

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a federal update including an update on relevant court cases. (CM26#69) [[text of report](#)]
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of **Will MacArthur** as a new member of the Open Data Review Board for a term of two years, effective Mar 30, 2026. (CM26#70) [[text of report](#)]
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to plans for replacement of the City's legacy Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software system. (CM26#71) [[text of report](#)]
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an overview of the City's initial Artificial Intelligence efforts. (CM26#72) [[text of report](#)]
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR26-12 regarding Harvard Square pedestrianization. (CM26#75) [[text of report](#)]
6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR26-3 (AR25-48) regarding establishing a formal policy that clearly defines the City's role and financial responsibilities in supporting large-scale public events hosted by Cambridge-based non-profit and not-for-profit organizations, including criteria for fee waivers. (CM26#76) [[text of report](#)]
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR26-9 regarding and report back to the Council on (i) legal parameters related to City funding and Tourism Destination Marketing District restrictions, and (ii) oversight and accountability related to the operation of the visitor information kiosk, and related governance expectations, including alignment with City priorities. (CM26#77) [[text of report](#)]
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to AR26-17 regarding proposed updates to the City's Welcoming Community Ordinance. (CM26#74) [[text of report](#)]

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Law Department to work with the Cambridge Public Health Department to amend and update language in Chapter 8.28 of the Cambridge Municipal Code. Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern (PO26#65)
2. That the City Manager is requested to initiate the planning process for Cambridge 400 and as part of this, to convene a Cambridge 400 Advisory Committee composed of members representing the range of stakeholders whose participation is needed to guide this work. Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui (PO26#66)

3. City Council support of *An Act Promoting Housing Stability For Older Adults Across The Commonwealth*. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern (PO26#67)
4. City Council support of S.2721/H.5217, *An Act Restricting The Use Of Rodenticides In The Environment*. Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan (PO26#68)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to review the current legal landscape and provide recommendations for how to regulate construction of large data centers in Cambridge. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy (PO26#69)
6. That the City Council go on record proclaiming Apr 6-12, 2026 as Cambridge Public Health Week in special appreciation of the dedicated work of City government, community organizations, health professionals, businesses, and residents in advancing health equity and building a healthier, more resilient Cambridge. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan (PO26#70)
7. That the City Council go on record proclaiming Apr 13-20, 2026 as International Dark Sky Week in the City of Cambridge, and calls upon all residents, businesses, institutions, and City departments to join in observing this important week by raising awareness of light pollution, adopting responsible outdoor lighting practices, and supporting the protection of our shared night sky as a precious and finite resource. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan (PO26#71)

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)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Heather Hoffman – Snow
2. Chuck Hinds – ECPT supports PO26#62 (US Government funds for the Riverwalk)
3. Susan Ringler – Please Vote NO on On the Table #1 and Unfinished Business #2
4. Beth Gamse & Judy Singer – MFH concerns
5. Rachel Weinstein – Order #4

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Interim City Clerk Paula Crane, regarding an update regarding legislative activity. (COF26#45)
2. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a memorandum regarding information from the School Committee. (COF26#46) [[text of report](#)]
3. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a memorandum regarding updates from the City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee. (COF26#47) [[text of report](#)]

HEARING SCHEDULE

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](#))
- 1:30pm The **City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee** will meet to go into **executive session** to consider applicants and interview applicants for the position of City Clerk by a preliminary screening committee because doing so in an open session will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. (Ackermann Room, in-person only, no public comment)
- 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.

Wed, Apr 1

- 11:00am The **City Clerk Preliminary Screening Committee** will meet to go into **executive session** to consider applicants and interview applicants for the position of City Clerk by a preliminary screening committee because doing so in an open session will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. (Ackermann Room, in-person only, no public comment)

Mon, Apr 6

- 5:30pm The City Council will hold a **Roundtable/Working Meeting** to discuss the best future uses of City-owned properties and associated redevelopment processes.

Tues, Apr 7

- 11:00am The **Public Safety Committee** will hold a public hearing on the Cambridge Police Department's federal immigration enforcement tracker. [[materials](#)]
- 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](#)).

Thurs, Apr 9

- 2:00pm The **Finance Committee** will hold a public hearing to continue the discussion from February 25, 2026, on establishing future Budget Priorities.

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Mar 30, 2026

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The Health and Environment Committee met on March 25, 2026 to review and discuss language in Chapter 8.28 of the Cambridge Municipal Code on Tobacco Products; now and therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Health and Environment Committee recommend to the full City Council that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Law Department to work with the Cambridge Public Health Department to amend and update language in Chapter 8.28 of the Cambridge Municipal Code as discussed in the March 25, 2026 Committee meeting.

O-2 Mar 30, 2026

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The year 2030 marks the Cambridge 400 anniversary – originally settled as Newtowne in 1630 – and this milestone presents an important opportunity for the community to reflect on our shared history, examine how Cambridge has evolved, and envision a future informed by lessons from the past; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge seeks to commemorate this anniversary through welcoming and accessible programs that encourage residents to think about our history, celebrate our diversity, and incorporate curiosity, pride, and inclusivity into our daily civic life; and

WHEREAS: This effort acknowledges that Indigenous peoples have lived in the place now called Cambridge for thousands of years, and recognizes that Indigenous voices, histories, and perspectives are essential to providing accurate, contextual, and meaningful narratives for the Cambridge 400 commemoration; and

WHEREAS: Many histories have been left out of traditional historical narratives, and Cambridge 400 presents a vital opportunity to uplift stories across all neighborhoods and communities – ensuring that the commemoration reflects the full breadth of Cambridge's lived experience; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge's robust arts and culture ecosystem – including artists, cultural organizations, creative workers, and community arts spaces – plays a central role in shaping the city's identity, and the Cambridge 400 commemoration presents opportunities to elevate local creativity, highlight cultural expression, and strengthen the cultural sector's long-term vitality; and

WHEREAS: Engaging Cambridge Schools and our young people is essential to the success of a Cambridge 400 celebration, as educational partnerships and youth participation will help ensure that the commemoration is forward-looking, reflective of the city's future, and grounded in intergenerational learning; and

WHEREAS: Major civic anniversaries in other municipalities have demonstrated significant tourism and economic development benefits, including increased visitation, strengthened support for local businesses, and expanded cultural tourism that highlights a city's unique assets; and

WHEREAS: A thoughtfully planned Cambridge 400 initiative can showcase the city's cultural institutions, artists, restaurants, small businesses, and commercial districts, providing broad economic benefits while ensuring that participation remains inclusive and equitable; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge's history and influence extend far beyond our municipal boundaries, and Cambridge 400 presents an opportunity to think both locally and globally – recognizing the ways Cambridge has shaped, and been shaped by, regional, national, and international movements that led to innovations in education, science, arts, civil rights, and public policy; and

WHEREAS: Successful planning for Cambridge 400 will require coordinated engagement among City departments, community partners, cultural and educational institutions, local businesses, and a diverse cross section of residents; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to initiate the planning process for Cambridge 400 and as part of this, to convene a Cambridge 400 Advisory Committee composed of members representing the range of stakeholders whose participation is needed to guide this work; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Advisory Committee be charged with advising on recommendations for programs, events, educational initiatives, public history activities, and economic and cultural opportunities that reflect Cambridge's full historical narrative and support an inclusive, critically engaged, and forward-looking commemoration.

O-3 Mar 30, 2026

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to advancing housing stability, health equity, and the overall well-being of its residents; and

WHEREAS: Older adults across the Commonwealth are increasingly at risk of housing instability due to rising costs, fixed incomes, and limited access to supportive housing resources; and

WHEREAS: [House Bill 4015](#) and [Senate Bill 475](#), *An Act Promoting Housing Stability For Older Adults Across The Commonwealth*, would expand a bridge subsidy program for low-income older adults aged 60 years and older, allowing them to access and maintain stable housing while awaiting long-term rental assistance; and

WHEREAS: This legislation would provide critical financial support by covering the gap between what older adults can afford and the cost of housing, helping to prevent homelessness and promote dignity and independence among seniors; and

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth continues to face significant disparities in health outcomes and access to care, particularly among communities of color and underserved populations; and

WHEREAS: [House Bill 1416](#) and [Senate Bill 901](#), *An Act to Advance Health Equity*, seek to improve access to quality care, invest in community-based health initiatives, strengthen the healthcare workforce, and enhance accountability in reducing health disparities; and

WHEREAS: These bills recognize the connection between stable housing and positive health outcomes, and aim to address systemic inequities that impact both; and

WHEREAS: Supporting these legislative efforts aligns with Cambridge's longstanding commitment to equity, public health, and housing stability for all residents; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in strong support of House Bill 4015, Senate Bill 475, House Bill 1416, and Senate Bill 901; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this Order to the Cambridge State Legislative Delegation and to the Governor on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-4 Mar 30, 2026

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Legislature is currently considering [S.2721/H.5217](#), *An Act Restricting The Use Of Rodenticides In The Environment*, which would significantly limit the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS: Anticoagulant rodenticides are highly toxic poisons that prevent blood from clotting, causing prolonged internal bleeding and death in animals that ingest them; and

WHEREAS: These poisons do not remain contained, but instead move through the food chain as rodents consume them and are then eaten by predators, extending the impact far beyond their intended use; and

WHEREAS: The effects on animals are often prolonged and inhumane, with poisoned wildlife and pets suffering for days from internal bleeding, weakness, and disorientation before dying; and

WHEREAS: Birds of prey such as hawks, owls, and eagles, who play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance, are especially vulnerable as they rely on rodents as a primary food source; and

WHEREAS: Scientific studies have documented the scale of this crisis, including [findings from the Tufts Wildlife Clinic](#) showing that 96 percent of raptors tested had been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides, and that 100 percent of red-tailed hawks tested showed exposure to these poisons, underscoring how pervasive contamination has become; and

WHEREAS: Local wildlife rehabilitators report that rodenticide poisoning is now one of the leading causes of rescue intakes for birds of prey, surpassing even injuries from vehicle strikes; and

WHEREAS: The impact extends beyond wildlife to domestic pets, including cats and dogs, who can be exposed directly or through secondary poisoning, placing families at risk of preventable loss and harm; and

WHEREAS: While the Commonwealth has taken steps to prohibit residential consumer use of these products, commercial use by licensed applicators remains permitted, continuing the risk of environmental contamination and harm to wildlife, pets, and public health; and

WHEREAS: In June 2025, the City of Cambridge took [local action](#) to address this issue by banning the use of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides on City owned properties and by City contractors, reflecting the City's commitment to protecting wildlife, pets, and public health; and

WHEREAS: Safer and more sustainable alternatives to rodent control exist, including integrated pest management practices that focus on

prevention, sanitation, and exclusion rather than widespread use of toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS: This legislation would end the registration and reregistration of anticoagulant rodenticides except in limited public health emergencies, while allowing the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to establish clear standards for any necessary emergency use; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council hereby go on record in strong support of S.2721/H.5217, An Act restricting the use of rodenticides in the environment; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council urges the Massachusetts Legislature to enact this legislation to protect wildlife, pets, public health, and the environment; and be it further

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

O-5 Mar 30, 2026
COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR ZUSY

WHEREAS: Data centers are facilities that house computer servers for processing and storing data, either for a single enterprise or multiple enterprises, that serve as critical infrastructure for Internet-based storage, complex software and language models, artificial intelligence (AI) functions, and other computing needs; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has emerged as a potentially attractive location for the growing data center landscape due to favorable factors such as its [proximity to developing data center projects](#), [Massachusetts's sales and tax use exemptions](#) and the state's establishment of [51 data centers](#) thus far; and

WHEREAS: Small data centers can be established in spaces as small as one or more floors of buildings, not requiring large parcels of land, which could be available and attractive in Cambridge in light of the concentration of commercial data users; and

WHEREAS: Economic incentives, such as an increased demand for maintenance and operation staffing, to establish these new centers have [limited long term profitability](#) with projects often resulting in [decreased state revenue](#); and

WHEREAS: The existence of data centers lower the City's quality of life for residents, particularly by unsafely raising [noise levels](#) as a byproduct of power generators or other power supply equipment, and cooling systems in data centers [consume substantial quantities of water](#), placing a [strain on local water resources](#) and intensifying water scarcity problems in urban jurisdictions and contributing to equity and sustainability issues; and

WHEREAS: As a result of their considerable energy demand, these centers have a [significant impact](#) on the City's electric grid, particularly [driving rate payer increases](#), and these centers can negatively [impact the air quality](#) in commercial and residential zones, risking the lasting health and well-being of residents; and

WHEREAS: Communities around the country have begun to take steps to limit large data centers from negatively impacting residents, ratepayers, and the environment, including [Anchorage, AK](#); [Kentucky](#); and [Mesa, AZ](#); and the [National League of Cities](#) has put together resources for local governments to understand data centers and their impacts on residents; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to review the current legal landscape and provide recommendations for how to regulate construction of large data centers in Cambridge and protect residents and local resources and utilities from their impact; and be it further

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

O-6 Mar 30, 2026
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that National Public Health Week, organized by the American Public Health Association, is celebrated across the country from April 6-12, 2026 with an ongoing focus on creating the healthiest nation in one generation by ensuring everyone has a chance to live a long and healthy life; and

WHEREAS: As a nation, we must address the underlying societal causes of poor health, such as racism, discrimination, barriers to a quality education and good jobs, violence, and unsafe housing and workplaces; and we must better understand how race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability status affect one's physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS: Health inequities continue to disproportionately affect communities that have historically faced discrimination and economic hardship, including people of color, elderly adults, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ+ community; and meaningful, sustained action is required to address the structural determinants of health that perpetuate these disparities; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has demonstrated an enduring commitment to public health through community health programs, partnerships with local organizations, equitable access to health services, and investments in housing, food security, mental health, and other social determinants of well-being; and

WHEREAS: The work to build a more equitable and healthier city requires the continued collaboration of City government, community organizations, health professionals, businesses, and residents – and that National Public Health Week offers an important opportunity to renew that commitment and elevate the voices of those working on the frontlines of public health; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming April 6-12, 2026 as Cambridge Public Health Week in special appreciation of the dedicated work of City government, community organizations, health professionals, businesses, and residents in advancing health equity and building a healthier, more resilient Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Tracy Rose-Tynes, Interim Chief Public Health Officer at the Cambridge Public Health Department on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-7 Mar 30, 2026

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS: The experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside the local community; and

WHEREAS: Light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS: 80 percent of the world's population, including residents of Cambridge, live under a dome of light pollution – excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness – and may never experience the visual wonder or the ecological and health benefits of living under a truly dark sky; and

WHEREAS: DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is committed to environmental stewardship, science education, and the well-being of its residents – values that align directly with the goals of International Dark Sky Week – and recognizes that thoughtful lighting policy is a meaningful lever for protecting public health, conserving energy, and preserving the natural environment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming April 13-20, 2026 as International Dark Sky Week in the City of Cambridge, and calls upon all residents, businesses, institutions, and City departments to join in observing this important week by raising awareness of light pollution, adopting responsible outdoor lighting practices, and supporting the protection of our shared night sky as a precious and finite resource.