



# City of Cambridge

## Executive Department

**YI-AN HUANG**  
City Manager

CMA 2025 #69  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
March 31, 2025

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please find attached a memorandum regarding a draft home rule petition to authorize the City of Cambridge to implement automated parking enforcement technology by City Solicitor, Megan Bayer.

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang  
City Manager



Megan B. Bayer  
City Solicitor

Elliott J. Veloso  
Deputy City Solicitor

Kate M. Kleimola  
First Assistant City Solicitor



Assistant City Solicitors  
Paul S. Kawai  
Sean M. McKendry  
Diane O. Pires  
Sydney M. Wright  
Evan C. Bjorklund  
Franziskus Lepionka  
Andrea Carrillo-Rhoads

## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Office of the City Solicitor  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Public Records Access Officer  
Seah Levy

March 25, 2025

Yi-An Huang  
City Manager  
Cambridge City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**Re: *Response to AR 24-66 of November 18, 2024, requesting that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments to prepare a draft home rule petition to authorize the City of Cambridge to implement automated parking enforcement technology; and to continue to work with the City of Boston to collaborate on the home rule process.***

Dear Mr. Huang:

I am writing in response to the above-mentioned Council Order. On October 21, 2024, the Law Department responded to AR 24-51 which requested an opinion as to whether the City could use automated parking enforcement technology, such as camera-equipped automated license plate reader bollards. In that opinion, we recommended that the best approach would be to submit a Home Rule Petition seeking special legislation to authorize the use of automated parking enforcement technology. On November 18, 2024 the Council passed AR 24-66 requesting that the Law Department prepare this Home Rule Petition, and requesting that we work with the City of Boston to collaborate on this process.

We have prepared the proposed Home Rule Petition and are submitting it to the Council for approval. We have also worked with the City of Boston Law Department over the past several months, but Boston is not ready to move forward with a Home Rule Petition at this time. Therefore, we recommend including language in the Council's vote to approve the Home Rule Petition that allows for the Legislature to amend the home rule petition so that if Boston decides to pursue a parallel Home Rule Petition, the Legislature has the ability to add some consistency between the two cities. The language of the vote is attached.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Megan B. Bayer in black ink.  
Megan B. Bayer  
City Solicitor

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO EXPAND THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ISSUE NOTICES OF VIOLATION FOR PARKING ENFORCEMENT ABOVE THE LIMITS SET FORTH IN M.G.L. C. 90, §20A½ OR OTHER APPLICABLE STATE LAWS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary:

SECTION 1. In addition to the manner prescribed in M.G.L. c. 90, §20A½, the City of Cambridge shall be authorized to issue notices of violation of any rule, regulation, order, ordinance or by-law regulating the parking of motor vehicles within the City's boundaries in the following manner:

In the event that it is not possible or safe to deliver a copy of a notice of violation to the offender at the time and place of the violation by affixing it to the motor vehicle, said copy shall be sent by the officer, by his commanding officer, or by any person so authorized to issue such citations within ten days thereof, exclusive, in either case, of Sundays and holidays, to the address of the registrant of the motor vehicle registered under the laws of this commonwealth, in the records of the registry of motor vehicles, or, in the case of a motor vehicle registered under the laws of another state or country, in the records of the official in such state or country having charge of the registration of such motor vehicle. Such notice mailed by the officer, his commanding officer, or the person so authorized, to the last address of such registrant as appearing as aforesaid, shall be deemed as sufficient notice, and a certificate of the officer or person so mailing such notice that it has been mailed in accordance with this section shall be deemed prima facie evidence thereof and shall be admissible in any judicial or administrative proceeding as to the facts contained therein.

SECTION 2. In addition to the methods prescribed in M.G.L. c. 90, §20A½ and Section 1 of this act, the City of Cambridge may also issue notices of violation through the use of automated license plate readers (ALPR) or similar parking monitoring technologies. Photographs or data of parking violations detected by ALPR or similar systems and transmitted to the parking enforcement officers shall constitute “cognizance of a violation” for purposes of M.G.L. c. 90, §20A ½ and Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. Issuance of notices of violation through the use of ALPR readers or similar parking monitoring technologies shall be done in the manner prescribed for the mailing of notices of violation as set forth in Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 4. Issuance of notices of violation through any method under this act shall require the provision of evidence that an alleged violation occurred, in the form of photographs of the violation, monitoring data, or other evidence of the violation from the enforcement officer or the ALPR reader and similar parking monitoring technologies authorized under this act.

SECTION 5. This act shall take full effect upon passage.

Agenda Item No. 3  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
March 31, 2025

**ORDERED:** That the City Council petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact the attached home rule petition entitled, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO EXPAND THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ISSUE NOTICES OF VIOLATION FOR PARKING ENFORCEMENT ABOVE THE LIMITS SET FORTH IN G.L. C. 90, §20A½ OR OTHER APPLICABLE STATE LAWS; provided, that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.