

## **CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA**

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the following transfers within the General Fund School Department statutory accounts: \$53,419.19 from the School Salary and Wages account and \$4,040.30 from the to the School Travel and Training account to the School Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$22,652.36) and to the School Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$34,807.13). These reallocations are related to school improvement and professional development plans based on approved detail budget allocations by Principals.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of funds to the Cambridge Prevention Coalition in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account from the Cambridge Health Alliance which will be used to support the Middle Grades Survey.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the additional appropriation for the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) received from the Community Action Programs Inter-City (CAPIC) Inc. for \$53,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account and will be used to aid families who are either homeless or at high risk for losing their housing.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of user fees received from Cambridge Homeless Service Provider Agencies and surrounding communities to support the Cambridge Homeless Management Information System in the amount of \$11,550.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the \$28,930 in City Run Road Race revenues to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account and will benefit the Friends of Cambridge Athletics (\$11,000.00), the Special Olympics Program (\$4,500.00), the Andrea Harvey Memorial Fund (\$4,500.00) and the Youth Sports Commission's Coaches Training Program (\$3,930), with the balance used for in race expenditures (\$5,000).
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety for \$10,664.62 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$5,664.62), Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$3,000) and Travel and Training account (\$2,000) to provide funds to continue the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Program that educates students in the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment.
7. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY2009 Firefighting Equipment Grant funded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for \$28,378 to the Grant Fund Fire Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will allow the City to purchase equipment such as thermal imaging cameras and

replacement batteries and chargers for various pieces of equipment.

## **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 09-02, regarding a report on trains idling in the area of Cambridge Street. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Toomey on City Manager Agenda Number Two of May 11, 2009.]

## **ON THE TABLE**

2. Opposition to the closing of the Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center. [Placed on Table on motion of Councillor Maher on Order Number Fourteen of Nov 3, 2008.]

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Nov 18, 2004 for the purpose of considering proposed amendments to Chapter 2.74 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, the Police Review and Advisory Board Ordinance. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 14, 2005. [Four sections of the proposed amendment were passed to be ordained as amended. Ordinance #1284. The remaining proposed amendments to chapter 2.74 remain on Unfinished Business.]
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 06-87, 07-83 and 07-138, regarding the status of putting the City's self-evaluation on the website. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Kelley on City Manager Agenda Item Number Sixteen of Dec 10, 2007. Dec 17, 2007 - Referred to 2008-2009 City Council as Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Kelley.]
5. An application from Alan L. Johnson, requesting a curb cut at the premises numbered 135 Western Avenue; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical, Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association. [Charter right exercised by Councillor Reeves on Mar 23, 2009. Meeting recessed on Mar 30, 2009. Referred to Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Ward on Apr 6, 2009.]
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$14,290,000 to continue sewer projects in the Harvard Square, Agassiz, and Alewife Watershed areas of the City. The question comes on adoption on or after May 11, 2009.
7. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,000,000 to fund the remediation of soil contamination and other environmental issues in connection with the Yerxa Road Underpass Construction Project. The question comes on adoption on or after May 11, 2009.
8. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to recommendations that the City Council accept the following amendments to the Municipal Code relating to the fee schedule for services provided by the City Clerk's Office, the Animal Commission, the Public

Works Department, Weights & Measures, Building, Electrical and Plumbing. (Seven amendments Passed to a Second Reading) The question comes on passing the proposed seven amendments to be ordained on or after May 11, 2009.

9. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Vice Mayor Sam Seidel and Councillor David Maher, Co-Chairs of the Ordinance Committee, for a public meeting held on Apr 14, 2009 to consider a petition submitted by Lesley University to amend the Zoning Map and Article 10.000 of the Zoning Ordinance by adding "Section 20.200 Lesley Porter Overlay District." The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after May 25, 2009. Planning Board hearing held Apr 7, 2009. Petition expires July 13, 2009.

#### **APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. An application was received from Finagle A Bagel, requesting permission for four tables and eight chairs for restaurant seating in front of 1432 Massachusetts Avenue.
2. An application was received from Coast To Coast Refinery, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of 1105 Massachusetts Avenue.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. A communication was received from Timothy Rowe, 64 Gorham Street, transmitting opposition to the Lesley University zoning petition.
2. A communication was received from Representative William N. Brownsberger, transmitting thanks for the resolution from the City Council urging the legislature to reverse local aid cuts and restore local aid through state stabilization funds, federal stimulus funds and an increase in the sales tax.
3. A communication was received from Representative William N. Brownsberger, transmitting thanks for the City Council resolution in support of Representative Wolf's amendment to reinstate funding for the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.
4. A communication was received from Gavin W. Kleespies, 24 Corporal McTernan Street, transmitting support of the landmark designation of the "Spectacular" Shell sign at the corner of Magazine Street and Memorial Drive.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution on the death of Staff Sergeant Randy S. Agno. Councillor Decker
2. Resolution on the death of Private Justin P. Hartford. Councillor Decker
3. Resolution on the death of Specialist Shawn D. Sykes. Councillor Decker
4. Resolution on the retirement of Joanne Ackman. Mayor Simmons
5. Resolution on the retirement of Joanne Connolly. Mayor Simmons
6. Extending appreciation to Beth O'Sullivan, Mary McGowan Pettibone and Shirley Stewart-Best for their dedication and service to the Science Club for Girls on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary Celebration and Catalyst Award Ceremony on May 26, 2009. Councillor Davis.
7. Congratulating 2009 Catalyst Award Winners Dean Evelyn Hammonds and Dr. Larisa Schelkin. Councillor Davis
8. Congratulating Matthew Curtis and his partners. Councillor Reeves

9. Happy 50th Birthday wishes to Michelle Border. Mayor Simmons
10. Congratulations to Dr. Barbara Ann Weaver on being named the 2009 Mass History teacher of the year. Councillor Decker
11. Congratulations to Joseph and Janet Daly on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Councillor Reeves

#### **ORDERS**

1. That the City Manager is requested to include relevant Cambridge Housing Authority staff in any discussions about public safety and crime. Councillor Kelley
2. That the City Manager is requested to make available adequate funds to the City Council so that the City Council can hire its own legal expert to review relevant issues in pending litigation. Councillor Kelley, Mayor Simmons and Councillor Reeves
3. That the City Manager is requested to install bike racks at 19 Brookline Street for use by the public. Councillor Davis
4. That the City Manager is requested to investigate and report back to the City Council on the possibility of the City of Cambridge implementing an emergency economic hardship tax deferral program. Councillor Ward
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to disseminate information to bicyclists through various methods of communication reminding them of the "rules of the road" pertaining to bicycles and that their adherence is important to the safety of motorists, pedestrians and fellow cyclists. Vice Mayor Seidel
6. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works to immediately address the issue of rats in the Riverside Neighborhood. Councillor Reeves
7. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on whether additional stop signs are needed at Pacific and Albany Streets to ensure that the intersection is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists and automobiles. Vice Mayor Seidel
8. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Cambridge Health Alliance and to inform the Council as to whether the community space at the Windsor Street Clinic will remain open despite the clinic's closing or, if it will not, if the CHA will provide some alternative to replace the need that this community space fills. Councillor Decker
9. That the City Manager and the Mayor are requested to report to the Council on the status of the Harvard Senior Picnic. Councillor Decker
10. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner to inform the Council as to the City's policy regarding rape alerts. Councillor Decker
11. That the City Manager confer with the Assistant City Managers for Human Services and Community Development to determine if the reason for not allowing the Malik Academy to renew their lease is due to the landlord's complications regarding day-care code requirements and, if so, the City assist the landlords any way it can to ensure that the Malik Academy can renew their lease. Councillor Decker

12. That the City Manager confer with the Chief Public Health Officer for a review of this issue as it applies to Black MSM in Cambridge and a report back to the City Council on this matter. Councillor Reeves

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor David P. Maher, Chair of the Finance Committee, for public hearings held on Apr 30, 2009, May 6, 2009 and May 13, 2009 relative to the General Fund Budget for the City of Cambridge for Fiscal Year 2010 and recommending adoption of the budget in the amount of \$410,959,775.
2. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor David P. Maher, Chair of the Finance Committee, for a public hearing held on May 6, 2009 relative to the Water Fund Budget for the City of Cambridge for Fiscal Year 2010 and recommending adoption of the budget in the amount of \$17,985,890.
3. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor David P. Maher, Chair of the Finance Committee, for a public hearing held on May 6, 2009 relative to the Public Investment Fund for the City of Cambridge for Fiscal Year 2010 and recommending adoption of the budget in the amount of \$29,360,780.
4. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Health and Environment Committee, for a meeting held on May 5, 2009 to discuss the creation of partnerships between community or neighborhood groups and a nearby food pantry, a Cambridge Agricultural Fair and any other issues related to growing fruits and vegetables in Cambridge.
5. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair of the Human Services Committee, for a meeting held on Apr 1, 2009 to discuss whether a program similar to the Harlem Children's Office of College Success could advance the goal of college graduation for all poor students in Cambridge.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS**

1. A communication was received from Councillor Craig A. Kelley expressing strong support for the Green Streets Initiative, regret over his inability to support an additional staff position in this time of economic uncertainty and support for modification of current municipal staff duties to enable assumption of walk/ride coordination work, if the City Manager finds such modification feasible.

#### **HEARING SCHEDULE**

##### **Mon, May 18**

- 4:00pm 2009 Scholarship Award Ceremony (Sullivan Chamber)  
5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Wed, May 20**

- 2:00pm The University Relations Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the committee's agenda for the remainder of the term and to discuss Harvard's termination of the lease with Three Aces Pizza and the layoffs of low paid workers by Harvard and MIT. (Ackermann Room)

##### **Tues, May 26**

- 1:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to continue to discuss whether a program similar to the Harlem Children's Zone Office of College Success could advance the goal of college graduation for all low income students in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Wed, May 27**

- 4:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public meeting to continue discussion of a zoning petition submitted by Lesley University to amend the Zoning Map and Article 20.000 of the Zoning Ordinance by adding "Section 20.200 Lesley Porter Overlay District." (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, June 1**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, June 8**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, June 15**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Thurs, June 18**

- 2:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to continue to discuss how Cambridge can adapt the Harlem Children's Zone Baby College Program and/or principles to provide parent education for low income families that will provide the tools they need to help their children succeed. (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, June 22**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, June 29**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, July 21**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, July 27**

- 5:30pm Special City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Sept 1**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Sept 14**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Sept 15**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Sept 21**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Oct 5**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Oct 6**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Oct 19**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Oct 20**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Oct 26**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 2**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Nov 3**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 9**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 16**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Tues, Nov 17**

- 6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

##### **Mon, Nov 23**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Nov 30**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Tues, Dec 1**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 7**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 14**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Tues, Dec 15**

6:00pm School Committee Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 21**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 28**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Recent shootings at or near properties associated with the Cambridge Housing Authority have raised safety concerns; and

WHEREAS: The City Council recently asked that the City Manager work with various City departments to address summer safety concerns; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to include relevant Cambridge Housing Authority staff in any discussions about public safety and crime.

O-2 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS: A recent jury verdict against the City awarded a judgment of 4.5 million dollars; and

WHEREAS: An appeal of this jury verdict could cost the City in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and;

WHEREAS: If the City were to lose an appeal, the City could be liable for hundreds of thousands of dollars of attorney's fees for the opposing counsel; and

WHEREAS: If the City were to lose this an appeal, the City would be liable not only for the original judgment but also a 12% interest fee on the judgment, which would add hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to the cost of the judgment; and

WHEREAS: An appeal may take years, increasing the cost, if the City were to lose, of the judgment by over a million dollars; and

WHEREAS: The decision of whether to appeal is based on the proper application of the law and not on the weight or believability of the facts; and

WHEREAS: The fiscal impact of a lost appeal on the City's finances would be significant; and

WHEREAS: The City Council does not have the expertise to decide whether an appeal makes fiscal sense; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to make available adequate funds to the City Council so that the City Council can hire its own legal expert to review relevant issues in this case; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council meet in the near future in Executive Session, without the City Manager but with both the City Manager and relevant Counsel available, to determine how to proceed in this situation.

O-3 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Some employees, volunteers, and visitors of both the Community Learning Center and the Cambridge Multi-Service Center at 19 Brookline Street like to travel by bicycle but have nowhere to leave their bikes at the building; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to install bike racks at 19 Brookline Street for use by the public; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report to the City Council on the adequacy of bicycle parking in Harvard Square, Central Square and other high traffic areas.

O-4 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR WARD

WHEREAS: The United States of America, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Cambridge are faced with a national economic crisis in 2009; and

WHEREAS: There can be no guarantee that Cambridge will remain isolated from the home foreclosure crisis faced by many communities in this country; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has a strong interest in protecting homeownership; and

WHEREAS: President Obama's administration has established programs to protect homeownership during this economic crisis by addressing mortgage payments but not addressing property tax payments; and

WHEREAS: Homeowners with temporary deferral of their property tax bill could recover from an immediate crisis and repay the deferred taxes when the crisis has passed; and

WHEREAS: Expansion of the concept and reach of the Senior Property Tax Deferral program to cover economic crisis hardship deferrals of property taxes for any homeowner who is facing displacement due to inability to pay their mortgage and their property taxes, in situations where deferment of said taxes would enable that family to remain in their home, would be a benefit to the individual or family affected and to the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS: The new program could provide for early repayment rather than the repayment at the time of property transfer to heirs or buyers as is provided in the Senior Property Tax Deferral program; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to investigate and report back to the City Council on the possibility of the City of Cambridge implementing such an emergency economic hardship tax deferral program, such report to include:

- \* Any changes in the Massachusetts General Laws necessary to implement such a program
- \* Appropriate guidelines and restraints for payment of the deferred amounts
- \* Possibility of implementing such a policy in time for the October 2009 tax bill, including publicizing the new policy with the October 2009 tax bills
- \* The cost and number of people who have exercised their options under the current Senior Property Tax Deferral
- \* An estimation of the number of people in Cambridge facing foreclosure, or at risk of foreclosure, during the period 2008 to 2010
- \* An estimate of the net cost to the city of the proposed emergency hardship deferral.

O-5 May 18, 2009

VICE MAYOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: Cambridge is a city which encourages bicycling as a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transportation, and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has supported the use of bicycling throughout the City by installing bike lanes and bike parking, and sponsoring "Bike Week" and "Bike Ride" events, and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has promoted the use of bicycles by offering programs in school and in the workplace highlighting bicycle safety, and

WHEREAS: The warmer weather months are now upon us, increasing the number of bicyclists on the road, now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to disseminate information to bicyclists through various methods of communication reminding them of the "rules of the road" pertaining to bicycles and that their adherence is important to the safety of motorists, pedestrians and fellow cyclists.

O-6 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS: Residents of the Riverside Neighborhood indicate that there has been a significant upsurge in the number of rats in the neighborhood. The streets around Putnam Gardens and also Western Avenue are said to be the areas where the rat problem is most severe; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Commissioner of Public Works to immediately address the issue of rats in the Riverside Neighborhood; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Riverside Neighborhood residents to be involved in the plan to eradicate rats in the Riverside Neighborhood.

O-7 May 18, 2009

VICE MAYOR SEIDEL

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on whether additional stop signs are needed at Pacific and Albany Streets to ensure that the intersection is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists and automobiles.

O-8 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: The community space at the Windsor Street Clinic is a valuable asset to the neighborhood and fills a community need; and

WHEREAS: There is talk that, with the closing of the Windsor Street clinic, this community space will no longer be accessible to the public; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Cambridge Health Alliance and to inform the Council as to whether or not the community space at the Windsor Street Clinic will remain open despite the clinic's closing or, if it will not, if the CHA will provide some alternative to replace the need that this community space fills; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-9 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: There is a rumor that the Harvard University senior picnic will not take place this year; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager and the Mayor are requested to report to the Council on the status of the Harvard Senior Picnic; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-10 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: In the May 14th edition of the Boston Globe there was an article entitled "Police to review policy on rape alert"; and

WHEREAS: In this article it was stated that, regarding rape alerts, the Boston Police Department does "...not put out alerts until we detect a pattern"; and

WHEREAS: This policy is coming under criticism and scrutiny as an immediate rape alert could possibly prevent further attacks due to increased community awareness and vigilance; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner and to inform the Council as to the City's policy regarding rape alerts; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-11 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: This City Council has learned that there is the possibility that the Malik Academy, currently located at 808 Memorial Drive, will not be able to renew its lease; and

WHEREAS: The Malik Academy is a vibrant cultural addition to the community and provides the community with essential day care services; and

WHEREAS: It is possible that the reason that the Malik Academy is not able to renew is because the owners are having trouble regarding day-care code requirements; and

WHEREAS: This City Council would like the Malik Academy to be able to renew their lease and encourages the owners of this space to work with the Malik Academy to do so; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager confer with the Assistant City Managers for Human Services and Community Development to determine if the reason for not allowing the Malik Academy to renew their lease relates to the landlord's complications regarding day-care code requirements and, if so, that the City assist the landlords any way it can to ensure that the Malik Academy can renew their lease.

ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter.

O-12 May 18, 2009

COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS: Black men who have sex with men (MSM) exhibit an extremely high and disproportionate rate of HIV infection in the United States relative to other groups. Three recent epidemiologic studies highlight this point. First, the Young men's study employed a multisite, cross sectional, venue-based survey methodology to collect behavioral and seroprevalence data from more than 3400 MSM between the ages of 15 and 22 years. Findings from the study, released in 2000, showed that 14% of the Black MSM in the sample were HIV positive- the highest prevalence among the 5 ethnic groups represented by the sample. The study also showed that Black MSM were more than 6 times more likely than White MSM to be HIV positive

WHEREAS: Second, a study conducted by the North Carolina Department of Health involved a retrospective review of North Carolina men 18 to 30 years who were diagnosed with HIV between 2000 and 2003. The study reported an increase in HIV cases among male college students from 2 in 2000 to 56 in 2003. Almost all were MSM.

WHEREAS: Finally, the disheartening seroprevalence data were published in 2005, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 5-city study of MSM. The study, which used a methodology similar to that of young Men's study, showed an HIV prevalence of 46% among Black MSM and Latino MSM, respectively. Of the Black MSM who were HIV positive, 64% were unaware of their infection.

WHEREAS: Given the high and increasing rates of HIV infection among Black MSM, researchers have begun to place a greater emphasis on understanding the psychological, behavioral, sociocultural, and historical factors that may place these men at greater risk of becoming infected with HIV or transmitting the virus to sexual partners. For example, (Millett) in a seminal literature review, noted that rates of HIV risk behavior (e.g., unprotected anal intercourse, injection drug use, and substance use during sex) were no higher among Black MSM than among White or Latino MSM. However, their research suggested that the higher HIV incidence observed among Black MSM might be explained by the higher rates of sexually transmitted infections among this population. Sexually transmitted infection cause decreased immune- system functioning, thus making men more to the acquisition transmission of HIV. The literature review also suggested that a lack of HIV testing and late HIV diagnosis among Black MSM could be linked to heightened risk for HIV among this group. Other work by Millett points toward

characteristics of the sexual partners of Black MSM (e.g., older age, Black race, HIV-positive status) as important factors in explaining heightened HIV risk.

RESOLVED: Likewise, Malebranche, in pointing out steps for public health researchers and practitioners to take in thwarting the growth of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among Black MSM, suggested that a comprehensive understanding of HIV risk among Black MSM will require an examination of sexual networks, men's understandings of masculinity and sexuality, healthcare access, and increased susceptibility related to social and environmental stressors, among other issues. Other researchers have noted that homophobia and AIDS stigma within the families and communities of Black MSM may also explain heightened HIV/AIDS risk. Homophobia and stigma may operate to reduce HIV testing and other protective behaviors among Black MSM. These findings represent just a few of the myriad risk factors that may undergird the high rates of HIV infection and AIDS among Black MSM, highlighting the increased attention that needs to be focused on this public health crisis.

ORDERED: That the City Manager confer with the Chief Public Health Officer for a review of this issue as it applies to Black MSM in Cambridge and a report back to the City Council on this matter.