



City of Cambridge

COF 2024 #59
IN CITY COUNCIL
May 6, 2024

MAYOR SIMMONS



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

E. Denise Simmons, Mayor 2008-2009 | 2016-2017 | 2024-2025

May 6, 2024

City Clerk Diane LeBlanc
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Communication re City Council Goals

Dear Madam City Clerk,

Please include this letter as a Communication for inclusion on the May 6, 2024 City Council agenda. In 2024, the City Council began discussions with the assistance of its consulting partner BDO to update its goals, which are the basis for the City's overall budget, guiding overall priorities, and supporting communicating major areas of work to the community. Over two public goal setting sessions, the City Council developed the following value statement and goals based upon their priorities and incorporating the results of the [2023 resident opinion survey <https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/citymanagersoffice/residentsurvey/2023residentsurveyresults.pdf>](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/citymanagersoffice/residentsurvey/2023residentsurveyresults.pdf).

Value Statement

The Cambridge City Council is committed to developing policies that are reflective of the shared values of our community, recognizing the diversity of our city- including but not limited to race, sexual orientation, language, nationality, income, age, and ability. We will conduct our deliberations with transparency, community engagement, and consideration of the financial and social implications on our residents, visitors, nonprofits, and businesses.

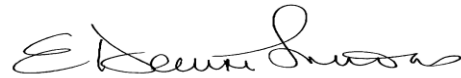
City Council Goals

- 1. Housing and Zoning:** Address the housing crisis by making it easier to build more housing of all types with a focus on affordability and protections for low, middle-income, elderly, and disabled residents.

2. **Economic Opportunity and Equity:** Ensure the City of Cambridge offers economic opportunities to all residents and businesses and is taking steps toward greater economic equity, especially among our marginalized communities.
3. **Transportation:** Improve the safety, efficiency, access, and sustainability of transportation options for all, and advocate for key transit priorities with the MBTA and other state and regional partners.
4. **Sustainability and climate resilience:** Deepen the City of Cambridge's commitment to addressing the climate crisis through the use of sustainable energy and strengthening climate resilience and supporting our residents and businesses through this transition.
5. **Government and Council performance:** The City Council is committed to effective decision making through close collaboration with each other and the City administration, to communicate transparently and to deepen accountability and engagement with the community.

On adoption of these new goals, the City Council intends to work closely with the City Manager and staff to streamline priorities, establish metrics to track performance, and allocate staffing and financial resources.

Sincerely,



Mayor E. Denise Simmons