambridge – some are not, and this patchwork creates significant challenges for Cambridge residents, especially people who use wheelchairs, have other mobility challenges, or who have strollers; and

WHEREAS: Snow challenges for pedestrians can be dangerous, as evidenced by the death of a woman with mobility challenges on February 1 who was using a walker in Wareham, MA and was struck by a car while walking in the street because of an uncleared sidewalk; and

WHEREAS: The City currently has a Snow Exemption Program for low-income homeowners with disabilities or who are over age 60 where City staff will clear sidewalks, as well as a Student Shoveler Program that works to connect teens with other residents who hire them for snow shoveling assistance; and

WHEREAS: Some cities have recently been exploring an expansion of their sidewalk snow clearing programs, including the creation of a [Snow Corps in Boston](#) based on models in Baltimore and Chicago and the [hiring of Emergency Snow Shovelers by the New York City Department of Sanitation](#); and

WHEREAS: After significant snow events, it is important to review what is working well with City operations, as well as what can be improved to meet the needs of all residents, including the existing Snow Exemption and Student Shoveler Programs, as well as other City snow operations; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to confer with relevant City staff and report back with information on the following as the first step in the exploration of a potential Cambridge Snow Corps program:

1. Data on the City’s Snow Exemption program for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners, including how many residents are currently signed up for snow exemptions
 2. Data on the Student Shoveler Program, including how many teens are currently included in the program, how many new sign-ups there are per year, and how many requests the Council on Aging has received for connections with student shovelers
 3. SeeClickFix data on “Icy or Unshoveled Sidewalks”, and any other data on unshoveled crosswalk or bus stop requests, including how many requests have been made and responded to so far in 2026, the geographical distribution of the requests, and other relevant patterns in the data
 4. The number of citations issued for icy or unshoveled sidewalks in the last three years and 2026 year-to-date; 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-5 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Cambridge is committed to identifying and eliminating preventable causes of traffic fatalities and serious injuries and on several occasions Cambridge City Council has expressed intent to pursue automated traffic enforcement, and the National Highway Safety Administration research shows traffic cameras could cut serious crashes by 25 percent; and

WHEREAS: As far back as [2009, the Council voted](#) to support the option for local legislation on automated red-light enforcement, and over time the Council has reaffirmed its desire to implement automated traffic enforcement including:

- [PO19#37](#), in which the Council voted in support of a Massachusetts bill that would allow for camera enforcement to reduce red light and speeding violations; and
- [PO20#53](#), which called for Cambridge to become a pilot city for automated traffic enforcement, which was adopted unanimously by the Council; and
- [PO23#19](#), in which the Council voted to look into the feasibility of automated traffic enforcement in Cambridge; and
- [PO23#30](#), in which the Council unanimously expressed support for Massachusetts bills which would allow municipalities to implement automated ticketing systems; and
- [PO23#120](#), in which the Council unanimously voted to submit a Home Rule Petition which would allow Cambridge to employ automated enforcement; and

WHEREAS: Home Rule Petitions need to be resubmitted periodically due to expiration in the state legislature and additionally, the legal framework of the legislation has changed slightly since state law changes to [camera enforcement for buses](#) were enacted; and

WHEREAS: Road safety advocates, Democratic lawmakers, and [Governor Maura Healey](#) are pushing varying bills that would allow local and state officials to install and operate cameras to enforce red light, speeding, or other moving violations, including “An Act Relative To Traffic Regulation Using Road Safety Cameras,” Senate Bill [S.2344](#) and House Bill [H.3754](#); now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council supports House Bill [H.3754](#), and Senate Bill [S.2344](#), “An Act Relative to Traffic Regulation Using Road Safety Cameras; and be it further

ORDERED That the Cambridge City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to each member of the Cambridge delegation to the state legislature; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to review the state bills referenced as well as the previously filed Home Rule Petition and prepare a new Home Rule Petition that would allow Cambridge to install and operate cameras to enforce red light, speeding, or other moving violations as outlined in H.3754 and S.2344 and the prior home rule; 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-6 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

WHEREAS: Each election year, the City of Cambridge, along with thousands of other local and state government entities, hires workers to conduct primary and general elections for national, state, and local elections; and

WHEREAS: Election workers may be compensated by a set fee per day or a stipend for the election period and are often paid for work on election days as well as training or preparatory meetings, and compensation paid to election workers is includible as wage income for income tax purposes; and

WHEREAS: IRS guidance on Election Workers indicates that election workers may request a voluntary income tax withholding by completing a W-4 form under IRC 3402(p), but they are not subject to income tax withholding requirements under IRS 3401(a); and

WHEREAS: Other municipalities in Massachusetts, including at least Amherst, Lawrence, Springfield, Watertown, and Westfield have a streamlined hiring process for election workers to minimize paperwork and pay election workers as vendors; and

WHEREAS: Current practice of hiring election poll workers in Cambridge requires poll workers to fill out all the paperwork required of full-time employees including income tax, social security, and Medicare withholdings (FICA) as well as mandatory retirement accounts which can be burdensome; and

WHEREAS: Most election workers do not work enough hours to earn more than \$2200 in any year, and thus in Massachusetts are not required to have FICA withholdings and can report their earnings independently and be paid as vendors; and

WHEREAS: For those workers who will likely earn above the limit, the City can continue to hire them as employees using the current process; and

WHEREAS: Hiring election poll workers as vendors by stipend rather than automatically withholding wages and creating retirement plans for each worker can streamline services, recruit workers more easily, and help individual workers with ease of processing; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments as well as the Election Commissioners to review guidance from the IRS and consult with

other municipalities in order to simplify our processes for paying election workers and pay workers by stipend without mandatory withholdings or municipal retirement contributions; 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-7 Mar 2, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

ORDERED: That the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026, be a Roundtable/Working meeting to discuss the best future uses of City-owned properties and associated redevelopment processes, as requested in [Policy Order 2026 #5](#).

O-8 Mar 2, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: International Long COVID Awareness Day, observed annually on March 15, seeks to raise awareness of Long COVID, a disabling illness resulting from a SARS-CoV-2 infection, which can produce a complex array of over 200 symptoms lasting for weeks, months, or longer; and

WHEREAS: Long COVID affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, many of whom experience severe impacts on daily life, and increasing public awareness is essential to support research, reduce stigma, and foster understanding of this chronic condition; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to promoting public health, supporting those living with chronic illnesses, and encouraging community understanding and empathy for individuals impacted by Long COVID; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record recognizing March 15, 2026, as International Long COVID Awareness Day in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to illuminate City Hall in teal (#18929A) and gray (#939393) on March 15, 2026, in recognition of International Long COVID Awareness Day; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this order to the Long COVID Foundation & International Long COVID Awareness Teams for their records on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-9 Mar 2, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Mental Health Awareness Month, observed each May, seeks to elevate understanding of mental well-being and break down the stigma associated with mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS: During this month, mental health organizations across the country mobilize to expand access to care, raise public awareness, and challenge the stigma surrounding mental health conditions – a mission made all the more urgent in the wake of the global pandemic and amid ongoing societal challenges that have intensified the need for equitable, accessible mental health support for individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a community culture that supports mental

health awareness, encourages open dialogue, and empowers those experiencing mental health challenges to seek care without fear of judgment; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Health Department has reserved the billboard outside City Hall from May 4 – May 10, 2026, to highlight Mental Health Awareness Month; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record recognizing May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to illuminate City Hall in green for Mental Health Awareness Month from May 4 – May 10, 2026, in coordination with the Cambridge Public Health Department’s awareness efforts; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this order to the Cambridge Public Health Department on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-10 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: Libraries are invaluable public institutions that foster critical thinking and intellectual growth for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities; and

WHEREAS: Recent organized campaigns led by pressure groups have attempted to censor books and other library resources, including 2,452 unique titles challenged in 2024 [according to the American Library Association](#); and

WHEREAS: Library book bans have targeted titles that feature people and characters from historically marginalized communities and [according to PEN America](#), of the most banned books in the 2023-2024 school year, 44% featured people and characters of color and 39% featured LGBTQ+ people and characters; and

WHEREAS: A pending state bill, titled An Act regarding free expression (Bill [S.2726](#), Bill [H.3594](#)) protects against attempts to ban, restrict, or remove access to books and other public library resources in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by requiring school committees and other school library authorities to establish a written policy for the selection and use of library materials, including responses to attempts to remove or restrict library materials, in accordance with standards adopted by the American Library Association; and

WHEREAS: The bills further protects librarians from retaliation for the selection of library materials made in good faith and in accordance with approved school policy; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council recognizes the importance of protecting our public libraries and librarians from censorship campaigns and ensuring that library curation standards are set by the professional expertise of the American Library Association rather than political whims; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record in support of S.2726 and H.3594 and urges the Massachusetts Legislature to pass and for the governor to sign the bill without delay; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this order to the Cambridge state legislative delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-11 Mar 2, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: The US MEF2C Foundation works to increase awareness of the MEF2C gene and the developmental disabilities associated with mutations and deletions of this gene, which is located on the 5th chromosome in region 14.3; and

WHEREAS: MEF2C Awareness Day, observed annually on May 14, seeks to educate the public about this rare genetic condition, support affected individuals and families, and foster global awareness of the challenges and needs of the MEF2C community; and

WHEREAS: Although MEF2C-related diagnoses are extremely rare, families affected by this condition exist worldwide, including in Massachusetts, and raising public awareness helps build understanding, support networks, and resources for families navigating diagnosis and life planning; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record recognizing May 14, 2026, as MEF2C Awareness Day in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to illuminate City Hall in MEF2C awareness blue (#239CD6) on May 14, 2026, in recognition of MEF2C Awareness Day and in solidarity with families affected by this genetic condition; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this order to the US MEF2C Foundation on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-12 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

WHEREAS: Information literacy is a vital skill for all K-12 students in the 21st century and schools have a responsibility to equip students with the tools to successfully navigate an increasingly complex digital information landscape and critically evaluate the reliability of different information sources; and

WHEREAS: School libraries play an important role in educating young people about how to find, evaluate, and use information responsibly and information literacy is necessary for students to become effective researchers, critical thinkers, discerning media consumers, and good citizens; and

WHEREAS: Representative Angelo Puppolo and Senator Jacob Oliveira have sponsored a bill, An Act relative to school library standards (Bill [S.428](#), Bill [H.4207](#)), to require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to adopt the most recent edition of academic standards for school library media programs developed by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and endorsed by the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA); and

WHEREAS: The bill defines an effective school library program as one that employs certified school librarians and maintains a grade-appropriate collection that supports independent reading and inquiry, teaches information literacy and research skills for students from kindergarten to grade 12, improves reading proficiency, and integrates learning technologies across the program of study; and

WHEREAS: The bill requires no funding but requires DESE to conduct a study every three years beginning the third year after enactment of the school library standards and the study will examine the employment of school librarians, types of school library programs offered, best practices, and recommended improvements to school library programs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record in support of S.428 and H.4208 and urge the Massachusetts Legislature to pass and for the governor to sign it without delay; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this order to the Cambridge state legislative delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-13 Mar 2, 2026

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The City Council passed the Cambridge Street Zoning Ordinance January 26, 2026, just a few days before it was set to expire, with the understanding that Community Development (CDD) would draft zoning encouraging active ground floor space within the weeks following; and

WHEREAS: Many members of the East Cambridge community believe that the Ordinance should consider additional amendments as well, including:

- setbacks as current sidewalks are very narrow and a goal of *Our Cambridge Street* was to add trees;
- step backs at the 4th floor and where buildings abut side streets so that this East-West street is not cast into shade during the winter months;
- the impact of wet labs being as of right;
- other ways that the City can incentive local retail;
- Incentivize the creation of pocket parks;
- design review for buildings over 4 stories;
- that CDD produce an annual report on the impacts of the new zoning detailing how many housing units (affordable IZ and market rate) have been built, how many residents and local businesses have been displaced; and impacts on ground floor retail; and

WHEREAS: The City Council will be discussing Active Ground Floor Use proposals at an upcoming Ordinance Committee meeting and this would be the appropriate time to discuss these issues as well, before zoning language is drafted; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Ordinance Committee include discussion of these additional items at their upcoming meeting about amendments to the recent Cambridge Street Zoning.