



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #75
IN CITY COUNCIL
March 31, 2025

To the Honorable, the City Council:

As the Council is aware, we are seeing an unprecedented shift in federal policies that has created significant uncertainty for universities. This has included threatened cuts to NIH funding and other federal grant reductions that have already made deep impacts on universities throughout the region. As a result, Harvard has implemented a variety of cost saving measures, including a temporary pause on staff and faculty hiring across the university and reduction in graduate student admissions for the upcoming academic year.

In this context, the City and Harvard have agreed that it would be difficult to finalize a long-term PILOT agreement in time for the upcoming fiscal year. However, I am pleased to report that we have reached a one-year agreement for an increase in PILOT from their most recent payment of \$4.7M to \$6.0M in FY26 (*see attached commitment letter*). This represents the University's commitment to the Cambridge community, even during this time of uncertainty, and an acknowledgement that an updated agreement is needed.

We will also continue to negotiate in good faith and seek to finalize a mutually agreeable long-term 20-year resolution, with the hope that we can come to agreement in this calendar year.

Best,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



March 20, 2025

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

Dear City Manager Huang:

Pursuant to our recent dialogue regarding Harvard University's annual voluntary financial contribution to the City of Cambridge, I am pleased to confirm via this correspondence a commitment of \$6 million for the City's FY26 operating budget year. This contribution reflects Harvard's continued commitment to and appreciation for the long-standing and deeply integrated partnership between the University and the City of Cambridge and continues a century-long history of Harvard's voluntary contributions to the City.

We look forward to working with City leaders to finalize a longer-term agreement which will further invigorate the University's historic commitment to supporting Cambridge. In the meantime, the university remains committed to and deeply appreciates its many long-standing community partnerships with the City of Cambridge -- ranging from public school programs and family events to nonprofit partnerships to housing initiatives and beyond -- and to the creation of new programs that will serve our community and stakeholders in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Lucey".

Thomas J. Lucey
Senior Director of Government & Community Relations
Harvard University