

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 09-03, regarding a report on the fatal pedestrian accident in the Mt. Auburn Shaw's supermarket this past fall.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative Awaiting Report Item Number 09-04, regarding a report on the fatal pedestrian accident on Oxford Street.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 09-07, regarding a report on plans to eliminate Sunday library hours.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 09-06, regarding a report on hours that computers are available to the public in City facilities.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation the Massachusetts Association for Community Action grant (MASSCAP) in the amount of \$2,208.09 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account and funds will be used for fuel assistance eligible oil heat customers who have exhausted their fuel benefits.
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative the appropriation of the Pathways Grant in the amount of \$54,023.00 received from the Massachusetts Department of Education, Adult and Community Learning Services to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$6,865.00) and to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$47,158.00) and will support case management and educational services for fifteen families and involves collaboration between the Community Learning Center, Agenda for Children, Center for Families, and the Childcare Resource Center Parents attend ESOL classes, as well as participate in parenting education sessions and employability workshops and will also be used to cover a portion of full-time employee salaries, transportation and supplies.
7. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$100,000 in the General Fund from the Employee Benefits (salary adjustment) Salary and Wages account to the Veteran's Travel and Training account to cover additional veteran benefits and medical costs through the end of the fiscal year.

ON THE TABLE

1. Opposition to the closing of the Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center. [Placed on Table on motion of Councillor Maher on Order Number Fourteen of Nov 3, 2008.]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Nov 18, 2004 for the purpose of considering proposed amendments to Chapter 2.74 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, the Police Review and Advisory Board Ordinance. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 14, 2005. [Four sections of the proposed amendment were passed to be ordained as

amended. Ordinance #1284. The remaining proposed amendments to chapter 2.74 remain on Unfinished Business.]

3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 06-87, 07-83 and 07-138, regarding the status of putting the City's self-evaluation on the website. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Kelley on City Manager Agenda Item Number Sixteen of Dec 10, 2007. Dec 17, 2007 - Referred to 2008-2009 City Council as Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Kelley.]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from The Upper Crust Pizzeria, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of 49B Brattle Street.
2. An application was received from Red Dragon Martial Arts for Kids & Teens, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of 614 Massachusetts Avenue.
3. An application was received from Redline Fightsports & Martial Arts, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of 614 Massachusetts Avenue.
4. An application was received from Cafe Luna, requesting permission for a food cart in Lafayette Square in front of Cafe Luna located 403 Massachusetts Avenue.
5. A zoning petition has been received from Beal Kendall LLC, to amend Section 20.40-Eastern Cambridge Housing Overlay District of the Zoning Ordinance and add new section 20.48.
6. An application was received from Harvard Cafe, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 61 Church Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department, Historical Commission and abutters.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Carol Bankerd, regarding the commitment to care for trees in our city.
2. A communication was received from Richard D. Fanning, transmitting a letter petition from residents of Linden Park opposing a proposal presented by the Beal Companies to construct a bio-lab tower on land which abuts and adjoins their land.
3. A communication was received from Senator Anthony D. Galluccio, transmitting a copy of the sent to Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray requesting assistance with the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Renovation Project.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Proclaim the fourth Monday of every September as Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children and urge residents to participate in its observance. Mayor Simmons
2. Proclaim Apr 25 - May 3, 2009 as Jazz Week in Cambridge. Mayor Simmons
3. Acknowledge efforts of the Women's Commission and the Cambridge Historical Project to commit to memory the importance of the 1972 takeover of 888 Memorial Drive. Mayor Simmons
4. Congratulations to the North Cambridge Family Opera on its Tenth Anniversary season. Mayor Simmons

5. Proclaim March 2009 as American Red Cross Month.
Mayor Simmons
6. Congratulations to Head Coach Larry Anderson and the MIT Engineers for winning the 2009 NEWMAC Basketball Championship. Councillor Ward
7. Congratulations to Cambridge Rindge and Latin 2005 Alumni Reece Freeman, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Men's Basketball team, on his first team All-Little East Conference honors and winning the 2009 Little East Championship Councillor Ward
8. That the City Council go on record extending its congratulations to Cambridge Rindge and Latin 2005 Alumni Brandon Shelton, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Men's Basketball team, on his first team All-Little East Conference honors and winning the 2009 Little East Championship Councillor Ward
9. Resolution on the death of Specialist Brian M. Connelly. Councillor Decker
10. Resolution on the death of First Lieutenant William E. Emmert. Councillor Decker
11. Resolution on the death of Michael B. Alleman. Councillor Decker
12. Resolution on the death of Corporal Michael L. Mayne. Councillor Decker
13. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Zachary R. Nordmeyer. Councillor Decker
14. Congratulations to the participants of the Cambridge Works program. Councillor Reeves
15. Congratulations to Jim and Julia Wallace as they are being recognized by Centro Presente at their Evening to Commemorate Monsignor Romero's Legacy on Mar 19, 2009. Councillor Davis

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to inquire as to the possibility of having a Cambridge resident be appointed to the Community Advisory Council to Massport Councillor Maher
2. That the City Manager is requested to contact the Assistant City Manager for Human Services, the Police Commissioner, the Cambridge Consumer Council and the Executive Director of the Cambridge Housing Authority with the possibility of publishing warnings, offering courses and other means of communications around the issues of mail fraud and schemes targeting the elderly.
Councillor Maher
3. Dedication of a suitable location in memory of Timothy Haslett. Councillor Davis
4. That the City Manager is requested to examine the possibility of creating a publicly accessible, appropriately confidential database of broad average or median neighborhood rents for retail space in Cambridge. Vice Mayor Seidel
5. Support for peaceful, educational actions that promote tolerance over hatred, both on Mar 13, 2009 and on any other day of every other year. Mayor Simmons
6. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to tag for removal bicycles that, as evidenced by the snow around them, appear to have been abandoned.
Councillor Kelley
7. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council during the current budget cycle on the possibility of Cambridge using its Free Cash to set up a mortgage assistance pool rather than for a general underwriting of tax payments. Councillor Kelley

8. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on the status and implications of its program of obtaining payment for delinquent taxes. Councillor Kelley
9. That the City Council go on record urging that the Governor's final Municipal Relief Package contain comprehensive tax reform and new revenues for cities and towns. Councillor Davis
10. That the City Manager is requested to have the City of Cambridge participate in Earth Hour by shutting off lights in City buildings on Saturday, Mar 28, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Councillor Davis

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Craig Kelley, Chair of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee, for a meeting held on Feb 4, 2009 to follow up on red light camera enforcement.
2. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Marjorie Decker, Chair of the Civic Unity Committee, for a meeting held on Jan 22, 2009 to discuss the Homeland Security grant for installation of surveillance cameras and to provide an opportunity for a community discussion of this matter with city officials.
3. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Sam Seidel, Chair of the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee, for a meeting held on Feb 25, 2009 to discuss the possibility of creating an overlay district for Porter Square.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Mar 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Mar 10

2:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss how Cambridge can adapt the Harlem Children's Zone Baby College Program and/or principles to provide parent education for low income families that will provide the tools they need to help their children succeed. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Mar 11

5:00pm The Health and Environment Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss community gardens, receive an update on the possibility of a Cambridge Farm and any other matters relating to growing fruits and vegetables in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 23

5:00pm Special Presentation for Women's History Month (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Mar 26

6:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the closing of neighborhood health clinics by the Cambridge Health Alliance. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 30

5:30pm Roundtable Meeting with School Committee. No public comment. No votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Apr 1

1:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss whether a program similar to the Harlem Children's Zone Office of College Success could advance the goal of college graduation for all low income students in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:00pm The Health and Environment Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss promoting and harvesting fruit trees and the planting, care and maintenance of street trees. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 6

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 13

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 27

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, May 18

4:00pm 2009 Scholarship Award Ceremony (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 15

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, June 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, July 27

5:30pm Special City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Sept 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Sept 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 19

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: Many Cambridge residents have been aware of the increase in the number of flights emanating from Logan Airport and there has been an increase in the number of complaints regarding the noise that these flights generate; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to inquire as to the possibility of having a Cambridge resident be appointed to the Community Advisory Council to Massport.

O-2 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: There has been an increase of mailings to the elderly and other Cambridge residents, that are, in reality, schemes and scams requesting that the receiver of these mailings send money; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact the Assistant City Manager for Human Services, the Police Commissioner, the Cambridge Consumer Council and the Executive Director of the Cambridge Housing Authority with the possibility of publishing warnings, offering courses and other means of communications around the issues of mail fraud and schemes targeting the elderly and to encourage all our Cambridge residents not to respond to these mailings.

O-3 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Council dedicate a suitable location in memory of Timothy Haslett; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Assistant to the City Council be and hereby is requested to confer with the family regarding a suitable dedication ceremony and the Department of Public Works regarding a sign.

O-4 Mar 9, 2009

VICE MAYOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: There now appear to be increasing numbers of vacant storefronts in many areas of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge storefront retailers are very challenged in times of economic downturns to continue to survive, build and grow their businesses; and

WHEREAS: The rents asked for vacant retail space are often slow to change, even when demand for such space has obviously lessened; and

WHEREAS: One possible cause for this is a lack of information about what comparable rents for retail space actually are in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: This information would be helpful to landlords in making sure the rental prices they ask for vacant retail space accurately reflect the supply and the demand, and the actual current rents being collected, for comparable retail spaces at any given point in time; and

WHEREAS: Landlords might be reluctant to participate unless they were assured that the rental information for their specific address would remain confidential, used only to compile broad average or median rents, or other broad market indicators, for large neighborhood or areas; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to examine the possibility of creating a publicly accessible, appropriately confidential database of broad average or median neighborhood rents for retail space in Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with his findings.

O-5 Mar 9, 2009

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, City and School officials, and members of the Cambridge community that a group of protestors from Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) in Kansas will be gathering outside CRLS on March 13th; and

WHEREAS: The WBC protestors are notorious for traveling the country and protesting schools and theatres that either produce the Laramie Project (a play about the murder of Mathew Shephard) or have Gay Straight Alliances, and by demonstrating at the funerals of gay men, soldiers killed in battle in Iraq and Afghanistan, and persons who have, in some way, publicly supported LGBT people; and

WHEREAS: This week students, faculty, and staff at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School will participate in a week of peaceful educational actions designed to educate students and adults about the need to discuss and promote tolerance; and

WHEREAS: Students at CRLS are encouraged to participate in these educational activities and are discouraged from leaving the school on March 13th to address the WBC protestors; and

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of city officials that on March 13th various groups, organizations, institutions, and individuals intend to participate in a peaceful counter demonstration near CRLS, and people will be encouraged to ignore the WBC protestors by organizers who will help raise positive voices and raise needed funds to lift tolerance up to fill the air surrounding the small message of hate; and

WHEREAS: It is well known that the WBC protestors seek only to antagonize communities into actions against them that might violate their rights and then provide them an opportunity to sue communities for these violations; and

WHEREAS: We, the good and loving people of Cambridge, choose not to engage in a conversation with those seeking only to anger us, hate us, and take our tax dollars in a lawsuit; and

WHEREAS: We, the educated and tolerant people of Cambridge will turn a cheek from their hatred and turn our hearts and faith toward the power of promoting education and the peaceful collective spirit of community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the members of the Cambridge City Council express their support for peaceful, educational actions that promote tolerance over hatred, both on March 13, 2009 and on any other day of every other year; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Chronicle and other local media.

O-6 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Many bicycles have been locked to City signs, bike stations and other objects since early December; and

WHEREAS: The snow that is currently around these bicycles makes it fairly easy to determine which bicycles have been left unattended for more than several days; and

WHEREAS: It would be useful and aesthetically pleasing to start spring without these abandoned bicycles still locked up on the street; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to tag for removal bicycles that, as evidenced by the snow around them, appear to have been abandoned.

O-7 Mar 9, 2009 (w/RW corrections)

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: The City has, in the past, used Free Cash to limit the amount that City property tax rates go up; and

WHEREAS: This tax underwriting applies equally to all tax-paying property owners, so that the owners with the most taxable property get the most underwriting from the City; and

WHEREAS: Property owners such as MIT can **save** hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax payments because of this underwriting; and

WHEREAS: Current fiscal conditions are forcing Cambridge to reduce services and cut capital projects to save money; and

WHEREAS: Many Cambridge homeowners are in danger of falling behind in their mortgage payments as they lose their jobs or suffer cutbacks in hours or salary; and

WHEREAS: The stability of Cambridge's neighborhoods will be detrimentally impacted if large numbers of homeowners are forced to sell their homes because they can not make their mortgage payments; and

WHEREAS: It may be possible for the City to use its Free Cash to create a loan pool for qualified residents through which the City would get an equity stake in a property in exchange for assistance in meeting mortgage payments; and

WHEREAS: Use of Free Cash in this fashion, rather than as a general underwriting of the tax rate **which predominantly assists** large property owners such as MIT and Boston Properties, may be more in the City's interest; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council during the current budget cycle on the possibility of Cambridge using its Free Cash to set up a mortgage assistance pool rather than for a general underwriting of tax payments; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop such a mortgage assistance pool if it is deemed feasible.

O-8 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: A recent issue of the Chronicle listed a number of properties that the City was pursuing for non-payment of taxes; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the status and implications of its program of obtaining payment for delinquent taxes; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ensure that this report explain how entities such as the MBTA and the United States Government could be on the tax delinquent list and how the City is able to pursue action against them for non-payment of taxes.

O-9 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Massachusetts cities and towns are confronted with serious economic and fiscal difficulties; and

WHEREAS: Without comprehensive reform and new revenues, cities and towns will be forced to cut core services and some are already laying off municipal employees leading to an even greater impact of the recession; and

WHEREAS: Governor Patrick submitted his Municipal Relief Package in January and the legislature is planning to release its plan very soon; and

WHEREAS: For any final package to be strong, the following four provisions must be included:

- * 1. Giving cities and towns control over health insurance plans
- * 2. Allowing local option meals and lodging taxes
- * 3. Closing the telecommunications property tax loopholes
- * 4. Fixing the flaws in the way charter schools are financed; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the Cambridge legislative delegation to assure that each of these points is covered in the final legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Cambridge legislative delegation as soon as possible on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-10 Mar 9, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 when 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for one hour and by 2008 the message had grown into a global sustainability movement with 50 million people switching off their lights; and

WHEREAS: Earth Hour will take place on Saturday, Mar 28 when it is hoped that one billion people all over the world will turn off their lights between 8:30pm and 9:30pm; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to have the City of Cambridge participate in Earth Hour by shutting off lights in City buildings on Saturday, Mar 28, from 8:30pm to 9:30pm; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to arrange publicity about Earth Hour including information on the City web site and cable channel in order that as many people as possible can participate.