

## RECONSIDERATION LIST

1. First floor retail policy order. [Reconsideration filed by Councillor Toner] (PO25#70)
2. An application was received from Matt Mayo, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 49 Alpine Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. Response has been received from the neighborhood association. [Reconsideration filed by Councillor Nolan] (AP25#19)

## CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Federal update. (CM25#119)
2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000 received from a Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP) Grant, to the Grant Fund Community Development Department Extraordinary Expenditures Account. Funds will contribute to the installation of seven new level 2 electric vehicle charging heads. (CM25#120)
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a transfer in the amount of \$150,000 from the General Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account to the General Fund Fire Other Ordinary Maintenance account. Funds will be used to supplement the cost to equip 10 new firefighters with personal protective gear and equipment, and station uniforms. We had an opportunity to increase the numbers of firefighters we had originally anticipated hiring due to unforeseen retirements. These funds will cover the cost of medical exams, station uniforms, bunker gear and other required equipment for hire. (CM25#121)
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a 5-year contract for AED installation and maintenance. (CM25#122)
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$34,300 to the Grant Fund Public Celebrations (Arts Council) Other Ordinary Maintenance account. Funds will be used to support the Arts Council's Artist Grant Program which provides financial grant opportunities and partnership from Cambridge Arts. (CM25#123)
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$298,794.13, funded by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account. Funds will be used for emergency shelter operating costs at the Cambridge Salvation Army Men's Shelter. Additionally, funds will be used towards workforce development costs for the shelter's direct line staff. (CM25#124)
7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$8,615 for the Center for Families program, funded by the Cambridge Public Health Commission, Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative, to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account. The Center for Families will use this grant to provide family programming and curriculum development, refreshments for parent and child events and activity bag giveaways. (CM25#125)
8. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$5,000 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account. These funds were awarded to the Summer Food Program by Project Bread and will be used to enhance promotion and outreach, support activities, and to pay for program related supplies. (CM25#126)
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Cambridge Out of School Time (OST) Expansion Study Report. (CM25#127) [\[text of report\]](#)
10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Executive Summary of the City's Community Benefits Advisory Committee's work over the past several years. (CM25#128) [\[text of report\]](#)
11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board Report regarding the Cannabis Repackaging Petition. (CM25#129)
12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report on the BioMed Realty, L.P. petition to amend the Zoning Map. (CM25#130)
13. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number #25-11 regarding EZ Ride ETA issues. (CM25#131)

## ORDERS

1. That this City Council hereby declares June 19, 2025 as a Day of Reflection on Mass Incarceration in the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, go on record in support, and gives its endorsement of, the Juneteenth Festival at Cambridge Common as a vital community event celebrating freedom and resilience, and go on record in support and commending the work of The Black Response Cambridge in creating the film "Where Do Black Men Live?", which powerfully highlights the lived experiences, struggles, and stories of Black male populations in Cambridge, bringing greater awareness to critical issues of housing, justice, and belonging. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#75)
2. That the City Manager is requested to explore with the Government Operations Committee whether the functions of the Peace Commission may be improved and enhanced

by bringing them within another City Commission or Department, such as the Human Rights Commission, and report back in a timely manner. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Wilson (PO25#76)

3. That the City Council go on record in support of [H1811/S1114](#) and [H1693/S1124](#) and the Clean Slate Massachusetts campaign. Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons (PO25#77)

#### **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. That the City Manager is requested to meet with the leadership of the Harvard Square Business Association to discuss the proposal and to take the necessary steps to facilitate the release of \$72,000 to fund the RFP development for the tunnel engineering study. [Charter Right – Azeem. May 12, 2025] (PO25#71)

#### **ON THE TABLE**

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-22, regarding a request to work with the School Department, the Department of Public Works, and other relevant departments to open the publicly owned parking at the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper School Complex for either residential free parking or commercial parking opportunities during “off” hours. [Tabled – May 5, 2025] (CM25#113)

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the FY 2026 submitted budget and appropriation orders for the General Fund, Water Fund, and Public Investment Fund. [Placed on Unfinished Business, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025] (CM25#92)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$7,500,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of open space at Ahern Field and surrounding amenities. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#93)
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$16,500,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of various City streets and sidewalks. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#94)
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$11,100,000 to provide funds for the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan. Funds will support significant building improvements and deferred maintenance projects. Proposed projects include but are not limited to upgrades of Public Works facilities, municipal offices, youth centers,

branch libraries, fire stations, and deferred maintenance. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#95)

7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$19,986,000 to provide funds for financing school building upgrades. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#96)
8. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$27,500,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of surface enhancements and sewer and drainage infrastructure improvements in Central Square. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#97)
9. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$3,000,000 to provide funds for the sewer Combined Sewer Overflow Program and for planning and design of a floodwater storage tank. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#98)
10. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$7,500,000 to provide funds for the sewer Capital Repairs Program and projects related to climate change preparedness efforts. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#99)
11. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$15,250,000 to provide funds for Ozone Generator replacement; Lead Service Line replacement; and water works construction projects in coordination with DPW street restoration projects, which include repair and or replacement of water infrastructure at Dana Street, Sciarappa Street, Massachusetts Ave 4, Haskell Street and Hillside Avenue. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#100)
12. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,600,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of open space at Wilder Lee Playground and play areas at 359 Broadway. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Finance Committee – Apr 28, 2025; Eligible for Adoption May 19, 2025] (CM25#101)
13. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk Diane P. LeBlanc, relative to amend certain subsections of the

Affordable Housing Overlay, Section 11.207 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. [Passed to 2nd Reading – May 5, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained May 26, 2025] (ORD25#7)

14. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk Diane P. LeBlanc, relative to amend Articles 5.000 and 20.000 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. [Passed to 2nd Reading May 12, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained] (ORD25#9)

### APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Gail Wang requesting permission for a temporary banner across JFK at Mount Auburn Street and Massachusetts Avenue in front of City Hall announcing Boston Dragon Boat Festival on May 26, 2025 through June 9, 2025. (AP25#20)
2. An application was received from Bailey Clurman Chamber of Commerce requesting permission for a temporary banner across Massachusetts Avenue in front of City Hall announcing Cambridge Taste from June 9, 2025 through June 24, 2025. (AP25#21)
3. An application was received from Andrew Jawa, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 11 Union Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association. (AP25#22)

### COMMUNICATIONS

1. Alan Joslin, re: Please vote NO on key budget and policy items.
2. Alexandra Irving, re: 18 Clinton MC-6545 Cambridge multi-unit rented housing replaced with multimillion single family homes for sale.
3. Andrew Rogers, re: Request to prioritize TWC residents for new vouchers.
4. Andy Nash, re: PO#6.
5. Ann Robbart, re: Alpine St curb cut app.
6. Anne Sundaram, re: No to retail.
7. Annette LaMond, re: No to Retail on Residential Streets.
8. Betsy Damian, re: curb cut on alpine st.
9. Brendan Hickey, re: Please support PO25#70.
10. Brennan Waters, re: Support First-Floor Retail Zoning.
11. Camilla Elvis (ABC), re: Support first floor retail.
12. Carolyn Magid (DSA), re: Charter Right 1 and 2 (on tonight's agenda).
13. Catalina Arboleda, re: Too Much Spending when Cambridge faces likely economic trouble.
14. Corey Sung, re: Prioritize TWC residents for new vouchers.
15. Crystal Komm, re: Today's Vote on PO25#70.
16. Dan Sprague, re: Yes to mixed use.
17. Dan Totten (DSA), re: Thoughts on TWC "compromise".
18. Dave Halperin (ABC), re: Support first floor retail.
19. Dave Slaney & Leslie Cohen, re: Policy Orders 1 & 2.

20. David Hattis, re: Support of Adjusting Inclusionary Zoning.
21. Denise Jillson, re: Writing in Support of First-Floor Retail
22. Eileen Babbitt, re: 47-49 Alpine St Curb cut application.
23. Ellen Mei (DSA), re: housing vouchers to the residents of the Transition Wellness Center!
24. Ethan Frank (ABC), re: City owned parking lots & first floor retail.
25. Feanil Patel, re: Support for PO25#70 (First Floor Retail).
26. Gerald Bergman, re: Cambridge budget – vote no, council mtg 5/12 and Finance Committee mtg 5/14.
27. Henry H. Wortis (Our Revolution), re: Inclusionary Housing.
28. Jacqueline Brown, re: New Memberships and Critical Council Votes.
29. Jessica Sheehan (ABC), re: support for first floor retail.
30. Josh Zakim, re: Written Testimony in Support of PO25#68.
31. Joshua Hartshorne, re: In support of PO25#68.
32. Judy Somberg, re: Charter Right #2 - Please support funding for our most vulnerable residents.
33. Karen Klein, re: Please vote NO on key budget and policy items.
34. Kiersten Kerby-Patel, re: I support first floor retail.
35. Elizabeth Van Ranst, re: Items on Tonight's Agenda, Housing & Retail.
36. Kit WuIn, re: support of retail on 1st floor in Cambridge.
37. Lee Farris, re: Residents Alliance Opposes CR#1, Supports CR#2.
38. Liz Marran, re: Position letter 49 Alpine Street Curb cut application.
39. Liz Werby, re: First Floor Retail.
40. Mary Baine Campbell, re: Housing for mixed households, formerly unhoused and low-income residents.
41. Mary Byrne, re: Please vote NO on key budget and policy items.
42. Matthew Sutton, re: Cambridge City Council.
43. Michael DiMella, re: letter of support of PO25#68.
44. Michael Monestime, re: Writing in Support of First-Floor Retail.
45. Michael Rogove, re: PO25#70 - First floor retail and neighborhood character.
46. Nancy Menzin, re: The proposed curb cut at 49 Alpine Street.
47. Nonie Valentine, re: City Manager's proposed spending.
48. Norma Finkelstein, re: 49 Alpine Street curb cut.
49. Pat Sekler, re: Please vote NO on retail use of residential streets.
50. Patrick W Barrett III, re: Support for PO25#68 (Inclusionary Housing Study).
51. Roger Lowenstein, re: Today's Vote on PO25#70.
52. Rosalind Michahelles, re: affordable housing ORD25#7.
53. Saira Prasanth, re: Prioritize TWC residents for new vouchers.
54. Sarah Stone, re: Transition Wellness Center and vouchers.
55. Sharon Stichter, re: Retail on every street.
56. Sheli Wortis (Our Revolution), re: Charter Rights 1 and 2.
57. Shelley Rieman, re: stand with TWC residents.
58. Skip Schiel, re: PO#6 AS IS and Charter Right #2.
59. Stephen Cellucci, re: Spaulding Transition Wellness Center residents deserve a plan.

60. Susan Cooke, re: Cambridge City Council Votes on PO25#70 & ORD25#7 and Economic Issues.
61. Susan Ringler, re: PLEASE ACT QUICKLY to preserve parking on Broadway!
62. Suzanne Watzman, re: PO25#70, ORD25#7 and RE-thinking expenditures.
63. Terrence Tivnan, re: Curb cut request at 49 Alpine St.
64. William Simmers, re: 49 Alpine St. application for curb cut.
65. Yann Dardonville, re: Prioritize TWC residents for new vouchers.
66. Alex Yu, re: Clarification of Abutter Support for 49 Alpine St Curb-Cut Application.
67. Derrick Egbert, re: A NO Vote against owners of 49 Alpine Street for A Curb Cut.
68. Guillemette Simmers, re: Curb cut at 47-49 Alpine Street.
69. Liz Marran, re: Please Vote NO on 49 Alpine St curb cut this Monday, May 19.
70. Peter Kuhlmann, re: Ahern Park Field.
71. Nonie Valentine, re: PO25#70 Retail on every street - no.
72. E.V. Sweeney, re: Please vote NO on key budget and policy items.
73. Cambridge Bicycle Safety, re: Petition with over 1200 signatures to keep Broadway on Schedule. [Note: 728 out of 1204 signatures are from Cambridge addresses.]

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Maria Laranjeira on her retirement from the Auditing Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
2. Congratulations to Linda Branco on her retirement from the Cambridge Public Schools. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
3. Congratulations to Lieutenant Steven Donahue on his retirement from the Cambridge Police Department. Councillor Toner, Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons
4. Condolences to the family of Esther Scantlebury. Mayor Simmons
5. Congratulations on the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Peter Sturges and Sasha Lauterbach. Vice Mayor McGovern
6. Resolution celebrating Pari Kim on her graduation and recognizing her advocacy and contributions to the Cambridge and Massachusetts community. Councillor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Wilson
7. Condolences on the death of Richard T. Christo. Councillor Toner
8. Condolences on the death of Thomas Bates Jr. Councillor Toner
9. Condolences on the death of Charles "Charlie" King. Councillor Toner
10. Condolences on the death of Lorraine Waite Cooper. Councillor Toner

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Health and Environment Committee** held a public hearing on April 14, 2025 to review and discuss regulations to encourage the use of solar energy systems and protect solar access for Registered Solar Energy Systems. Policy Order 2025 #7. [[text of report](#)]
2. The **Finance Committee** held a public hearing on April 16, 2025 to review and discuss capital and large-scale programs and projects currently underway and in the funding plan, and potential future programming and projects that would need to be planned and incorporated into medium- and long-term capital and operating budgets. [[text of report](#)]
3. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on May 7, 2025 on a Zoning Petition by the Cambridge City Council to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Article 11.000 with the intent to amend a subsection of the Cannabis Uses standards, Section 11.800 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, with the intent to remove the provision that prohibits the packaging or repackaging of cannabis products on the premises of a Cannabis Retail Store. The Committee will also review and discuss proposed amendments to the Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 5.50, Cannabis Business Permitting. The Committee voted favorably to forward the proposed amendments to the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance and Cambridge Municipal Code to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. [[text of report](#)]

## COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#83)

## HEARING SCHEDULE

### Mon, May 19

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Tues, May 20

10:30am The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing from 10:30am to 1:30pm on a Zoning Petition by Mushla Marasao, et al. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Sections 5.28.21, 8.22.1, 8.22.2, and Table 5.1 with the intent to remove gross floor area (GFA) and floor area ratio (FAR) limitations for religious uses, permit conforming additions to nonconforming structures without limitation for religious uses, and permit religious uses with the same dimensional limitations as residential uses except that in a Residence C-1 district permeable open space would not be required, buildings would be permitted up to 6 stories and 74 feet above grade without meeting inclusionary housing requirements, and buildings taller than 35 feet and 3 stories above grade would not be required to notify neighbors and hold a meeting.

In addition, the **Ordinance Committee** will review and discuss a Zoning Petition by BMR-320 Charles LLC c/o BioMed Realty, L.P. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Article 20.000 with the intent to create a new overlay district called the East Cambridge Community Enhancement (ECCE) Overlay District



that would 1) allow for increases in height and floor area by special permit to facilitate the conversion of older industrial properties to new structures in a way that will 2) improve the edge of the district adjacent to Ahern Field, improve the pedestrian experience within the zoning district, and/or provide support for community services in East Cambridge.

### **Wed, May 21**

#### **3:00pm The Government Operations, Rules, and Claims**

**Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss whether the City Council can be removed from the process of approving/denying curb cuts, whether abutters should continue to be part of the process of approving/denying curb cuts and if abutters remain part of the process including renters in definition of “abutters,” and to prepare draft Ordinance language.

### **Wed, May 28**

4:00pm The **Human Services and Veterans Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss Policy Order 2025 #46 on sex trafficking. This discussion will allow for stakeholders and other community members to raise awareness and share resources important to keeping individuals safe and free of harm.

### **Mon, June 2**

12:00pm The **Public Safety Committee** will hold a public hearing for an update and review of the Cambridge Police Department’s use of “Shot-Spotter” technology. Public comment will be allowed if time permits.

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### **Mon, June 9**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### **Mon, June 16**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### **Mon, June 23**

1:00pm The City Council’s **Economic Development and**

**University Relations Committee** will hold a public hearing inviting representatives from the 23 long term vacant properties (defined as has been vacant for more than five years) on the record, to share updates on their tenancy efforts, short and long-term plans, and to provide the community with an opportunity to weigh in on this important discussion (PO25#49).

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### **Mon, June 30**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

## **TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 May 19, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR WILSON

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: June 19, 1865 – known as Juneteenth – marks the day when the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS: The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in 1865, abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and

WHEREAS: This exception has been historically exploited to maintain systems of racial and economic oppression through

practices such as convict leasing, racial segregation, and the mass incarceration of Black Americans and other marginalized populations; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge recognizes that these structures have been perpetuated and, in recent years, exacerbated by political movements and administrations, including the policies and rhetoric of the current federal administration, which openly fueled racial division, promoted regressive criminal justice policies, and undermined efforts at systemic reform; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge acknowledges the enduring legacy of systemic racism within the criminal legal system, and recognizes that the struggle for true emancipation and justice remains ongoing; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth offers an opportunity not only to celebrate emancipation, but also to confront and commit to dismantling the systems of racial inequity that persist in American society today; and

WHEREAS: The Black Response Cambridge, a Black-led organization committed to ending racialized harm and advocating for transformative justice, has demonstrated critical leadership in advancing these conversations within our community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council hereby declares June 19, 2025 as a Day of Reflection on Mass Incarceration in the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record encouraging all residents, businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to engage in activities that reflect on both the historical and contemporary manifestations of racial injustice, including the political developments that have exacerbated these conditions in recent years; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record in support, and gives its endorsement of, the Juneteenth Festival at Cambridge Common as a vital community event celebrating freedom and resilience; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record in support and commending the work of The Black Response Cambridge in creating the film “Where Do Black Men Live?”, which powerfully highlights the lived experiences, struggles, and stories of Black male populations in Cambridge, bringing greater awareness to critical issues of housing, justice, and belonging; 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 Black Response Cambridge in recognition of their leadership, creativity, and enduring commitment to advancing racial equity and transformative justice.

O-2 May 19, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: The City Council was recently made aware that the Peace Commission has not had a permanent Executive Director since October 2024; and

WHEREAS: The Executive Director of the Peace Commission also serves as staff for the Police Review and Advisory Board; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to explore with the Government Operations Committee whether the functions of the Peace Commission may be improved and enhanced by bringing them within another City Commission or Department, such as the Human Rights Commission; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the Council in a timely manner.

O-3 May 19, 2025

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR WILSON

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: It is well-established that any criminal record – regardless of its age or outcome – can create significant barriers to employment, housing, occupational licensure, job training, and opportunities to fully engage and contribute to one’s community; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated one in three individuals in the United States has a criminal record, and in Massachusetts alone, over 1 million adults had criminal court offenses in 2019; and

WHEREAS: Criminal records not only limit opportunities for success, but also have adverse intergenerational effects as nearly half of all children in the U.S. have a parent with a criminal record; and

WHEREAS: Nine in ten employers, four in five landlords, and three in five colleges and universities use background checks in hiring and admissions decisions, resulting in significant numbers of lost opportunities for those with records; and

WHEREAS: Legal aid programs, law school clinical providers, and directly impacted individuals report that the record sealing process is poorly understood, time-consuming, and underutilized, resulting in prolonged hardship and additional lost opportunities for individuals eligible for this process; and

WHEREAS: Research shows that while most states permit record sealing, only 10% of eligible individuals file the necessary paperwork within five years of becoming eligible; and

WHEREAS: There are significant backlogs and delays in processing petitions filed with the Commissioner of Probation in Massachusetts, taking up to three, four or more months after the applicable 3- or 7-year waiting periods; and

WHEREAS: Every person deserves a fair chance to earn a living, support their family, and contribute positively to their community, regardless of past involvement with the criminal legal system; and

WHEREAS: Black and Latinx individuals are disproportionately prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated, and automated record is a critical tool to addressing the collateral consequences of these racial disparities; and

WHEREAS: Clean Slate Massachusetts is a broad coalition of community organizations, impacted individuals, and others, including On the Rise, Greater Boston Legal Services, Harvard Law School’s Legal Services Center/Safety Net Project and CORI Sealing Initiative, working to pass legislation to replace slow, paper-driven record sealing process with an efficient, automated process and providing for immediate sealing of offenses that end favorably; and

WHEREAS: Legislation has been filed in the Massachusetts Legislature for the 2025-26 Session and referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, including:

- [HD 1811](#) and [SD 1114](#), An Act Requiring Clean Slate Automated Sealing; and
- [HD 1693](#) and [SD 1124](#): An Act to Remove Collateral Consequences and Protect the Presumption of Innocence; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of [H1811/S1114](#) and [H1693/S1124](#) and the Clean Slate Massachusetts campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Cambridge’s State House delegation.