



FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Finance Committee will hold a public hearing to receive an update on ARPA funding

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burhan Azeem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alanna Mallon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

That the City Manager is requested to allocate the remaining ARPA funding, in compliance with the Final Rule, across community-serving applicants. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL MAY 16, 2022

A communication was received from Assistant Finance Director, Michele Kincaid, transmitting ARPA documents for the Finance Committee.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 14, 2022 3:00 PM (Committee Reports)



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE, CHAIR

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN, CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

JUNE 14, 2022

03:00 PM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 14, 2022 3:00 PM (Committee Reports)

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Welcome, everyone.

We're about to start. The call of the meeting is as follows. The Finance Committee will hold the public hearing to receive an update on the ARPA funding, American Rescue Plan Funding. Also that the City Manager is requested to allocate the remaining ARPA funding in compliance with the final rule across community serving applicants. And that includes, charter right exercised by Councillor Zondervan and Council May 16th, 2022.

Also, a communication was received from Assistant Finance Director Michele Kincaid, transmitting ARPA documents for the Finance Committee. Those documents will be shown above. They're also on the website that City staff will tell you how to receive it, if you haven't seen it already. And it's a summary of funds that have been initially allocated. Other proposals, but I'll let Mr. Kale, Ms. Kincaid, and Mr. Taha Jennings explain all that.

So, this hearing is hybrid. We have a number of councillors and City employees, and--and guests on Zoom. This hearing is being audio and video recorded. I will--we have 45 people who've signed up to talk. It turns out 25 of them are people who are going to talk about their

proposals. And then, at least 20 other people have public comment. We're going to split that list. Everybody will get to talk for two minutes. That means this is going to be a long meeting, because that's an hour and a half right there. So, this is probably going to be a three-hour meeting. But we wanna do it correctly.

If you have written comments, you can leave them with the City Clerk's Office or email them to the City Clerk. The format of the meeting will be as follows. We will have a summary statement by City staff and myself with my Co-Chair Councillor Nolan. The--we will then go into a little greater depth by City staff, and again, that'll be visible above me. We will hear from those who've submitted proposals. I realize two minutes is not a lot, but they have submitted full proposals. And--and we will have a greater insight of what that is.

If there are important clarifying questions about what the City has presented, we will have a quick session on that. Then there will be public comment, that is, the 45 people minus the 25 who have proposals before us. And then, the Council will discuss priorities, as far as we feel need to be represented.

One of the first charts that I'll talk about is a summary. It's a single-page chart of where we are. And to date there's been a pretty direct relationship between Council goals and money allocated, or seemingly need to be allocated. At the conclusion of the hearing, we will talk about Councillor Zondervan's policy order moving it forward to the full Council. We will talk about priorities, and-- and we will go from there. So, this is gonna be a long meeting, and that's fine.

So, to begin with, I'm going to once again just hold up the one sheet. I don't know if we can put that on the screen. But this is a sheet labeled ARPA Committed Projects City Council Priority Summary, dated June 10th. And it lists on one side, the City Council priority areas. You're right. However, first, we have to do a roll call so you know who's here.

Executive Assistant Naomie Stephen called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Present

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone -Present

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Present

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Present and audible

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Present and audible

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present and audible

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present

Present-8, Absent-1.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. So, eight out of nine councillors are with us. We expect all of them will be here shortly if not, so what I--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Councillor Carlone, I just wanna note for the record that one of the councillors, Councillor Toner, had told us--informed us in advance, he could stay for just the first hour of the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Co-Chair Nolan. So, as you can see on the list, the priority areas are on the left of the list. And this is a pretty detailed list. Co-Chair Nolan and I, the Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee, met with staff twice in the last week to go over what has occurred to date. And I'll speak for myself, but I think my Co-Chair agrees.

This is a pretty good distribution of the funds. Now, realizing that anybody in this room could question a particular funding area, why not more, why not less?

Letting that go for the moment that this looked at the issues that we highlighted. And--and we'll be using this list. I imagine to talk about remaining priorities later. There are other lists that I'll let Mr. Kale and his team discuss.

As you know, or maybe not know, at the bottom of the list, there's about \$70 million that's been committed. And that leaves approximately 70--high \$17, \$17.8 remaining. And there's another \$1 million or \$2 million that might be available as well, depending on other funding. And that's what we're primarily focusing on today.

So, Mr. Kale, Ms. Kincaid, Mr. Jennings, the floor is yours.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair. So, I think you framed today's meeting very well. Part of the meeting will be used to discuss the approximate 25 additional public requests that were received after the last Finance Committee meeting in April. All the public requests have been posted to the ARPA webpage on the City's webpage, as well as, the actual applications submitted by the requestors. So, that is on our webpage.

In addition to that, we have, as you noted, have

reached out to the applicants who submitted their request after the last committee meeting to offer them the same opportunity that the other applicants received at the April meeting, to provide up to two-minute explanation of their proposal and to make a clarifying remarks. And as I said, that's consistent with what we did at the last Finance Committee meeting. As you noted, there are 65 public request, totaling \$188 million. So, obviously, well above the total amount received by the city.

As we noted at the last Finance Committee meeting, the application portal is now been closed. And so, we are not accepting requests at this point. And as I also noted at the last meeting, public request made are not a guarantee of funding, or the funding amount requested. And--and even if we move forward on an idea that we may move on independently, but again, the amount in the request are not guaranteed. That is part of process of--of these Finance Committee meetings. In addition to hearing from the applicants today, we are looking to receive feedback from the Council on all public requests. And again, we are as always reviewing public requests for compliance with ARPA guidelines, legal requirements, and other factors.

As the Councillor Carlone mentioned, there are three new reports that are listed on the webpage, which is ARPA committed project report, which totals to \$70.2 million committed. And as Councillor noted, those single page that lists in summary, the committed items that meets the City Council priorities. And then, there's another document that is a supplement to the first document, which gives a blueprint of how we're at the \$70.2 million. And I think, future Finance Committees will again be used to provide feedback on projects.

And I would point that the Finance Department has successfully submitted a second quarterly ARPA report. And I think to finish up again, thank our Department Heads for the continued work on ARPA reporting, implementation and compliance. And then, you noted, thank you to Michele Kincaid, our Assistant Finance Director and Betty Lyons, and Jennings for their work on ARPA grants. And I'll leave that now to Mr. Chair to go over that first document. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you Mr. Kale. So, the first document which is above me, as you can see, lays out the allocations as of March 2022. Then a total--total

allocation of this week--sorry, the end of last week. And we asked the City staff to include whether or not a nonprofit was related to the program. And that is the last column.

We believe this covers--it's a very good range of areas that covers needs that have--that we're aware of, that have been presented. And we're not saying it covers everything. And we're hoping as a Council to do that with the remaining funds. I--does the public have access to printed matter?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: I believe there are copies at the table.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Yes.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yeah. There should be copies at the table.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: There's an agenda packet right at the table, with copies for the public.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Some of that is from the Council meeting recently. That is different. Oh, you took them off. Good for you.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: And Co-Chair Carlone.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Co-Chair?

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Yes, we might-- for anyone who just entered the--the room, all of these documents are available on the web. If you have any access to any kind of device that allows you, they're--they are posted under the meeting notice for the Finance Committee meeting of today. And there are some printed copies as well.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So, Mr. Kale, I think it might be worthwhile in a summary fashion to go over the other documents.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Sure.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Was that--that was part of your presentation--

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Yes.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: --presentation today. Thank you.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: All right. So, Naomie, and--and Laurie, I'm on page 12 now of the handout. Thank you. We'll try to make it a little bit bigger.

Okay. So, as I noted before, we have received from the public request tolling approximately \$188 million. The City

has received a total, and has appropriated a total of \$88.1 million in ARPA funding. We've allocated \$70.2 million. So, that means about \$18 million left to distribute, make decisions upon ARPA funding.

In addition to that, on the far left, as part of the \$88.1 million, there's a category called Government Services. So, in essence, all of the ARPA funds generally need a COVID hook of demonstrating harm, and Michele will talk about this after our presentation here. So, again, we go through the process of doing a project profile and doing a process of determining what the harm has been caused by COVID, and what are the remedies to that harm, and how they fit into the criteria and compliance of the ARPA regulations.

There is a category called Government Services, which doesn't necessarily need that full-depth COVID hook that is available for expenditure. And that's called Government Services. So, as part of the \$88.1, we--we received about \$10 million allocation of Government Services funds. We've allocated \$33.3 million of those funds against the total, but against this \$10 million Government Services pot. So, that leaves about \$6.7 million available of the \$18 million

that is available in the aggregate from this specialized category.

I will also point that we have \$18 million, \$17.9 million, and that's available. And from that, from our previous meetings and from our feedback from the Council and others, we have categories that we are looking at still and--and looking to get some feedback from the Council. We have the Mayor's Task Force on transit, which is developing their report, and will have recommendations that will require some funding. We've been asked to look at providing high school T-Passes to high school students other than the current program. The climate crisis report was recently issued, and we're expecting to receive some recommendations to address the report that will come from ARPA funding.

We have the public requests that we're talking about today. We have a request from the nonprofit coalition that is on the list, and--and is a priority area that will need a dollar amount allocated to it. There was a recent homeless report that basically had some recommendations. And even though I believe on the current listing, we do have a significant portion of homeless-related items that have been funded. Additional items might be recommended for

funding. And then, we do have other departmental requests that we have not submitted to the Council.

So, in a longwinded way, basically we have \$18 million. And we have categories under other--other and Council priorities for further allocation. But the pot of money is \$18 million in the aggregate. And as a crosswalk to where we were and where we are, we had an initial committed allocation of about \$33 million that was communicated and shared with and received feedback from the Council back in the winter. We've added to that at this point, which is Energy--Energy Efficiency Program for \$500,000.

Air purification replacement filter--filters, again, all our City buildings, and we have one right here in the corner. We have air purification systems, and they all require filter replacement. The Biobot additional testing, through fiscal--through August of '23, the first two items are fiscal '23 items. And they total \$500,000, \$200,152.

Again, we had talked about last meeting the Cash Assistance Program that is being allocated \$22 million. And we're working on the implementation of that program. And then, we've had some adjustments based upon some further

clarification, \$90,000 on item 19 that was listed on the commitment list of \$90,000. But in addition to that, we have good news is that the Transition Wellness Center at Spaulding Hospital, we have a contract through December of '22. We have now reached agreement with the Spaulding Hospital to extend the contract for that facility to December of '23. And so, that again carries costs for the rental and facilities and food cost for providing services to the residents of the Spaulding facility.

In addition to that, we provide services from Beko [phonetic] that basically takes us to December of '23. We have an allocation amount to that of \$2.9. We currently have a Meals Program for the homeless that we've operated since the pandemic. Right now, we've allocated an additional \$60,000 to bring the program to October of '22, and the decision will have to be made thereafter.

As we all know, we're still in the process of testing and providing that service to our residents. And so, the testing component provides funding through this fiscal year, the remainder of the fiscal year, and for next fiscal year for testing at CIC Health, the Broad Institute that actually does the testing and they provides the test kits,

and Pro Ambulance who helps us administer the program. So again, we've tried to be forward-thinking to make sure that we have a blueprint of expenditures that are coming in the future, so that we allocate for them appropriately. Next page please.

So, in addition to that, the Fire Department provides support for our testing program. We do have St John's Church, which is a well--well-visited testing center in North Cambridge that has a small rental expense. In addition to that, we received a proposal for the Magazine Beach. And again, that continues our ongoing collaboration with the State. And basically, that allocation will fund Phase 2-2 of the--of the multiyear project, and will allow us to transform the sunken parking lot into a grassy beach area, and add a dock and outlook area. So, we've been working with the State for several years. And this is a continuation of that collaboration, and that was \$1,000,008.

In addition to that, we received a request from the Cambridge Housing Authority for a program. They're embarking on for 160 Norfolk Street, which basically is a total project of about \$44 million. They've asked support

from the City of \$10 million. They currently have a request in front of the Affordable Housing Trust, for--for the \$10 million. But this program will allow 38 units to be transformed into 62 studio apartments, to provide permanent housing to our homeless.

So, that item again we felt it was important to demonstrate that we think this is an important priority area, and that depending upon what the trust allocates, we've initially earmarked \$2 million depending upon the outcome of the Affordable Housing Trust decision. This may be amended. In addition to that, we've added \$500,000 for a rental assistance program through the Multi-Service Center and the Director of Housing, Maura Pensak, because we believe that that is a need that needs to be addressed. And based upon our prior programming initiatives, it appears that that is a request that is something that we needed to address.

In addition to that, we will have multiyear support administratively. This--this ARPA funding is extraordinarily complex to administer and report upon. And so, we've allocated enough to get us through the reporting period for the grant. So, that--those additional items in

addition to the initial 32, brings us to the total of \$70,200,000. So, that is where we got the balance of 18--of \$17,914,000. And again, in addition to that, there is a detailed listing of the funded project that is on the webpage and in the package there.

If you would Mr. Chair, Michele, can give a very brief overview of the project profile process, because again, every one of these projects needs to go through examination and--and provision of facts that allows us to determine if it is a COVID hook-able project, excuse my very sophisticated term. But basically, that's what we do. And--and if it isn't, is it something that needs to be looked at to be funded from Government Services?

So, we have a process that we've developed with our consultants to basically have all our projects go through this, and we have some folks in the audience that have begun that process. And I'm sure will attest to the fact that it's--it's a--it's not an easy process, but it requires some thinking, but also requires some thoughtfulness in terms of how we present the information so that if we do get audited and when we do, do our reporting, that we have the appropriate backup, and we can

stand scrutiny. So, Michele, do you want to briefly go over that?

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR MICHELE KINCAID: Sure.

Thank you, David. So, we look at a project, there are several steps involved embedding, whether it's an ARPA project that's eligible for funding or not. The first thing that we do, is we look at it and try to articulate a negative economic impact. Meaning, does the--does an economic harm exist? And if it does, was it worsened by the public health emergency? Then certain projects that we've done so far, we request for instance, in the Small Business Loan project, we ask the businesses to please provide statements that show that they've lost revenues and their expenses are increasing. And just to show us that there is an economic harm that came through.

The second step would be to identify and qualify the target group or class that we're trying to help out. So, impacted, meaning if we--for instance, if we are going to help out someone that's applied for assistance for rental or food for--for free, the Food Program. Well, we will look at number one impacted--basically to qualify for that, the project has to--the households have to be below 300%

Federal Poverty Limit or 65% of the average median income, or the family needs to be experiencing unemployment or foods--food and housing insecurity issue due to COVID. Losing one's job, or you know, plant shutting down due to COVID that type of thing.

Then there is a disproportionately impacted group, which are households that are located in a QCT neighborhood, Qualified Census Tract neighborhood, or with low income thresholds that are defined as below 185% of poverty level, or 40% of AMI. Most of those are consistent with the HUD thresholds. So, we're pretty familiar with those.

The third step that we have to do is we have to align the project with the enumerated eligible use or the expenditure category, which is laid out by the Department of Treasury, the Treasury Department, in all of their literature that they've sent out on this grant. And they've updated it as of April 2022, and you can find the most current expenditure category listing on our website. But through that, you need to go through and you need to make sure that you can identify your project with one of those enumerated type of expenditures. And once you've done that,

and--and--and basically describe what your program is going to do and how it meets that eligibility.

Then the fourth and final step is to develop a proposed project and/or program based on the State and Local Relief Fund use rules, which are laid out also in the compliance supplement that is--it was released by the Department of Treasury. It lists all the uses for these funds, and the Federal regulations that you need to follow that are applicable.

So, this is probably the hardest piece, because you have to include in there how you're going to track these expenditures, because there are a few strings attached with these grants, when to receive the money you have to report back to the City on a quarterly basis with the required reporting elements that we have to report to the Federal government. So, we would provide you with project profile form and with tracking items that need to be tracked throughout the project. So, that you can identify them and then provide them back to us.

So, all of these grants require specific reporting, that is very important to--for us to report to the Federal government. If not, then the City is responsible for paying

the Federal government back for any uses that they feel are ineligible. So, there--there are a lot of reporting requirements with these grants, but you know, they-they definitely will be laid out for you. And we would provide information on how you can report those back to us.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Ms. Kincaid. So, that was a lot of information. I am usually at fault in this next phase. So, I will ask you to limit Council comments to any clarifying questions. I don't see hands, and Council, any on Zoom? I can't hear you.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Quinton.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Quinton. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And through you, thanks for this presentation. I did have a couple of questions on some of the allocations that were announced as part of this presentation. So, for example, you mentioned \$2 million to the Cambridge Housing Authority. But that sounds like it is conditional, based on Affordable House Housing Trust funding. What--why would we not fund that project completely from the Affordable Housing Trust and--and leave the \$2 million available for

ARPA project funding?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: At the end of the day, when the through you--Mr. Co-Chair to Councillor Zondervan, I think the manager wanted to make sure that some funding was allocated. Again, the Housing Trust will take this matter up, I believe on the 22nd. The City Manager does sit on the Affordable Housing Trust. And I think that they will have a conversation about what allocation, if any, will be made by the Affordable Housing Trust to support this request from the Cambridge Housing Authority. And I'm sure the manager will have a discussion about what level will be the entire \$10 million requested or will be some lesser amount from the Affordable Housing Trust. But he thought it was important to--because of the importance of the request to provide an allocation.

And again, if it gets amended, because the Affordable Housing Trust allocates the full amount requested, then obviously the available funds will increase by \$2 million. But he thought it was an important priority to make sure that it was demonstrated through an ARPA allocation, which may change depending upon what happens at the Affordable Housing Trust.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Councillor?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr.

Chair. Through you, I guess I don't understand why we would do that similar with the Friends of Magazine Beach, I--I fully support funding that project. But as--as was mentioned, that's an ongoing project with this yard that we've been supporting for years. And, you know, we could easily fund that \$1.8 million from free cash to support that program, and--and leave ARPA funding available for projects and purposes that are more difficult to fund from free cash, for example, because of the [inaudible 00:37:32] amendment.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: So, through you, Mr. Co-Chair to Councillor Zondervan, again, this is a project that we're trying to supplement the State funding. And they are having--they're trying to basically put all the funding together, so that they can send out big packages fairly soon, so we can get into next construction cycle. And based upon feedback from the last meeting, but also continuing the support of the restoration of Magazine Beach, the City Manager felt that it was important to allocate funding now to make sure the progress would

continue.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanna register my objection to--to that approach to the funding. I think the ARPA fund should be fully focused on, you know, the remaining funds, and--which are--are shrinking fast, should--should really be focused on these community projects and--and other Council priorities, and--and to the extent that we want to fund other ongoing projects, we should do that from free-cash. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Marc McGovern, is next followed by the Mayor. Councillor?

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Excuse me. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I sort of wanna follow the same--same line as Councillor Zondervan, because I think that there's--and again, it's not--it's not against any particular project. But if you--if you just take the--the CHA project that's gonna be before the Affordable Housing Trust, if they're asking for \$10 million, and the trust knows that there's [audio break] chances are they're gonna approve it for 10, and then take that \$2 million out of ARPA funds, which they

could just as easily approve it for 10 and that \$2 million could be freed up for something else.

So, I guess one of my questions and--and similarly, there are some--some expenses in here like the testing, like Spaulding, we would likely be doing--whether we had the ARPA money or not, that money would be coming out of free cash or somewhere else. So, I wanna try to stretch this money as much as possible, and not use it for things that we would otherwise be funding through other means. But now we've got this windfall of money and so we're using that to pay off--pay for things that we would be paying for anyway.

So, I--my question is, how much of this ARPA funding is going to--if any, is going to reimburse us for money we've already spent during COVID?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Mr. Chair to Councillor McGovern, if you look at the original listing that was provided, testing was in the--in the funding for the Wellness Center at Spaulding Hospital was already part of the initial \$33 million. So, all what we have done is, based upon the fact that we're able to secure another year of leasing the facility, just expanded and projected the

funding for an additional year, as well as, since testing is already part of the initial allocation, continuing that through fiscal '23. So, these allocations have been consistent with what has been communicated to the Council previously, and--and just carries forward the funding for these purposes that were part of the original \$33 million.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Through you, Mr. Chair. So--so, other than expansion, you know, take Spaulding for example, sort of, you know, extending the lease, is there, money being allocated, even in the original 33, which I don't think those--maybe I'm wrong, but I don't think those--that money has literally been spent yet. I think it's been allocated, but checks haven't been written. Is there money that's going to sort of make up for money that--that we've--not extending, but money that we've already spent for--for on COVID-related, you know, services?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: No, these are direct expenditures from the grant.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Okay. And is there--you know, through you, Mr. Chair, I know that there are, you know, there's ARPA money, but there was also--there's a, you know, the Federal government passed an infrastructure

plan that allocated money. That's it. Is there--are there other pots of money that we can tap into, to for example, you know, I--I want--I've been working on Magazine Beach for years. I'm a huge supporter. But is there another pot of money where that 1.8 could come out of that would free up 1.8 in ARPA money, because as Councillor Zondervan said, we--although there's a lot of requirements on the ARPA money, it also provides some flexibility for us that we don't typically have.

And so, we should use that flexibility, I think to fund programs that we wouldn't be able to find otherwise. And use free cash to fund the things that, you know, don't require--you know, that may fall under ARPA, but could be funded in other--other means. So, are there other pots of money, whether it's the infrastructure money or anything else that we can tap into, and maybe spread--again, stretch this a little bit?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: With regard to the Magazine Beach part, the partnership that we have developed was because there--other than the city, there has not been an alternative funding to supplement the DCR allocations, which are limited to move these projects forward to rehab

Magazine Beach. So, in the future, again, we always look for grant opportunities, but generally they have not been available to--to use to support the Magazine Beach projects. And that's why we've partnered with DCR to basically make sure the projects in the phases can be completed, because there was no available funding other than from us, and whatever the DCR can scrape together.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Right. Sorry, through you, Mr. Chair, right. So, I guess I'm not--maybe I'm not framing my question properly, or--I guess, I just--you know, I'm not--I understand why we wanna do all of these projects. I'm just trying to figure out again, if ARPA money wasn't available, there's probably a lot of things in here that we would fund in another way. And we should probably do that, and use the ARPA money for new initiatives that are gonna move us forward. But again, so is--is that unwillingness on the administration's part to, you know, use money from free cash to fund some of these--some of these ideas, and so--in some of these projects?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: At this point, I would say no, because we believe the allocations are very modest in comparison to what the total has been. Again,

we're talking about \$1,000,008 from \$88.1 million. And we're talking--that's on the Magazine Beach. And on the \$2 million again, we'll see how that comes through the Affordable Housing Trust. But as a percentage of the total amount from the 88, it's a very small amount. And again, so we believe that--the Manager believes these are priority areas that meet the Council goals, but also things that are available to get funded and meet some ongoing commitments.

And again, I think free cash we--as of last night, I think we have committed almost \$68 million in free cash in this fiscal year to support a variety of projects. So, I think this has allowed us to basically continue to do some of the high priority work using ARPA funds within the guidelines.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you. Mr. Chair, lastly, I just want to be really clear, so people don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that those projects in particular, should not be funded. They shouldn't be funded. I'm just trying to figure out if they could be funded through another source, so that we could extend the ARPA money or spend the ARPA money differently. So, I don't want anyone getting me wrong that I'm against Magazine Beach or the CHA

project. I am not. I just want to stretch as much money as far as we can possibly stretch it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor. I thought you were very clear, and a number of us share the same opinion. So, thank you both. Mayor, you initially put your hand up, but perhaps Councillor McGovern raised the same question. Do you wish to speak, or you'll wait on that?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I'll just say I agree with both my colleagues. And I think, you know, when we look at the community of proposals, obviously, some are requesting, you know, large amounts. And so, you know, I wouldn't think that get all of it. But like with Magazine Beach for example, they requested 1.8 and they got 1.8.

And so, really thinking through as we talk about-- after we go to public comment, thinking about how, you know, how we're conveying our priorities, because you know, I agree with what's been said. I think that's one example of, you know, an organization that's gotten money from the City before and/or through CPA and other means. And so, you know, really thinking about all--all the other community proposals and focusing the rest of the money on that as a--

as a priority. So, there was not much to add. I think both Councillors covered everything. So, I'll yield. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mayor. So, I believe no other Councillor wishes to ask a question. So, we will move on to the--the two-minute presentation by each of the groups that have submitted a proposal. There's a list of 25 of those. We believe most of those are on the public comment list, which will come after that. And this is a pretty in-depth meeting. So, I apologize that it is taking more time than you might have thought.

The first person on the list for the Unhoused Advocacy Group is Cassie Hurd. Cassie, are you with us on Zoom perhaps? No. All right. We'll come back to Cassie. Steve Nutter for Green Cambridge. And this is the little Pond Trail. Steve, welcome.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Nutter, Executive Director of Green Cambridge, Little Pond Trail, requested three different proposals. The first one is the Classroom Farm at CRLS. Steven, indicated that faculty and students have been working for years to get an onsite Classroom Farm built that can be used by multiple academic subjects, including construction,

ecology, nutrition, wellness. Steven's request is for approximately \$382,000 for running community centered design and visioning process, doing a first year build out and program management and labor. The second proposal that he had was for Canopy Crew, which is an emerging program from Green Cambridge in collaboration with DPW Forestry and Groundwork Somerville. He indicated that they will plant 300 trees a year on private property employing CRLS youth and yearlong internships. Eventually, the students will even be growing our own trees on top of the new parking garage in Alewife Center in partnership with IQHQ. And his request is for \$50,000 of funding to cover some of the program expenses over the next two years. They've identified in total of at least 3,000 planting locations on private property in Cambridge, which is where 80% of their tree canopy is. The final project that Steven propose was for a feasibility study to transform the little Pond Trail, which is a Woodland Trail, the longest trail in Cambridge. He spoke with DCR, and his request for \$120,000.

Tara McCabe, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, passed it off to the Executive Director, Duane de Four, who is also on this call.

Duane De Four, Executive Director, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, thanked the Council for providing several opportunities for the members of the public to participate in this process. Duane, submitted a proposal, and Duane is following up on that, because since the last meeting, since they submitted a proposal, received 39.5 almost 40% cut from the Massachusetts Office for Victims Assistance, which kicks in just a few weeks, on July 1st. So, that's a large cut to their funding. Duane, indicated that BARCC services are critical. Duane, also wanted to support Cambridge Non-profit Council and their request for funding from this ARPA money as well.

Jesse Edsell-Vetter, HRI Director of Residential Services, indicated that ARPA funding requests would allow us to provide staffing, emergency assistance funding and flexible programming, so that they can play an important role in assisting the low-income residents to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic on their lives.

Jennifer Gilbert, Executive Director of Housing Navigator, indicated that they're a Cambridge-based nonprofit the Globe, like Zillow for the affordable market. Their requests aligns with the City's commitment to

affordable housing, addressing housing and security, and fair and equitable access to services. Jennifer, is requesting funds to both sustain our search tool and to do more. Jennifer, illustrated a little story, when they started this around 2019, as often happens with product development, they had a user persona they called, Brian. And Brian, they thought of as someone who worked at assisted-living, had moderate income, and wanted to keep his kids in Cambridge schools. And what was so incredible is if he searched online at the time, zillowapartments.com, Brian would see nothing affordable. Jennifer, was really proud to say that now they've launched a site, over 100 buildings show up in Cambridge, and can search for the Fresh Pond Apartments, Walden Square. Jennifer, also indicated that they're getting 12,000 visitors on the site, and wanted to help people apply online, by process design user testing and software engineering for online application working with the City and local CDCs.

Sarah Gyorog , Executive Director from Transition House, mentioned about the shadow pandemic, the domestic violence pandemic inside the pandemic of COVID, which has increased stress for survivors and people where violence is

happening at home, decreased support and stability for those survivors. Last year they housed 12 families. But this record number increased the costs of moving vulnerable families at a rate unseen before the pandemic and the cost of a lot more turnover for their shelters, so a lot of wear and tear on our shelter. Sarah, mentioned that their ARPA request comes at a time, when State and Federal funding is unpredictable. Sarah, mentioned that they support the Cambridge Non-profit Coalition application.

Delphene Mooney, Director, On The Rise, mentioned the challenges with staff retention and burnout during COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Since the pandemic, they've seen greater need for support from program participants. Delphene, also urged the Council to support both On The Rise's request for \$250,000 funding to expand access to food aid and tangible resources in their programs, and support the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's proposal to put \$2 million of the City's remaining ARPA funds towards a Cambridge Nonprofit Recovery Fund.

David Bass, a resident of North Cambridge, mentioned that the 27-acre asbestos-contaminated property adjacent to Russell Field is about to be developed, which this includes

Jerry's Pond, which is to become a recreational and nature educational amenity that will especially benefit residents of Rindge Avenue. David, also indicated that asbestos, at the site, raises pulmonary health concerns already heightened by COVID-19, and A and I has a history of using science to ensure that the neighbors of this unique site are protected, feel protected, and feel like their voices are heard in the process. He also mentioned that their members work entirely as volunteers devoting countless hours, and even their own funds at times. They are informed, devoted to their mission, absolutely committed to transparency, fairness, social and environmental justice, and making Cambridge a better place through constructive cooperation with all stakeholders. David, urged the Council for support for this very-worthy nonprofit.

Luis Cotto, Executive Director, Central Square Business Improvement District, expressed full support as a resident and fellow nonprofit executive for the application by the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition, in support of its fast membership that work towards the betterment of all Cambridge residents. Luis, indicated that the Central Square BID has submitted an application that responds to

the negative income economic impact that COVID has had on creative sector, particularly, individual artists. Luis, mentioned that he would have paid \$100 to a musician to play at the Central Square Farmer's Market, \$600 to an artist repainting an alley door with an image of what could be behind it, and \$1,000 to a trio on Saturday that will bring anywhere from one minute to an hour and a half of jazzy love. His proposal is split up into three separate allocations. He also urged to support Canopy Crew.

Dan Yonah Ben-Dror Marshall, President of the Brookline Cambridge Community Center for the Arts, spoke in support of several ARPA funding projects proposal including their nonprofits proposal. He indicated that Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's \$20 million project providing a highly equitable nonprofit Recovery Fund to immediately help to address the needs of all Cambridge nonprofits, they are short on funds being outside the standard balance and Spring Grant Cycles. Dan, also urged to Create Cambridge's \$5 million project to invest much-needed funds to local arts and culture nonprofits via an equitable grant maker conduit, such as the Cambridge Community Foundation via City collaboration. The third proposal was, Cambridge Local

First, \$45,000 project to increase local procurement, \$120,000 project to provide technical assistance to local businesses, \$25,000 project to drive consumers to shop more locally, 240 project to develop an incubator and accelerator to support BIPOC-owned businesses, and \$300,000 for mobile testing and vaccination. Dan, also humbly asked the Council to fund in-part or in-full RCCCA, \$150,000 nonprofit education web software development to benefit the local education arts, entertainment and media organizations. Dan, indicated that they've spent more than \$300,000 to create development.

Pooja Paode, Associate Director for Cambridge Local First, discussed several funding requests supporting local businesses. Pooja, submitted five proposals total, four new ones. She indicated that the majority of ARPA funds allocated towards small businesses have gone towards COVID Relief Grants. Pooja, mentioned that almost \$200 million in request, that the Council need to be mindful in prioritizing the final funds. Pooja, requested \$25,000 over three years to launch a Buy One Get One Shop local program, connect to consumers with locally-owned businesses based on successful version of Oswego, New York, and \$45,000 over

three years to facilitate local business procurement by local anchor institutions, as well as, the City, and \$120,000 over three years to support businesses and their recovery through a technical assistance program.

Banti Gheneti, Project Right to Housing, submitted a proposal to house every unhoused person in Cambridge. Banti's proposal suggests that the City allocate \$10 million to rehouse 400 individuals between this year and the beginning of next year. He suggested that the City spend money to provide incentives to landlords to want to provide housing to people, and spend money to cover and subsidize the rents for these people, and three, assist people in moving into these units and providing them long-term supportive services. Banti, also supported the HEART proposal.

Michael Monestime, Central Square, urged for civic engagement through public art, public celebration and doing it in a safe environment. Michael, mentioned that Starlight Square, in the cultural district of Central Square, has really showcased that.

John Froio, Deputy Director of De Novo Center for Justice and Healing, indicated that Amanda Becker, is their

Development Director. John, submitted a proposal to help support our Homeless Prevention Project, where they provide free legal assistance to Cambridge residents who are at risk of homelessness. John, mentioned that they went from one attorney to five attorneys and a paralegal, and they have assisted nearly 300 clients in past 12 months, and prior to the pandemic, they were assisting about 50 to 60 clients a year. John, indicated that the expansion costs about \$270,000. He mentioned that the Multi-Service Center recognized the importance of this project, and provided them with about \$60,000 in funding. John is seeking to route to fill that out and another \$210,000 through ARPA funds for three years to retain attorneys and paralegal.

Maggie Moore Abdow, Director of Development at Central Square Theatre, the Co-Chair of the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition Arts and Culture Subcommittee, member of the Create Cambridge Coalition, indicated that the coalition currently includes 14 organizations with advocacy and inclusion as a core foundation. Maggie, advocated for the three requests under consideration and impact the arts and culture community at large. Specifically, the Create Cambridge Coalition for Arts and Culture Sector Recovery at

\$5 million. She also mentioned about the Outdoor Festival for Recovery and Healing Summer Festival on 2023, \$1.2 million, that's represented by lead partner applicant Global Arts Live, and the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's proposal for investment in the Cambridge Nonprofit Recovery Fund. Maggie, also urged that it's critical to invest specifically and separately in the Create Cambridge Coalition's request for \$5 million for arts and culture recovery. She also mentioned that pre-pandemic they generated roughly \$175 million, supported more than 6,000 job, and contributes more than \$13 million in local and state government revenue in Cambridge. She indicated that Massachusetts Cultural Council reported a pandemic arrow loss in March 2022 of \$791 million, with 90% loss from that and earned income. Maggie, reported that Cambridge Arts and Culture Organizations have suffered a loss of over \$30 million in revenue due to COVID-19. She indicated that critical and immediate investment in this sector of \$5 million would be allocated to a Create Cambridge Recovery Fund via a disbursement partner to be determined.

Maure Aronson, Global Arts Live, indicated that their project is the Outdoor Summer Festival, Healing Festival

that will take place at the Canal part of the CambridgeSide Galleria. He mentioned that together with the Cambridge Arts Council, Central Square Theatre, the Dance Complex and the Cambridge Community Television, they will partner with the CambridgeSide Galleria and other East Cambridge businesses, which is summer-long outdoor festival at the CambridgeSide Canal, and they will be working with Jason Weeks to build on that experience. Maure, said that the festival will be free to the public, and be able to host audiences of up to 2,000 people featuring dance, music and theatre productions that include local, regional, national and international performers. Maure, urged for development to surrounding businesses from the 1,000-plus regular audience attendance, and be safe, three or four times a week that come to participate in a cultural gathering at the CambridgeSide Canal District.

Alice Kidder, Co-Director of Solutions at Work, indicated that they operate a Material Aid's Program of food program and a shelter, which was brought online because of COVID. Alice, mentioned that they support the request for \$20 million to shore up the infrastructure and economic stability of Cambridge nonprofits, and they would

put the funds towards the Cambridge Square Meals Program, now currently slated to end in September. She also mentioned that this program gives vitally needed food to 50 to 75 persons who was operating without housing, and has done so successfully for two years at a cost of approximately \$10 per person per day.

Elena Sokolow-Kaufman, Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition, indicated that the idea that the coalition submitted is to use \$20 million for Cambridge Nonprofit Recovery Fund. She urged City leaders not to delay decision-making on this important request. Elena, mentioned that at the \$20 million level, the fund would provide deep and broad support to 120-plus organizations across many areas of nonprofit work through a fair and transparent grant making process, and would also support the nonprofit sector with greater flexibility unencumbered by the State Anti-Eight Amendment. She indicated that, to be eligible, organizations must have 501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship, a location in Cambridge, and would need to demonstrate a negative economic impact as a result of the pandemic. Elena, reported that eligibility is confirmed, grant amounts will be determined using a sliding scale formula, with the

smallest organizations receiving the highest percentage of their pre-pandemic budgets. Elena, strongly urged the Council to advocate for the adoption and full funding of this proposal.

Kenneth Reeves, Mayor, NAACP, indicated that they have submitted a proposal to invent a new program which focuses on lower-income students, and the many holes that seem to have been occurring in their public education. He mentioned that NAACP offers scholarships for CRLS graduates. Kenneth mentioned that William Julius Wilson talked about this problem when he said that, in America, if you grew up in a low-income area for the first 15 years of your life, you can develop thoughts and ways of being and language patterns that will not allow you to join mainstream American society.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. So, that is the end of our list. We'll just go through it quickly. Once again, for those who did not present, if that's all right, and I expect none are there. But first, Cassie Hurd representing Unhoused Advocacy--Advocacy Group? Thank you, Jennifer Jonassaint, representing HRI? Nancy Mahan, representing CASPAR? M-A-H-A-N? Jane Carbone, representing

HRI, or any other HRI representative? Okay, so we are completed with that phase. And we have 39--Co-Chair, did you want to say something?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: No, I--I think we should go through and--and get more of the public comment. So, we have some discussion that's already very late.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, this is a long meeting, Co-Chair, as we announced early on. Most meetings end at two hours, this will not. So, the first public comment is from Adria Katz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adria Katz, Managing Director of the Multicultural Arts Center, urged the Council to improve American Rescue Plan project proposals that support the recovery of the arts and culture sector in Cambridge, and these proposals are the Cambridge Community Center for the Arts proposal, the Create Cambridge proposal and the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's proposal. Adria, indicated that they have not been able to rehire staff who left voluntarily, or make needed updates to operations and facility..

Ivy Moylan, Executive Director of the Brattle Film Foundation, urged the Committee and the Council to support

two specific proposals related to the ARPA funding, the Create Cambridge proposal requesting \$5 million and the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition requesting \$30 million. Ivy, gave some insight into how challenging things continue to be for the Brattle, as they've been open again for almost a year after being closed to the public from March 14th, 2020 to July 2nd, 2021. Ivy mentioned that they're operating with a loss as of the end of May of just over \$100,000.

Erin Muirhead McCarty, Executive Director at Community Art Center, urged the Council to support the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's proposal to put \$20 million of the City's remaining ARPA funds toward Cambridge Nonprofit Recovery Fund. Erin, also echoed that the organization, Community Arts Center centers the voices of the most historically-excluded populations in Cambridge, and works to fuse art with action for the betterment of our community. Erin also noted that children and youth in the Art Center's Teen Public Art, and nationally recognized Teen Media Program learn how art contributes to culture and can shape movements and the Art Center also provides access to essential childcare for low-income families, and ensures that children are fed healthy meals daily. She indicated

that ARPA funds would help to stabilize operations like ours and 85-year-old community organization that has served as a resource and a critical lifeline for so many children, youth and families. Erin noted that to hire local talent, requires us to pay them a livable wage and ARPA funds provide a unique opportunity to act on what we say is important.

Catherine Carr Kelly, Executive Director of Central Square Theatre, urged the Council to support funding for arts and culture in Cambridge, specifically supporting requests for Create Cambridge Coalition for the arts and culture sector recovery, the Outdoor Festival for Healing and the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition. Catherine, also requested to create Cambridge ensures that arts and culture organizations will work towards recovery, and have a voice at the table and future discussions of how Cambridge allocates resources and prioritizes community engagement through theatre, dance, public television, music, and youth education programs. Catherine's final request for large-scale outdoor summer performance space focuses on the community and its recovery. She also noted an example of these programs which include Central Square Theatre, Dance

Complex and Jean Appolon Expressions, working currently right now on a community inspiring experience, that will use dance music and theatre to share in a performance that celebrates the rituals of our Haitian and Latin-American residence.

Stephanie Guirand, address not provided, noted that Cambridge Heart is real. She also voiced for community responders in training. Stephanie indicated that they're part of a Massachusetts-wide Convening of Alternatives. The other members of the Alternatives Network in Massachusetts include Amherst Department of Community Care, CRESS, Northampton Department of Community Care, All Lynn Emergency Response Team and several others. She also echoed that they're part of the Transform 911 Network, part of the Interrupting Criminalization, which offers consultants that are helping us develop our protocols. We're also part of the Patch Network that's helping us develop our infrastructure for receiving and dispatching Mobile Crisis Responders. She urged that they deserve ARPA funding.

Betsy Otero, address not provided, Heart, spoke for Heart as a responder in training. Betsy is a mom of three, Cambridge resident for over 35 years. She requested ARPA

funding.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Actually, you can't pass it along. We have to take a vote to extend the meeting. Given that we have 32 more public comments. I will extend it for an hour. Madam Clerk, I move that we extend the meeting for an hour.

Executive Assistant Naomie Stephen called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes. Unfortunately I do have to leave shortly. That I - yes.

Yes-7, Absent-2.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Yes. Roll call succeeded.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay. So, that was a vote of seven to two.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Mr. Chair?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, who speak--yes,
Vice Mayor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Point of order, I'm
curious if any of the other members of the Heart Coalition
have signed up through the public comment. And if so, if we
could take them out of order to all speak together.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: I don't know how we can
tell that to be honest.

FEMALE SPEAKER: We all did.

FEMALE SPEAKER: We all signed up.

FEMALE SPEAKER: We all did.

MALE SPEAKER: We're all here.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: So, perhaps--do we have
a Peter? Peter Damerow? So, Mr. Chair, may I make a
suggestion?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Could we allow the rest
of the coalition who has signed up to speak to come up to
the microphone, and we'll check them off the public comment
list, and then go back to the regularly scheduled Marilyn
Frankenstein, and whomever might be left. I think that

probably makes the most sense rather than having people come up and down.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: If they're on the list, we can do that. If they're not on the list, we cannot do that.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay. Counselor, Carlone?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So, someone come-who is speaking now? I can't tell. Yes.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: We can see from the list what people signed up for. So, I can just call the rest of the names of those who signed up for Heart.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Glennifer [phonetic] [inaudible 01:52:40].

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glennifer, Cambridge, noted that she is paid Heart responder in training. Glennifer indicated that some of her favorite trainings have been about how to respond to domestic violence situations, and so far have been with Transition House. Glennifer voiced that Emerge is an organization that works with people who cause harm, to

acknowledge the harm they caused and work towards making it right and being better in the future.

Kevin West, Address Not Provided, believes that Cambridge Heart would be a very suited organization for this City coming from a history of mental health, coming from friends and loved ones who have lost their lives due to mental health and not having an outlet to reach out to them. Kevin, recommended that the City allocate money from the ARPA to Cambridge Heart to help this program, just develop become the next phase and take care of community members. He suggested to take care of the people that have been taken care of you forever.

Barbara Ortiz, Address Not Provided, North Cambridge, noted that Cambridge Heart has been in the works for two years now, and this year they on-boarded their first responder cohort. Barbara, appreciated the Emergency Medical Technician course, which led her to become a nationally registered EMT for my community. Barbara indicated that the intensive that they had with Harold and Phil Gatensby, from the Tlingit Nation, deepened her y learning about the roots of transformative justice, which is an extension of Tlingit's circle process. She looks

forward to sharing all of this knowledge with her own community. Barbara, also aims to reach those folks who fear reaching to the systems in place already

Michael Prince, Address Not Provided, Cambridge, noted that he is Heart Responder in training with his fellow colleagues. Michael, indicated that he has had the EMT course at Cataldo, and various trainings, and Impact Boston where they trained on physical and verbal self-defence, boundary setting, and de-escalation skills. Michael voiced that they have been on payroll since April, and ARPA funding would contribute to the growth of our program and allow us to continue the expansion of Heart.

Consuelo Rodriguez, Address Not Provided, North Cambridge, noted that they had multiple training, which include Impact Boston, which was a self-defence training, also MH First, which is Mental Health First, which they came from California to train us in-person. Consuelo, believes that Cambridge Heart should receive ARPA funds.

Jakira Perez, Address Not Provided, noted that has been granted the opportunity to become part of the Cambridge Heart, Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team. Jakira stated that they've had several trainings,

including ongoing legal training with the National Lawyers Guild, and have been gaining a massive amount of knowledge and other ongoing training with leading consulting Ann Jinx [phonetic] with Urban Strategies. She also indicated that the trainings costs money and are crucial for their work, hence asking for ARPA funds to help prepare them to serve and support the community.

Corinne Espinosa, Address Not Provided, Cambridge Heart, the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team, indicated that she is the newest paid member of the team, and Co-Director. Corinne noted that since January 2022, Cambridge Heart responder started EMT training and the team will shift focus during the summer to the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, in July and August then they'll resume training, they'll graduate in October 2022, after which time will move from a soft launch to a full launch. Corinne said that specific guidance from the US Treasury Department is clear, and the Treasury has offered new guidance on how State and Local funds can be used for community violence interruption, including programs that use evidence-based strategies like Street Outreach, Violence Intervention Models, and Trauma Informed Services.

Corinne, indicated that the original proposal submitted via the City process requested \$5.5 million, which would have funded them as written for three years. Corinne, echoed that Councillor Zondervan's policy order would fund them at their current capacity for one year.

Marilyn Frankenstein, Address Not Provided, indicated her support to Heart, and urged to put this on high priority. Marilyn, noted that she thinks that the policy order that Councillors Carlone and Zondervan issued give at least enough funds for many different innovative programs. Marilyn also stated that a number of the Councillors said at the beginning of the meeting, don't fund organizations, that already are funded by the City. Marilyn, also urged to put a high priority on programs like Heart.

Laurie Rothstein, Director of Cambridge Volunteer Clearinghouse, stated that their mission is to champion volunteer opportunities and to support an inclusive, well-prepared volunteer corps. Laurie, expressed her support for Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's proposal as she finds their algorithm to be equitable, and based on robust data, and it provides a meaningful level of support for some 120 organizations. Laurie indicated that they had just in

January an additional 23 nonprofits asking them to help them search for volunteers, especially people who can make a long-term commitment. She also noted that between staffing and funding shortages for all nonprofits, this is the wrong time to make one organization's success another's failure. Laurie, stressed the need to be strong when the next crisis hits and urged support as a group. She also noted that CNC's algorithm is well-proportioned to the need and to the ARPA budget. Laurie, stated that the Council is deliberating over nearly \$17 million that remains, and urged the Council to find the \$20 million somewhere to fund the coalition's proposal.

Carolyn Magid, Address Not Provided, noted that COVID has disproportionately impacted the unhoused and other marginalized community members, exacerbating crises and increasing the need for assistance. Carolyn, urged the Finance Committee to support funding for Heart in Councillor Zondervan's policy order. She noted that in almost two years she has worked with the Heart Coalition, Heart has grown from an exciting transformative project to an established organization with a remarkable cadre of community member responders being trained to an incredibly

high standard, and a leader in the Alternative Crisis Movement. Carolyn noted that funding Heart will give Cambridge access to the community experience connections and skills of these remarkable Responders, and urged not to miss this opportunity.

Louise Parker, Address Not Provided, extended her support to the Councillors who argue that ARPA funds should go to the projects we cannot easily fund through other mechanisms, and stated that enthusiastic support of the policy order requesting ARPA funding for the many excellent nonprofits, and in particular, in support of Heart. Louise, also expressed that Heart has provided extensive, broad training to a truly impressive cohort of Alternative Crisis Responders and interacted with the Responders over many months in Heart Coalition meetings, and played a small--very small part in training, leading one session, and now working on another with a group of others. She indicated that it's an amazing group of people working at a State-of-the-Art program and Heart has not only received enthusiastic endorsements and many leaders in the field, such as Cahoots, Heart itself has become a recognized regional and national leader in the Alternative Crisis

Response community for their best practice, cutting edge and transformative approach. She urged that Cambridge should be proud to help take this remarkable program and its remarkable staff to the next level by providing ARPA funding to serve most-marginalized community, those who had been hard-hit by the COVID pandemic. She requested to fund Heart and to move the policy order forward with a positive recommendation

Lee Farris, Address Not Provided, spoke for the Cambridge Residence Alliance on the question of how to use the City's ARPA funding. She noted that they strongly support Heart and the other 17 community applicants in the policy order proposed by Councillor Carlone and Zondervan that would allocate a total of \$10.5 million in Federal ARPA funds. Lee, agreed with Mayor Siddiqui and Councillors Carlone, McGovern and Zondervan, who said earlier in this meeting, that they would like to see ARPA funds used for community organizations that cannot otherwise be funded by the City, rather than for projects that the City can fund through the budget or through free-cash. Lee, noted that Heart Alternative Public Safety Program is already moving forward rapidly, and has already hired and begun training

wonderful Responders from many different racial backgrounds. Lee, stated that funding Heart now would help it move forward, which would benefit the whole city, and many of the community organization proposals sound wonderful, and hoped that the Committee will be able to fund most or all of them.

Alirio Pereira, Director of Immigrant Integration & Elder Services at Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, MAPS, urged the Council to support the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition's proposal to put the \$20 million of the City's remaining ARPA funds toward Cambridge Nonprofit Recovery Fund. MAPS's mission is to help Portuguese-speaking immigrants and their families integrate into their communities in order to build healthy families and successful communities through our multitude of direct health and social services. During COVID, it's been really challenging to hire linguistically and culturally competent staff and compete with the private sector salaries. He also noted that operating expense will help MAPS ability to hire additional competent staff and appropriately respond to the needs of the community and to cover the higher operational costs of staff utilities, technology supplies, and more.

Gregory Nicaise, Address Not Provided, Sustainable Business Network, stated that he is a nonprofit representing four proposals that they've submitted, and did not get a chance to submit earlier, or to comment earlier with the other proposals. Gregory, noted that they had a proposal for a Procurement Fair to connect institutions to local businesses for \$30,000. Two, opening up alcohol licenses of \$5,000 to minority-owned businesses. Three, an equity fund offering loans and grants to black and brown-owned businesses, totaling \$2 million. Four, a shared kitchen, totaling \$1 million to \$3 million that would be operated as a commercial kitchen space for new and entrepreneurial food businesses. Gregory, noted that these funds, tie closely with their mission to support that they've been working on since the '80s to support small independent locally-owned businesses through sustainability, and have done that through the years by creating the Cambridge-Somerville Black Business Network in conjunction with support from BECMA and the Cambridge Local First Network. And they also have done this through creating the Boston Local Food Festival, as well as the Local Food Trade Show. Gregory, hopes to bring all of their

expertise to put on these new programs that they're submitting here.

Nicola Williams, 8 Brewer Street, thanked Greg, for recapping activities. Nicola mentioned that BECMA is Black Economic Council Massachusetts. Nicola, agreed with the Councillors who spoke earlier, that this is an opportunity to support projects that would not normally be funded through things like infrastructure funding, free cash, and really should be leveraging the ARPA funds as many of the proposals are formidable, worthy of funding, and Nicola thinks that the City should find the extra money to fund these amazing proposals. Nicola, requested to prioritize existing programs, programs that exist, that need real support, programs who have not received any shuttered venue operating funds, EDI, EIDL, PPP. She noted that, Cambridge Carnival did not qualify for these funding, and they did not submit a proposal, because they're part of the Nonprofit Coalition, and hope to be part of the Joyous Destinations Proposals that we hope and advocate that you will fund. Nicola, urged the Council to support the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition proposal of \$20 million that, and she feels that the algorithm prepared is fair, support

Joyous Destinations, support the Cambridge, some of the black-business network that formed out of the nationwide reckoning in collaboration with SBN, Sustainable Business Network in Cambridge Local First. She noted that COVID relief funds have been oversubscribed on the State level. Nicola, echoed that COVID is around for many more years, and also supported wholeheartedly the Heart proposal, and Cambridge Local First proposals, and prioritize ARPA that would normally not get funding.

Samantha Afreen [phonetic], Address Not Provided, Cambridge, noted that she is speaking here today to ask that the proposal house every person be funded, and it was written by Project Right to Housing. Samantha stated that having a home is fundamental to one's health and regaining stability and control of one's life and keeping a job. She said that, in the past few years, the cost of housing in Cambridge has skyrocketed, and those without the means to meet the market demand have either left the city, or have become homeless, adding to the already large homeless population here in Cambridge. She asked that Cambridge take the lead, and become an example to other cities when it comes to caring for unhoused neighbors by funding this

plan. She noted that now that the city has been given the financial means through the ARPA funding to help our most vulnerable neighbors, many of whom are also part of the LGBT community and who have been hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be absolutely irresponsible for the City not to fund this plan. Samantha also briefly summarized the proposal, by asking that eligibility for housing be very minimum, and allowing those who have been unhoused for years to have a home and asked that incentives be given to landlords to house these individuals, and support can be created to assist individuals in their transition and other aspects of their lives to stabilize their lives.

Maria Ines, Address Not Provided, supported the broad opportunity application for ARPA funding. She stated that two years ago, she was working as a bartender and could tackle and ahead above opportunity to the Central Square BID, and applied to participate in the Winter Market, with seven and sold artisanal goods from my hometown that [inaudible 02:24:23]. She said that after that market, she graduated to a popup shop, which became her hometown for the last year. She indicated that last month she opened her

own store at Ball Market, [inaudible 02:24:41] months, went from selling things out from her car to popup tent to a popup shop, and now a store. Maria, stated that this is a powerful program for people to earn life.

Sia Rondo, Address Not Provided, stated that he is calling today on behalf of supporting ARPA funding going towards Starlight space. Sia, stated that he had the ultimate pleasure and honor of working at Starlight and his friends who created space for the past two seasons. Sia, is a lifelong head of bridging and a graduate of CLS. Sia, said that he will say without a doubt in his mind that Starlight has been one of the most iconic and culturally important spaces he has ever gotten to experience and be a part of in Cambridge, and has been a part of many cultural spaces in this great city, from CRLS, our program to CCTV, and have seen it all, and Starlight is unlike anything else he has ever seen. Sia, stated that the only living this space because of pandemic, and outer space to gather and be safe, but also use the space because in a time when they were very far apart, they also needed space to come together and be closer. Sia, sincerely hoped that ARPA funds can go towards this phenomenal space, and hopefully,

it's bright future as a permanent location in Cambridge and Central Square.

James Williamson, 1000 Jackson Place, North Cambridge, stated that there are numerous interesting projects being advocated, many worthy of funding. He noted that there are big gaps in communication and information and knowledge, both about this process and about some of the proposals. He mentioned that he lives in public housing, what used to be public housing, and the only project he had heard about is the Heart project. James, urged the folks who were talking about working with people in public housing to think about how to get the word out about some of the projects that they're developing. James, thinks that the Heart project has done a better work in terms of communicating. James noted that the problem with communication is being expressed through some his neighbors who were not able to work, for example, Uber, and he checked in with them again, just now before the hearing. James thinks that there's an individual grant piece to the ARPA money, and urged to get the word out about how people can apply for the individual grants that are available, because people are out of work, and just don't know, and no one has really communicated

effectively with a lot of people. James, thinks that the Mayor's Program has been one of the best, and something like that deserves expansion. James, wanted to understand the difference between Government's Services and COVID-related.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. I believe that is the end of public comments. So, I move that we close public comment and have a vote.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Roll call to close public comment.

Executive Assistant Naomie Stephen called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Absent

Yes-6, Absent-3.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Roll call has

passed.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. So, it seems to me that there are two subjects that we definitely have to talk about. One is the policy order that was discussed, and whether or not we're going to move that back with a favorable report back to the Council. And the other is, how is it possible to supplement these funds, ARPA funds with free-cash, with non-real-estate tax money where needed. And I'm not talking about a huge amount, but we heard many very good proposals today. And, but I'll leave it open.

First, I'll go to my Co-Chair, if she wishes to discuss any of these matters to form our discussion. And then, I'll open it up to the full Council.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Co-Chair Carlone. I want to remind all of us that part of what we have before us is the allocated funding of \$70 million that has been allocated, and to understand that it is broken down to as requested by the Co-Chairs and--and the staff work to ensure that it was put into categories of Council priorities, and that there's also a number of the items that already have--have had non-significant nonprofit recipients or expected involvement in the projects, which I

think it's important for us all to bear in mind.

Obviously, we would all like there to be double the amount of money we have. And then, we still wouldn't meet the needs. There still also the--the undefined needs coming out of the Fare-Free Transit Work the the--addressing the climate crisis, those could be on the order of 10s of millions of dollars each. They will not be, I'm not saying that, but it--it's to put this all in context as we move forward.

At this point with just ARPA funds left, we have about \$18 million that will be decided on to be allocated, and I think before us are the--are the decisions as you noted how it is that we move forward with giving input into the City Manager who we understand has the ultimate decision about how these funds will be allocated.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Co-Chair. I note that Council--Councillor Zondervan, has his hand up. Vice Mayor, did I miss it? Did you have your hand up?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: I didn't. But thank you for recognizing me. I think we have a big task in front of us. As you mentioned, we have \$18 million left. You know,

not counting I think some of the excellent points that were brought up in the--earlier in the meeting around the Affordable Housing Trust, maybe being able to take on that \$2 million for the project that the CHA is working on. As well as, Magazine Beach a \$1.8 million. So, I think those-- I do wanna echo my fellow colleagues and saying that we should be creative in looking for ways on those previously committed items to find out if there is other funding for those given that ARPA does give us the flexibility that the Anti-Eight Amendment does not around free-cash.

I just wanted to make a couple of comments. One is that we have this \$18 million, we have \$10 million in front of us from the policy order that was referred to this Committee Hearing, a \$20 million ask from the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition, the Climate Crisis Working Group, the Fare-Free bus route, and the Homelessness Task Force. So, I'm not sure how we start this conversation. I'm assuming that's how you're gonna--you're gonna help shepherd us through that.

The one thing that I will say is that I wanna really point out that Park and Transition House, much like all the other nonprofits are facing a real shortfall. But I wanted

to really highlight that those two in particular get a lot of their funding through MOVA. And that MOVA funding has been cut, based on Federal funding not being available, the way that MOVA funding has actually gotten for the Federal government. That is a short term problem. That is the next couple of years' problem, which is what ARPA funds really does help to address these short-term problems.

So, I really want to put some emphasis on the funding that Park has--Park and Transition House has put forward, based on the lack of MOVA funds that is--I mean, as we heard tonight. The domestic violence issues have only been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic and Transition House and Park have really stepped forward into that void. But they are doing that with decreasing funds each and every day. And they're looking at a cliff right now.

So, I did wanna just put that into the public record, and--and make my fellow Councillors aware of that significant funding gap due to MOVA. So, I look forward to trying to figure out how to navigate this conversation from here. But I'll-I'll yield back, and thank you to all of my colleagues who have provided some amazing insights before. And thank you to everybody who came for public comment

today to really talk about the importance of supporting our nonprofit community, and the-and the folks that are on the--have been on the ground, the frontlines of--of the COVID pandemic, and we can't forget about them now. So, thank you. I'll yield back.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Councillor Zondervan?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair through you. I agree with my colleagues that we have a--a difficult task ahead of us. And I'm hopeful that the policy order that was referred to the Committee can--can serve as a--a starting point or springboard for figuring this puzzle out a little bit.

So, my understanding is that there's roughly speaking \$18 million left. And I do want to say that I'm a little bit surprised that you know, before this hearing and--and the documents can became available to us, our--my understanding was that there was \$30 million available, and money--more money got allocated, without, you know, this--this process happening. And--and that's really unfortunate. And I hope that this this--this will not continue, that we can have a more transparent process going forward for how

these monies are being allocated.

So--so, we have roughly \$18 million left. And the policy order originally proposed to allocate \$10.5 million to a particular list of organizations that applied. We can obviously amend both the amount and--and the list of organizations as--as we see fit, and then refer the order back to the Council to affirm our priorities for how to allocate these funds. So--so, that would be my suggestion to the--to the Committee that we start with the policy order, and then propose amendments that we would like to make to it.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor. At first, I'm going to--to broaden the discussion, go to Councillor McGovern, who has his hand up. Councillor?

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Mr. Chair through you. And maybe this is something that has to come in as a--as the motion at some point. But sort of again, following up on Councillor Zondervan, you know, if we were to--if we were to fund or recommend funding, favorably the--the policy order which is about \$10.5 million, leaving us with around \$8 million, if we were to recommend that the City allocate \$10 million, or we could say \$12 million out

of free-cash, which is not a lot of money out of free-cash, it really isn't in--in the scheme of things, to fund some of the projects that are currently being recommended in ARPA, that would allow us to fund all the different projects mentioned in that policy order at \$10 million. And then, with the \$8 million plus to \$12 million, allocate \$20 million to the nonprofit coalition.

And if we are able to do something like that, I think we're gonna be able to hold our heads pretty high in what we've done with--with this money. So, I won't make the motion now. I'd love to hear from others. But I think we really--you know, it's kind of like participatory budgeting right? We get all these great ideas, a couple of them make it to the final round. And often we state, "Oh, that idea was so good. Let's take some money out of free-cash and do it anyway." So, it's not unprecedented to do something like this. And so, you know, I may be filing a motion asking the City to consider a \$12 million allocation out of free-cash to fund some of these programs, so that we can really have a broad--stretch this money even further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor.

Councillor Azeem, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR BURHAN AZEEM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to bring up the topic of the Fare-Free Bus, because it was brought up several times. I'm not sure what the best allocation of the funding is before us tonight. We are in a process of going through with the MBTA and Boston, around what the estimates might look like for a Fare-Free Bus. I'm assuming it'll be around \$5-ish million give or take depending on whether you wanna do one bus which can be very expensive. But I think that the Mayor and I, and other City staff have particularly interested in, or if we wanted to eliminate more like 60 and 69 buses initial pilot.

I'm happy to go forward and allocate ARPA funds. The only thing I would love to hear from the Finance Department or from other Councillors, is just if you know we had been assuming for the Fare-Free Bus program that we will be using ARPA funds, we need a commitment that there'll be some funds available. Otherwise, it's very hard for me and the Mayor and City staff to have conversations with the MBTA and with Boston that we wanna pursue this unless we have some dedication from the City that we will be having some funds available. And so, if we end up using ARPA funds

for other causes, because of the Anti-Eight Amendment, I would just like that, you know, we have some level of assurance that we will use free-cash or other things and that's just on my mind, because otherwise it will be very difficult for us to proceed with those ARPA funds.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor. So, we do have a broad range of interests here. Is--let me just see if someone else has signed up. Councillor Nolan, please.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. And just to follow on what Councillor Azeem just noted about the Fare-Free budget, we have been tossing back and forth from on Climate and Environmental Justice initiatives, which could range up to \$20 million or \$30 million, because there's such a need. But I think the expectation is just a few million will be allocated to some of the various projects whether it's a District Energy Geogrid, whether it's providing electrification for low-income households in the City. There's heat--heat packs, there's some of the transportation issues as well. So, I--again, like many others, it wouldn't be expected that all of the money would go to that, but certainly some of it will be I believe. And

the expectation is that some of it would be reserved for that, because it--it blends together some of our the urgency around the climate crisis as well as much of it is related to helping those folks through an environmental justice and equity lens to ensure that we're moving forward with the people who are most in need of some of the--some of the resources.

So again, just to ballpark it, I believe it will end up being in hoping it would be a few million dollars reminded all of us that the actual decision we understand is with the City Manager, so we can certainly request, we can advocate, we can--we can urge and--and yet ultimately the decision is with the Finance Team and the City Manager.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, it seems to me that the Co-Chairs had to put a list together based on this meeting. And--and so, I don't expect the City to respond in detail now. But I--I think out of respect, we should look to Mr. Kale and his team to comment on the--on the thoughts of the Council. Those that you feel you can make now or question?

I can summarize first, if you want me to. I--I think there's an overall feeling that free-cash or other funds

that typical will find the funds, can they be used to supplement this fund, especially a few of the areas that have been discussed? I--I think it's fair to say that City has responded in areas that are important to the Council and that one page chart. But we've brought up other areas, and certainly Heart has been highlighted today as well.

So, I could see that there would be the need for another meeting. I'm looking at my Co-Chair another meeting to discuss these priorities mentioned, to work with them and then sit down with the City. Councillor?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. I also want to remind us, we are in--in a position where it's another two weeks where the current City Manager will be in place. So, depending on the timing of the meeting, it will either be with the current City Manager, or we will be having an interim for an undetermined amount of time until the next City Manager, Mr. Huang starts. So, I--I just want to be transparent and open about the fact that that is also something for us to just bear in mind as we move forward with these--this discussion.

I will also say, it's really exciting. I'm glad we're being this transparent. I know there's also been some

frustration in the community that hasn't been--the decisions aren't made in the same way as other communities. It has to do with how--with the structure of our government. So, I just want to remind all of us, I think, working as Chair Carlone said, we have certainly done everything we can to make sure that we're fully transparent as soon as we get the request. The Finance Department has put them up online. We are being open about--about what this is. And I think for all of us we have seen with the incredible range of worthy proposals how difficult and challenging it is to--to fund all of this.

There's also been some back and forth on proposals that are in the millions of dollars. It might be a little more challenging than if it's a really targeted specific \$20,000 or \$50,000 proposal for a specific area very much in line with Council goals. That's a--that's another balance I think that the Finance team and the City Manager have taken into account about--about how it is that we can be the most pointed and the most effective and--and impactful in our community.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So, before I go to Councillor Zondervan, who has his hand up, I just think it-

-it related to this subject, Vice Mayor?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Yes, I would just love to have.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: I have a question before we go back to Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: So--and this is a question for--for the Chair, for Councillor Zondervan. I'm just looking at the--the policy order.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, I am as well.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: We all are. There were 65 total community project ideas. There are 19 on this--on this policy order. I'm not sure how we got--and I'm not sure how we got to those 19. I'm not sure how the count--how our colleague got to these particular 19 out of the 65.

My question really is around, we're talking about the CNC needing \$20 million for their grant program to support the nonprofit community. If we are, let's say putting forward some \$10 million to fund these specific programs for these 19 nonprofits, does the--does the nonprofit community, the Cambridge Nonprofit Community Coalition, do

they need the full \$20 million? I just think that's a question for us to be asking right now. I know I don't want to pit anyone against anyone. But I do think that if we are looking at buckets of money, this is a conversation that we should be having. And so, my question for Councillors--for Councillor Zondervan is how we got to these 19 on this piece of paper, and how the interplay between these 19 projects works with the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition ask of \$20 million, which I understand they wanna do a grant-based opportunity, based on--you know, your--your operating costs it would be on a sliding scale. I think, Ms. Sokolow-Kaufman, really explained it very well. So, I'm just--I'm wondering if--at this juncture, Councillor Zondervan could just kind of give us a little bit of that information.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: All right, but first, can I ask the City to respond to our discussion, which is much more specific than any previous one, because we're getting down to the end of funds. And we're asking for a much more involvement than in the past, with the set goals in the past and City did a fairly good job of matching those goals as on that full chart.

So, going from here, and I realize the manager is not

here. Mr. Kale, how do you suggest we proceed?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Through you, Mr. Co-Chair. I guess there's sort of five or six things in play at the same time. And I guess I would suggest that you as a Council need to make some more crystallized recommendations. Because I'm not sure free-cash will be in the cards. And even if it were, some of the things that are proposed legally may not be able to be funded from free-cash as they're designed.

Secondly, you're using a list that I don't know if the entire Council has decided that this list is the list, or it's the starting point. I believe that you also are somewhat in flux on some of the other priority areas about the transit and the climate crisis, without having dollar specific, or the--you know, I heard \$20 million for the nonprofit. I think that we've had several meetings with the Nonprofit Coalition to talk about nitty-gritty. And Michele and Betty have been in those meetings. And how those funds would get distributed based upon the criteria that Michele outlined is important to recognize.

It also means that--not again, if in fact the nonprofit did not experience harm, they probably are not

gonna get any money. So, I--I guess I wanna be very open about where we are. We've got a lot of balls in the air. And we will continue to meet with the nonprofits. We've had several meetings to work on their project profile. But again, I--I think that if in this--you know, this gets into the General Government Services component, if in fact it's determined that the--any of these ideas or the bigger ones are not eligible for the direct COVID funds, the only place you have funds are from the Government Services bucket, which is part of the \$18 million.

So, I--I just wanna make sure that we understand that just because you come up with an idea, it's gonna be able to have that COVID hook. And if it doesn't have that COVID hook, it's only place you can fund it, which has less restrictions is the Government Services pot. But--and again, we're looking at this. I am not sure if the Climate Crisis proposals or the Transit proposals are gonna be in that COVID hook category, or they're gonna have to come from what's left in the Government Services category. And if they're not coming from there, are they things that legally can be funded from free-cash?

So, this is a multilayered matrix. If you're a Star

Trek fan, if you remember, Mr. Spock, playing a three-tiered chess board game. This is sort of what it feels like right now, because there's a lot of moving pieces here about what can or cannot be funded, and from which pot it should be funded or could be funded based upon the review from the Manager. I don't believe there will be a recommendation to allocate a blanket free-cash allocation on the 27th, just because I don't think there's any information to be had at this point. It's gonna require more thoughtful dialogue.

So, I think the Council in terms of making recommendations, and--and I'll be honest with you, I think we sort of need--need to know where you're landing so that we can give you the proper guidance to see if it's a--a project that is able to be funded from COVID funds and meets the criteria, or is it a proposal that needs to come from the Government Services? What are the dollar amounts you're looking at? Because I've heard, frankly, several different amounts at the same time, and the bridge is free-cash. Free-cash isn't certified to the fall. So, I will say that.

So, I think some more conversation needs to be had to

come up with some more a definitive game plan, so that we can respond adequately and completely. So, I guess that--I hope that answers your question.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Actually, that's why I asked you to get clarity. And I have thoughts in my mind, but and I know Councillor Zondervan is waiting. But related to this discussion, Councillor Nolan.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Excuse me, we have to do a roll call?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes. It's related to this question of how it is that we would allocate the funds on nonprofits.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: I'm-I'm sorry. I've--we have to extend our meeting officially 15 minutes over 10s in 30 seconds. Just 15.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Okay, roll call to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

Executive Assistant Naomie Stephen called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan -Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Absent

Yes-6, Absent-3.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Councillor Nolan?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: I'll be very quick just to remind us all in the context of all of this. There are a couple of things, for instance, on the list of the policy order before us that have been funded. So, we just have to keep that in mind.

There's other nonprofits that I certainly would add to the list, you know, Breakthrough Greater Boston, the short amount of money for Alewife Neighborhood Association, that Mayor reminded me that she also has been very supportive of the Friends of Jerry's Pond. They sent us an email, they-- they had to drop off. They waited for two hours, were called, but their proposal reminded us of the Heat Island Effect, and that they have independent analysis and suggested adding trees to where it is they are would reduce the Heat Island in this Environmental Justice Area. And

that opportunity is also something that the Mayor is interested in.

So, I'm not sure how we're gonna gather all this in order to understand how it is that we move forward to give more direction to the staff. And I also wanna note, I appreciate the staff has already extended an hour and 15 minutes more than they expected. And I know it's very challenging, and I wanna appreciate it. And we'll--we'll do what we can to make sure we don't extend it any further. But it's kind of sorry.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: We have two Councillors who wish to speak. And I will let them speak. My own sense is that the Co-Chairs have a lot of work to do. And that we need to have another meeting in great detail to--to make this list real, so that the City can respond to it and fairness to the City. I think Mr. Kale's comments are right on the money.

So, Councillor Zondervan, I know you have the policy order in front of you. And there might be something else you want to talk about. And after you, Councillor McGovern wishes to speak. Councillor Zondervan, please.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr.

Chair, through you. So, two things, I do wanna get to answering the Vice Mayor's question as well. But I--I don't think we should wait, because as we've seen, the money is being allocated very quickly. So, if we don't take action tonight, we may well find ourselves in a place where we have no funding left.

So, what I'm going to do is, move that. We forward the amended version of this policy order to the City Council with a favorable recommendation. We can add or remove names from the list, we can adjust the amount and, you know, as--as Mr. Kale explained, this--this is our recommendation. So, even if something's not on the list, that doesn't mean it can't get funded. If something is on the list, that doesn't mean it will get funded. So, you know, we--we don't have to overthink this. We--we just need to provide our priorities, our recommendations, what we would like to see happen. And then the--the City Manager will ultimately make the final decision anyway.

I then wanna quickly answer the Vice Mayor's question about how we came up with this particular list. And also wanna refer the Committee to my communication from May 23rd. It was a late communication. It didn't make it onto

the City Council Final Actions List, but the Clerk's office was able to add it to tonight's agenda after all. So, it should be available to you. But it--it outlines how the \$10.5 million that was proposed in the original order is allocated across different categories, including affordable housing, upgrading to shelters and low-income senior housing, direct Services for people facing housing instability and homelessness, addressing food insecurity, environmental justice, and open space initiatives, creating economic opportunity for people impacted by the pandemic, funding intersectional enduring arts and cultural proposals, and funding crisis response and mental health initiatives.

So, you know, my Aide, Dan Totten, and I went through the--all the proposals that were available to us, and--and curated this list. That doesn't mean it's--it's the final answer. And you know, again, if--if colleagues have specific organizations they would like to add, we can certainly do that. As--as was noted, the Magazine Beach Partners received an allocation of the full \$1.8 million. The policy order asked for \$500,000. So--so, we can take that out of the allocation. And then, I believe, Bear Cove

and Food-for-Free also received some funding, although we may wanna keep that in there anyway.

So, you know, we can--we can change the amount, we can keep it the same and add some other organizations. And again, even if these numbers don't all add up exactly to \$10.5 million, it doesn't matter because the Manager can allocate that funding as--as he sees fit. I wanted to make one--one other comment as well. And I think we should regardless of how we do it, ensure that we make it clear that it is a Council priority that the Heart program receive ARPA funding. And if the Manager feels that it can't, then you know we should--we should learn that from--from the Manager's office, but I think it's--it's been pretty clear that that's a priority and--and we need to affirm that through a vote tonight to make sure that that is communicated to the Manager's office.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay. I did receive a message that this room is going to have a 06:30 meeting that has been scheduled. And so, we really do have to end by 06:15. That's a good thing. And my--my concern about the policy order is not the substance. It's the specificity. And I agree we could modify that. But I think in principle,

the Council wants to be active.

Mr. Kale, Councillor Zondervan said, funds could be appropriated between now and two weeks from now, a month from now, whatever the next meeting is. I think we're requesting that that not be the case, at least before talking to the Co-Chairs. And understanding why that is. Could you tell us what your thoughts are on that?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Okay.
Specifically, what's the question?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Appropriating funds before the next meeting?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Well, the next meeting is June 27th. I honestly don't believe the Manager, at this point, based upon all the moving pieces on the table has much clarity about what exactly--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Good.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: --is being recommended. And frankly, I would say that having another list that hasn't been fully flushed out, probably only adds to the confusion. I understand the intent of the list. But I think that as you noted, another meeting to have some priority setting and clarity to what you want to recommend

to the Manager probably would serve the Council well, as opposed to have 15 things floating in space, and then, trying to figure out where stuff should land.

I think it may just delay the decision-making. That's my opinion. But I would just say I think that I don't--as I said, I don't think there's enough clarity here, so that the Manager would make any recommendation. And again, I could be corrected. But I don't think he's in a position based upon listening to this conversation, that he's gonna come up with a free-cash appropriation for any specific item here, because I think the whole issue is can that be legally funded from free-cash. But then, how does that fit into the overall ARPA funding? And again, there is still \$18 million available. And I guess the--this whole conversation has been about listening to the feedback. And I think we've heard a lot of different feedback.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Let me just--oh, please communicate first.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR MICHELE KINCAID: He's just asking that the \$18 million doesn't shrink. And--

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: Well, and I guess the other thing, Michele, just remind me, I--at this point,

I will verify this with the Manager. I think the reason why we did what we did about putting out this list is, so that you can understand some of the things that are--are funding in terms of testing and--and things that deal with--I don't envision, and I will verify this with the Manager that he intends at the moment to add to anything to reduce the \$18 million between now and the end of--end of his tenure.

I can verify that. But I think that was a good point from Michele. I think that was the purpose of doing this list for you tonight, which was to sort of see where we were thinking and give you a blueprint. But I will verify that. Again, I can't imagine since we've spent so much time on this that there's something that we've missed. So, I'll leave that to you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: And then the free-cash would go for projects on the list now that are eligible for free-cash such as the park, such as housing, as we've done in the past.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: I--I--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: That's what we're talking--that's what I'm talking.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: And I--and I

guess, I would say based upon this conversation, I'm not quite sure there's a sense of what exactly the Manager would come forth on, based upon listening to some varied opinions and varied conversations. So, I don't think the manager in his crew has acted impulsively. So, I--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: We're not asking him to.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: So, I don't think he would come forward with something unless he was pretty clear that it was something that should come, or as I said, it may give us some time between now and the fall to sort of decide if--and free-cash--if the new Manager the interim Manager, decides the free-cash should supplement the ARPA funding or not, I think it gives you some time to do that. But I--I don't think the Manager--again I--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay. I have to make my point clearer then. I'm suggesting the free-cash go to projects that have been funded by free-cash in the past.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE: And I guess, which projects would those be?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: The ones discussed. The affordable housing and the open space. That--that's what

I'm discussing. People have expanded that, I get it. Okay, we're--we're running out of time. Councillor--all right, Councillor Zondervan's policy order is before us. But before that, Councillor McGovern, had his hand up, Councillor?

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll try to be quick. Agreed that I--I'm obviously not a lawyer, but I think that there are things that we have funded like Spalding, like Magazine Beach, things that we have funded out of free-cash in the past. And I don't see why they couldn't be funded out of free-cash now.

I would recommend--I don't know if we're gonna move forward with Councillor Zondervan's policy order tonight. But I would like to offer an amendment, another---an additional ordered section, that the City Manager seek alternative sources of funding, including free-cash where possible, to maximize the use of ARPA funding for programs that cannot otherwise be funded. And at least that get some thinking about it. He can report back and say whatever he says. But if we don't ask, we're not gonna get an answer.

And then, I would also say, Mr. Chair, if there's--if Councillors are concerned about the amounts that are being

suggested in Councillor Zondervan's order, it could be possible to just say that we would like those proposals to be funded, and not put amounts with them, since at the end of the day, that's gonna be the Manager's call anyway. And that way, we cannot have to get bogged down in the weeds of \$100,000 here, \$50,000 there.

And then lastly, Mr. Chair, I would recommend that we recess, not adjourn, so that we can pick up this meeting right where we ended, as opposed to starting over with another few hours of public comment and whatnot. That just, you know, makes it harder for us to get to the business. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you for your recommendations. Councillor, would you mind sending that amendment to--to Lori, she'll give you her email, right now?

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Happy to.

MS. LORI PEREZ: It's lperez@cambridgema.gov

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Mr. Chair?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, we're gonna come to you, Councillor. So, you got that Councillor McGovern? Yes, Councillor.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: I did. Thank you, sorry.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Councillor Zondervan, yes.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are we going to vote on this policy order tonight?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: I'm trying to. It looks like we're gonna have to do another five minutes.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: So--

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Okay. So--so, I do have some amendments.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Councillor, we're really being squeezed here, time wise. I've already been told that we have to stop the meeting. And I'm adding it to get the vote in. If we have amendments now, I would say we should recess, and this sort of be the first bit of information at the next gathering. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, but it will be the first, and we will talk about this after the meeting. And my goal is to take everybody's input, and try to come up with a strategy that is fair to all.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: So, when are we planning to meet again?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: It--it'll be as soon as

we can have an opening.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Next week?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: If there is an opening,
yes.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Okay.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: All right. Did you
wanna say something Co-Chair?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Well, no, we have to,
it's 06:15.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes. Okay.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: And because there have
to be amendments to this given just Magazine Beach.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So, I move that we
recess this meeting until the foreseeable future.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NAOMIE STEPHEN: Roll Call to
recess the meeting.

Executive Assistant Naomie Stephen called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Absent

Yes-6, Absent-3.

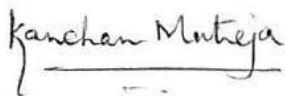
COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Thank you for all coming. It was a long meeting. But we did get a lot accomplished with more work to come. Thank you all.

The Cambridge City Council Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 06:16 pm.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Kanchan Mutreja**, a transcriber for Datagain, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 7th day of February 2023.



Signature of Transcriber

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 14, 2022 3:00 PM (Committee Reports)