

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to recommendations for the block rates for water consumption and sewer use for the period beginning April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2027. (CM26#66) [[text of report](#)]
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$900,000 from the Mitigation Revenue Stabilization Fund and the rescission of funds from two grants in the amount of \$2,000,000 and \$400,000 respectively to support a new off-road bridge over the Fitchburg Rail Line. (CM26#67) [[text of report](#)]
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a BUEDO Review Board Appointment. (CM26#64) [[text of report](#)]
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to classification of the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) Review Board as special municipal employees. (CM26#65) [[text of report](#)]
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$5,234,379 from Free Cash to support snow operations. (CM26#61) [[text of report](#)]
6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$700,000 from Free Cash to support road repairs related to snow operations. (CM26#62) [[text of report](#)]
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR26-21 regarding exploration of a potential Snow Corps program. (CM26#63) [[text of report](#)]
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the 2025 Town Gown Reports and Presentations discussed by the Planning Board in February. (CM26#60) [[text of report](#)]

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light up City Hall in light blue, light pink, and white from Mar 31, 2026, until Apr 6, 2026, in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler (PO26#57)
2. City Council support of H.91 and S.2556, An Act to modernize funding for community media programming. Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Flaherty (PO26#58)
3. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department and the Transportation Department to meet with Harvard's Office of Community Relations and the Longwood Collective (MASCO) to harmonize institutional bus protocols with public-facing

commitments. Councillor Al-Zubi, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan (PO26#59)

4. That the City Manager is requested to direct relevant City departments and staff to examine and report back on whether the city can require single-stall public bathrooms to be gender-neutral. Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Al-Zubi (PO26#61) [[attachment](#)]

5. Support A Federal Earmark to Take Plans for the Boston-Cambridge Riverwalk Construction at Science Park to 25% Design. Councillor Zusy, Councillor Flaherty (PO26#63)

ON THE TABLE

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to raise the fee of the parking permit program for all residents to \$75, consider how to include a self-identified check off option so as not to increase administrative costs for a subsidized fee of \$25 for residents who live in affordable housing, are enrolled in a program such as SNAP or are low income, remove the senior exemption for the residential parking permit program and lower the number of cars that individual residents are allowed to get a residential parking permit for from four to two. [Charter Right – Simmons, Feb 9, 2026; Tabled Mar 2, 2026] (PO26#32)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. Amend section 4.50 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance as follows with the intent of permitting the use of land for the following purposes as-of-right in all zoning districts: religious purposes; educational purposes on land owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies, subdivisions or bodies politic or by a religious sect or denomination, or by a nonprofit educational corporation; and for a child care center, school-aged child care program, family child care home, or large family child care home as defined in section 1a of Chapter 15d of Massachusetts General Laws. [Passed to 2nd Reading Mar 2, 2026] (ORD26#1)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Federico Muchnik – Our bills have shot up faster than the national inflation rate.
2. Victoria Ruff – S.1022 and H.1559.
3. William O'Brien, Jr. – From Neighbors of 95 Cushing Street re: Concerns Regarding the New Zoning Law and Proposed Development on 95 Cushing Street: Call for Moratorium, Further Review, Neighborhood Consultation

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to the CRLS Unified Sports Program on achieving recognition as a National Banner Unified Champion School and celebrates its ongoing commitment to inclusion and excellence. Mayor Siddiqui

2. That the Cambridge City Council express its deep appreciation for Minara’s contributions to the cultural, social, and civic life of Cambridge. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Al-Zubi

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Finance Committee** held a public hearing on Feb 25, 2026 to receive a status update on Federal Grants (including ARPA) and the Federal Grant Stabilization Fund, as well as a discussion on establishing future Budget Priorities. [[text of report](#)]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Interim City Clerk Paula Crane, regarding an update regarding legislative activity. (COF26#30)
2. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a memorandum regarding information from the School Committee. (COF26#31) [[text of report](#)]

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Mar 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Mar 24

12:30pm The **Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss the 2026 City Manager’s Annual Goals and Review Process.

3:00pm The **Housing Committee** will hold a public hearing to receive an update on the Central Square Planning Process.

Wed, Mar 25

11:00am The **Housing Committee and Neighborhood Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, and Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a joint meeting to discuss present findings on the state of housing production since the passage of the Multifamily Zoning in February 2025.

3:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss CM26#21, related to Cambridge Municipal Code Ch. 8.28, “Regulation on Youth Access and Sale of Tobacco Products and on Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places,” in order to (1) update the current ordinance to conform to widely adopted municipal policies, new state laws, and court decisions, as well as (2) to discuss the recent regulatory landscape in Massachusetts regarding tobacco products.

Mon, Mar 30

11:00am The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public meeting to review the Community Benefits Ordinance and discuss potential updates including allowing the allocation of funding to community organizations for capital projects. ([CM25#299](#))

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Mar 31

3:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Annual Report and the Climate Committee’s review and report.

Tues, Apr 7

3:00pm The **Housing Committee and Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts, and Celebration Committee** will continue their joint public hearing reviewing the impacts of the Multifamily Housing Ordinance. This meeting will feature outside experts, including a realtor, developer, and professors of urban planning, landscape architecture, housing, and transportation policy. They will share their observations, ideas for other ways to accomplish our goals, and recommendations for improvements. Followed by Committee discussion. There will be no public comment.

Wed, Apr 8

12:30pm The **Human Services and Veterans Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the final research report on Rise Up Cambridge. (CM26#28)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Mar 23, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: Transgender Day of Visibility was created by Trans activist Rachel Crandall-Crocker to increase awareness of the challenges gender-diverse communities face while also celebrating their courage and contributions to society; and

WHEREAS: The Trans and gender-diverse community has experienced numerous attacks through the year from bans on Trans girls in sports to removing Trans people from the military; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to equity, inclusion, protection and celebration of all its residents including transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse residents, employees, workers, and visitors; and

WHEREAS: Visibly celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility confirms the City of Cambridge’s commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive community that affirms the dignity and personhood of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse people and their invaluable contributions to our society; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge community is committed to ensuring that transgender and nonbinary individuals feel seen, heard, valued, and appreciated; now therefore be it RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing March 31 as the annual Light the World in Color initiative for Transgender Day of Visibility; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light up City Hall in light blue, light pink, and white from March 31, 2026, until April 6, 2026, in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility.

O-2 Mar 23, 2026

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY

WHEREAS: Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) access programming, such as CCTV, CEA-TV and CityView 22, provides residents with direct access to local government, reliable public information, and community voices, serving as a critical safeguard against misinformation, a trusted source of communication during emergencies, and a cornerstone of a healthy democratic process; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge relies on cable franchise fees to fund PEG programming, including the broadcast and archiving of government meetings and other public resources; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts is experiencing a steady decline in cable subscriptions, due to an increase in the use of streaming services, reducing the revenue that supports these essential services; and

WHEREAS: Streaming platforms use public rights of way to deliver content but are not currently required to provide comparable compensation, creating an inequitable system; and

WHEREAS: H.91 and S.2556 would modernize the Commonwealth's funding framework to reflect current technology and ensure sustainable support for community media; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council hereby expresses its strong support for H.91 and S.2556, An Act to modernize funding for community media programming; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council urges the Cambridge Delegation to advocate for the passage of this legislation and support its favorable consideration by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to the members of the Cambridge Delegation to the Massachusetts General Court and to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-3 Mar 23, 2026

COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council is dedicated to mobility justice and ensuring that all residents, especially seniors, people with disabilities, and those in transit-underserved neighborhoods, have access to reliable transportation; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has been working to address citywide transportation needs and is waiting for the results of the requested "Citywide Shuttle + Transit Gap Study" (Awaiting Report Item 25-23), which incorporates all shuttles, including university shuttles; and

WHEREAS: Harvard University leadership has stated on the public record as recently as June 2024 that its shuttle network is a "free of charge" resource for anyone in the City to use; and

WHEREAS: While earlier agreements focused on the "study" of public access, the 175 North Harvard Street Cooperation Agreement (formalized April 4, 2024) and the University's own 2024-2025 Annual Report now list "Allston/Brighton/Cambridge resident access to the Harvard Shuttle" as a specific, ongoing commitment; and

WHEREAS: Despite these commitments and public promises, many residents continue to report being denied boarding on buses due to an operational "ID-only" protocol enforced by drivers; and

WHEREAS: The M2 (Cambridge-Boston) shuttle, which provides a vital connection to the Longwood Medical Area, remains effectively inaccessible to many because it requires a pre-purchased physical ticket from obscure locations rather than modern digital or onboard payment; and

WHEREAS: Harvard's transition to zero-emission electric buses was supported by public grant programs from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, establishing a clear public interest in the equitable use of these assets; and

WHEREAS: This request is a logical next step that builds on the City's Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Ordinance; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department and the Transportation Department to meet with Harvard's Office of Community Relations and the Longwood Collective (MASCO) to harmonize institutional bus protocols with public-facing commitments, specifically by ensuring shuttle drivers are formally instructed to allow residents to board without an institutional ID; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take all reasonable steps to leverage existing municipal communication channels to bridge the current information

gap, focusing on low-overhead implementation through tools such as: updating the CDD “By Transit” webpage to include a dedicated section on resident access and links to real-time tracking via the PassioGo! app; using the Daily Updates from the City Manager, the Transportation Monthly newsletter, and official social media to remind residents of their rights as riders; tasking the Civic Outreach Squad with sharing route information during their regularly scheduled community engagement with seniors and low-income households; and working with the Longwood Collective to implement more accessible or digital ticketing options for the M2 shuttle; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ensure these efforts are integrated into the final results of the “Citywide Shuttle + Transit Gap Study” and to report back to the City Council on progress in a timely manner.

O-4 Mar 23, 2026

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

WHEREAS: Members of the public, regardless of their gender, should be granted access to safe, clean bathrooms in public accommodations throughout Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Cities and states across the United States require single-stall public bathrooms to be gender-neutral, including the cities of [Denver, Colorado](#); [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#); [Portland, Oregon](#); [Seattle, Washington](#); and [Washington, D.C.](#) and the states of [California](#), [Illinois](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York](#), and [Vermont](#); and

WHEREAS: In 2012, Cambridge adopted a city-wide policy to encourage the establishment of gender-neutral bathrooms in City-owned buildings and privately-owned public use buildings, in line with the State Plumbing Code; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has been unable to require that single-stall public bathrooms be gender-neutral due to the State Plumbing Code, as city ordinances cannot conflict with the Plumbing Code; and

WHEREAS: On December 8, 2023, [changes to the State Plumbing Code](#) went into effect, including new regulations regarding gender-neutral bathrooms; and

WHEREAS: Given the recent changes to the State Plumbing Code, the City should revisit this issue to determine whether the City can require single-stall public bathrooms to be gender-neutral; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department, the Inspectional Services Department, the Law Department and any other appropriate City departments and staff to examine whether the City can enact an ordinance requiring public buildings and places of public accommodation in Cambridge with one or more single-stall bathrooms to have

at least one single-stall bathroom with gender-neutral signage, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-5 Mar 23, 2026

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY

WHEREAS: The MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), MassDOT, the Museum of Science and over 30 environmental, walking and biking groups have been working on a proposal to create a Boston-Cambridge Riverwalk Construction at Science Park for many years; and

WHEREAS: This visionary idea to physically connect Boston and Cambridge with an engaging river walkway connecting the loop of the Paul Dudley White Bike Path has been percolating for decades; and

WHEREAS: It would spur economic development on both sides of the river while providing a unique experience and benefiting the river’s ecology; and

WHEREAS: The proposed project would improve the safety and mobility of residents and visitors as they walk, run and bike along the riverfront without needing to traverse on the Charles River Dam Road, a main thoroughfare with heavy and frequent motor vehicle traffic; and

WHEREAS: A 2023 feasibility study led by the Museum of Science and funded by a \$209,427 grant from the Federal Economic Development Administration has proved it possible; and

WHEREAS: This MassDOT project #614025 requires further funding to take it to a 25% Design stage which would include, but not be limited to a site investigation, alternative analysis, robust public outreach and engagement activities, development of conceptual designs, cost estimates, and advancement of a preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS: DCR now seeks a \$3 million Federal earmark for this, through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Economic Development Initiatives account in the FY2027 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill; therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record in support of funding this Boston-Cambridge Riverwalk Construction at Science Park Project; and

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward Markey, U.S. Representative Stephen F. Lynch, and U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley.