



# FINANCE COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

9:00 AM

Sullivan Chamber

**The Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the City and School budgets covering the fiscal period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.**

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:31 AM
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:57 AM
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Catherine Zusy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:40 AM

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2025. The meeting was Called to Order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chair, Councillor Nolan. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, this public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent\*

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Siddiqui – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Toner – Absent\*

Councillor Wilson – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Mayor Simmons – Absent\*

**Present – 5, Absent – 4. Quorum established.**

\*Vice Mayor McGovern was present in the Sullivan Chamber at 9:31a.m.

\*Mayor Simmons was present and remote at 9:40a.m.

\*Councillor Toner was present and remote at 9:57a.m.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on City budget covering the fiscal period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Present at the meeting was City Manager, Yi-An Huang, Deputy City Manager, Owen O’Riordan, Budget Director, Taha Jennings, Assistant City Manager of Fiscal Affairs, Claire Spinner.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan shared that questions and Departments that were pulled for today’s meeting were being added to the Agenda Packet. Chair Nolan added that some of the questions were given to Departments in advance, so they were prepared to respond. In addition, Councillor Wilson shared that she would be asking every department to share the diversity of their staff.

### **CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Dr. Sayah Assaad CEO of the Cambridge Health Alliance and the team from the Cambridge Public Health Department. Dr. Assaad provided the Committee with information that responded to concerns and questions that were brought forward at the FY25 Budget Hearing. Derrick Neal

shared what the mission of the Cambridge Health Department is and how it is achieved by collaboration, innovation, professionalism, excellence, social justice, and equity as core values with delivery of services. In addition, Derrick Neal provided an overview of the Cambridge Health Department duties and what they will be focusing on in the upcoming years. Dr. Assaad and Derrick Neal responded to questions and concerns brought forward from the Committee as it relates to the FY26 budget.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Cambridge Health Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

## **LICENSE COMMISSION**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Chair of the License Commission, Nicole Murati Ferrer, who was joined by Dana Clark and Michael Hemmerle. Nicole Murati Ferrer provided an overview of staff and the work that is done through the License Commission and any additional questions related to the FY26 budget and how it relates to their Department.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Zusy who made a motion to forward the License Commission FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

**Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Acting Chief Cahill, Assistant Chief Carter, and Assistant Chief Gover for questions related to the FY26 Budget. Chief Cahill provided an update on Fire Headquarters construction, noting that everything has been on schedule and the plan is to move back in January 2027. Chief Cahill shared information on the Civil Service Exam and how it plays in a role in hiring and promotions within the Department and added that the Fire Department is actively in the community trying to recruit Cambridge residents to apply for the exam. Chief Cahill shared how the Fire Department provides an informal process to work with Fire Fighters to assist in studying which has been productive. Chief Cahill reviewed how the Fire Department is involved in all the conversations with Departments as it relates to changes in infrastructure in the City and how it may or may not affect the Fire Department.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Vice Mayor McGovern who made a motion to forward the Fire Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes  
Councillor Nolan – Yes  
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes  
Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Yes  
**Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Commissioner Elow, Director of Planning, Budget, and Personnel, Manisha Tibrewal, and Superintendent Cabral. Commissioner Elow read from a prepared opening statement on the Cambridge Police Department's Budget. Commissioner Elow responded to questions and concerns from Committee members related to the increase in crime, shoplifting, CARE Team, bike safety, the Co-Response Team, the Civil Service Exam, long-term budget planning and allocations, and body worn cameras. In addition, Manisha Tibrewal shared information on current grants and their status in the Police Department. Mayor Simmons shared that she is very pleased and proud of the services Cambridge Police provides to the community.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Vice Mayor McGovern who made a motion to forward the Cambridge Police Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent  
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes  
Councillor Nolan – No  
Councillor Siddiqui – No  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – No  
Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Yes  
**Yes – 5, No – 3, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

#### **INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Peter McLaughlin, Commissioner, Jacob Lazzara, Assistant Commissioner, and Anthony Tuccinardi, Operations Manager, from the Inspectional Services Department. Peter McLaughlin, Commissioner, read from a prepared statement which provided an overview of the Department and the work that is done within the Office and a review of the roles of Inspectors. Peter McLaughlin responded to questions related to the budget and staffing, workshops for homeowners looking to renovate their property, zoning, electrification, fossil fuel, and code requirements.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Inspectional Services Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem - Absent  
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes  
Councillor Nolan - Yes  
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes  
Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Yes

**Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

**The Finance Committee went into recess at 12:00p.m.**

**The Finance Committee reconvened at 12:40p.m.**

**At the request of the Chair, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Siddiqui – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Toner – Absent\*

Councillor Wilson – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Mayor Simmons – Absent\*

**Present – 6, Absent – 3. Quorum established.**

\*Mayor Simmons was present and remote at 12:45p.m.

\*Councillor Toner was present and remote at 12:55p.m.

### **CABLE TELEVISION**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Calvin Lindsay, Director of 22-CityView. Calvin Lindsay responded to questions asking for an overview of the Department and how it is run, and the difference between 22-CityView and Cambridge Community Television. Calvin Lindsay shared that the Department is in the process of creating internship opportunities and provided a brief overview of the current projects and filming that is being done in collaboration with City Departments. Councillor Siddiqui thanked Calvin Lindsay and his team for all of their work.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Mayor Simmons who made a motion to forward Cable Television FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern - Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

**Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.**

### **CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Brendan Roy, Nick Stout, and Monique Oliveira from the Capital Building Projects Department for questions related to the budget and provided an overview of why the budget has increased and how that reflects within the Department.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Capital Building Projects Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Absent  
**Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Acting Assistant City Manager for the Community Development Department, Melissa Peters, who was joined by Sandra Clarke, Jeff Roberts, Stephanie Groll, Pardis Saffari, Chris Cotter, and Drew Kane. Melissa Peters provided opening remarks which highlighted the strong role CDD plays in the Cambridge community and highlighted successful projects that happened within the last year, such as the Net-Zero Transportation Plan and reformed zoning. Melissa Peters shared the goals of the Department, pointing out that it is important to recognize the City Council priorities and develop working goals to achieve them. City Manager Huang explained how the Transportation Planning division moved into the Cambridge Department of Transportation to better align with City goals. Melissa Peters responded to questions and concerns from Councillor Zusy, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Wilson, and Councillor Siddiqui on topics related to the budget which were, ordinary maintenance funds, the public space lab, Cambridge Street Planning Study, Zoning Ordinances, transportation planning, housing, play streets, small businesses and development work, consulting contracts, The Grand Junction. Mayor Simmons and Councillor Nolan shared concerns about whether the Department is adequately staffed to carry out its goals within the Housing Division of CDD, noting that CDD takes on a lot of responsibility and important work as it relates to the City Council. Chris Cotter explained how and why the Inclusionary Housing Study was not completed. Throughout the discussion, Melissa Peters and her team responded to the many questions that were brought forward, while providing highlights and updates on current projects and what future priorities look like.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Vice Mayor McGovern who made a motion to forward the Community Development Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent  
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes  
Councillor Nolan – Yes  
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes  
Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Yes  
**Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1.**

## **DEBT SERVICES**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Claire Spinner and asked if there was a sense of immediate future and the impact on debt service. Claire Spinner shared information on the most current bond rating and pointed out that it is hard to predict what future interest rates will be.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Vice Mayor McGovern who made a motion to forward the Debt Services FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent  
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes  
Councillor Nolan – Yes  
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes  
Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Absent  
**Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

## HOUSING

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Chris Cotter, Housing Director, and the Housing team for questions and updates within the Department. Chris Cotter provided information on inclusionary housing, affordable housing, resident engagement, the Affordable Housing Trust, permanent supportive housing, and capital needs as it relates to the affordable housing home ownership units. Chris Cotter addressed concerns that were raised related to the Inclusionary Housing Study and provided information on the effort that is made to other projects and expanded on how the Housing Department collaborates with many different partners that help provide support.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Housing Department FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**  
**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent  
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes  
Councillor Nolan – Yes  
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes  
Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Absent  
**Yes – 7, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

## OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Julie Wormser and Susanne Rasmussen to provide budget updates on the new department of the Office of Sustainability. Julie Wormser provided the three-part mission for the Department. Julie Wormser and Susanne Rasmussen offered responses to questions related to decarbonizing housing in small businesses, thermal energy network, Cambridge Community Electricity, performance measures, ordinary maintenance included in the budget, and environmental justice. Councillor Zusy offered the suggestion of the Department reaching out to DCR to be more involved with climate resilience efforts happening in Cambridge. In addition, Julie Wormser shared how the Department uses consultants as resources towards their efforts, while also highlighting the current and future goals of the Department.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Office of Sustainability FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**  
**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent  
Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent  
Councillor Nolan – Yes  
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes  
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes  
Councillor Toner – Yes  
Councillor Wilson – Yes  
Councillor Zusy – Yes  
Mayor Simmons – Absent  
**Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Charles Sullivan, Director of the Historical Commission. Councillor Zusy asked Charles Sullivan to expand on the Community Preservation Act and the role the Historical Commission plays. Charles Sullivan responded and provided additional information on how grants help support the many projects in the Department.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Housing Commission FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

**Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1.**

#### **PEACE COMMISSION/POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Ryan Welsh, Administrative Project Coordinator for the Peace Commission and Deirdre Brown, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. Chair Nolan and Committee members shared concerns about the recent changes in the Peace Commission and questioned if the Peace Commission and PRAB could be combined with a different Commission. Committee members shared they would like to have further discussion at some point to revisit the idea of moving this Department within another Department or Commission.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Zusy who made a motion to forward the Peace Commission/PRAB FY26 Budget to the full City Council with no recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – No

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Absent

**Yes – 6, No – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan opened Public Comment.**

Harold Koltin, 1 Leighton Street, Cambridge, MA, shared concerns about funding used for CCTV.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Commissioner, Kathy Watkins, Deputy Commissioner, John Nardone, Assistant Administrator, Jennifer Mathews, Jim Wilcox, and Director of Fiscal Affairs, Ellan Katz, Commissioner Watkins provided a brief overview of the thirteen divisions within the Department and what services they provide to the City of Cambridge. Commissioner Watkins and her team responded to questions raised about construction and improving streets in a way that is less disruptive, solid waste, the urban forest program, apprentice programs, updates to mattress recycling, performance reviews, sewers, and DPW facilities. Chair Nolan thanked the Department for their efficient work and the many projects that are rolled out to help with climate efforts.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Siddiqui who made a motion to forward the Department of Public Works FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Absent

**Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Ellen Semonoff and her team. Committee members asked for Assistant City Manager Semonoff to expand on current and future programs that the Department offers and provide a review of the many ways DHSP provides support to the Cambridge Community. Ellen Semonoff and her team responded to questions and comments about race and equity issues, college success initiative and Baby University, Family Policy Council, after school initiatives and expansion, RISTA, adult classes, C.C.P., and collaboration and coordination with other Departments on initiatives. Committee members thanked the team from DHSP for all of their hard work and dedication to the Cambridge community.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Siddiqui who made a motion to forward the Department of Human Services FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Absent

**Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

#### **WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Kimberly Sansoucy, Executive Director, Emily Shields, Manager of Programs and Special Projects, and Kelsey Hogan, Administrative Project Coordinator. Kimberly Sansoucy responded to questions on how the Women's Commission collaborates with other commissions and provided a brief history of the Commission while highlighting how important it is to the community.

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to forward the Women's Commission FY26 Budget to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes



Mayor Simmons – Absent

**Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to move the Human Rights Commission FY26 Budget to May 15, 2025 and adjourn the meeting.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Absent

**Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.**

**The Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 5:25p.m.**

**Attachment A** – Communications from the public.

**Clerk's Note:** The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

[https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/1029?view\\_id=1&redirect=true](https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/1029?view_id=1&redirect=true)

**A communication was received from Councillor Nolan, transmitting FY26 Budget Hearing submitted questions.**

**A communication was received from Taha Jennings, Budget Director, transmitting the FY26 Budget hearing schedule.**

### **CCTV City Council Report**

My name is Hal Koltin, I'm offering public comment on the portion of the City's budget allocated to CCTV. I have concerns about the size of this expenditure and whether there is sufficient oversight of how these funds are used. Based on my own experience, I feel this warrants further review.

I've had difficulties volunteering at this facility, and I feel the process over who is allowed and who is not allowed to use this facility lacks transparency and accountability. I'm concerned that public funds are being directed to an organization without clear oversight of how it treats – or mistreats - members of the public.

I have been producing programs as a volunteer for community access TV studios for over 40 years. It's called THE HAL KOLTIN SHOW, and it features student guests from local DEI-oriented schools to recovering alcoholics to man-on-the-street interviews to celebrity guests like Steven Tyler, Ted Kennedy, Martin Sheen, Emilio Estevez, Stephen King, James Earl Jones, and more. The Boston Globe has called the show "the most unpredictable and the most fun show in Boston."

Last May 29, I appeared at CCTV for a TV production class I had registered for. I stated that I was there for the production class. A man asked me if I was Hal Koltin, I said yes, and he immediately escorted me out the door, saying I had not registered for the class. I told him I had registered and could show him the registration, which I had filed after I'd been renewed as a member. He said I was not a member. I told him I could show him both my membership and class registration credentials. He said it didn't matter, he didn't want to see them.

I asked who he was, and he said Matt Landry, the President of the Board of Trustees. I told him I'd been trying to call the studio, but the phone was disconnected. He said the phone was fine. I asked why I couldn't get through. He didn't answer. I asked if he had blocked me. He said yes. I asked why he would do that. He didn't answer.

I then broke down outside in front of the studio. I told him I'd just been diagnosed with interstitial lung disease and heart disease and may have only 6 months left to live, and that I needed to focus my remaining time on volunteering my efforts and to help other people be creative. He said he'd look into my appealing to the Board and would get back to me. I asked for his number, since I was blocked from reaching him at the studio. He gave me what he said was his number.

After 2 weeks of not hearing from him, I called the number he gave me. It was not a working number.

So I tried reviewing the Rules and Bylaws of CCTV, but my computer had been blocked from accessing the site.

In October, after prompts from the Mayor's office, Mr. Landry messaged me that he'd not forgotten about me, and that I'd be hearing from the Board soon.

I never heard from the Board. In November, I got a letter from a lawyer with a copy of a letter sent to me 22 years ago – without the GLAD letterhead – saying that I had “threatened staff and members” at an orientation meeting, and that if I ever entered onto the premises I would be arrested and charged with trespassing.

That claim is totally false, and I have witnesses to attest to that.

22 years-and-counting of being blocked from volunteering my time and services to CCTV – for a totally fictitious reason.

How many other Cambridge residents have experienced the same thing, “suspended at the discretion of the E.D.,” and with no right of appeal? And this is an organization that the City allocates several hundred thousand dollars to every year, \$100,000 of which goes into the pockets of the E.D. to bar persons from access to a public access TV studio? For what reason? “At the discretion of the E.D.”

Harold Keltin  
5/14/2025

**Please find attached the non-verbatim transcript for the  
May 14, 2025 Budget Hearing**

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\*\*\*\*

>> Chair: JUST FOR THOSE WHO  
ARE WAITING, WE'RE WAITING FOR  
SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO  
ENSURE THIS IS BEING PROPERLY  
BROADCAST.

>> Chair: GOOD MORNING  
EVERYONE.

I AM CALLING TODAY'S FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER.  
THE CALL OF TODAY'S MEETING IS  
TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
CITY BUDGET COVERING THE FISCAL  
PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2025, TO  
JUNE 30TH, 2026.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS A  
ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR AZEEM  
ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN ABSENT.  
COUNCILOR NOLAN.

>> Councilor Nolan: PRESENT.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councilor Siddiqui:  
PRESENT.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

>> Councilor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
PRESENT.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR TONER  
ABSENT.

COUNCILOR ZUSY.

>> Councilor Zusy: PRESENT.  
FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT AND FOUR  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

I DID GET WORD FROM VICE MAYOR  
MCGOVERN AND HE IS ON HIS WAY.

>>> ADOPTED BY MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL COURT AND APPROVED BY  
THE GOVERNOR THE CITY IS  
AUTHORIZED TO USE REMOTE  
PARTICIPATION OF ITS MEETINGS.  
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE AUDIO AND VIDEO  
RECORDS THIS MEETING AND MAKES  
IT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR  
VIEWING.

IN ADDITION TO HAVING MEMBERS  
OF THE COUNCIL PARTICIPATE  
REMOTELY, WE HAVE ALSO SET UP  
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC  
COMMENT.

WE WILL ALLOW EACH SPEAKER  
THREE MINUTES.

AND THE PRACTICE IS THAT ANYONE  
SIGNED UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN  
THE MORNING WILL GO FIRST.

WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER TIME  
BEFORE PEOPLE SIGN UP IN THE  
MIDDLE OF DAYTON AND THEN  
ANOTHER TIME AT THE END OF THE  
DAY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

TO WATCH THE MEETING VISIT  
CHANNEL 22.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE  
PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE VISIT  
THE CITY COUNCIL SECTION OF THE  
CITY'S WEB PAGE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO SIGN UP  
TO SPEAK ARE THERE.

WITH THAT, ALL OF TODAY'S VOTES  
WILL BE BY ROLE CALL.

AND AS I DID LAST NIGHT, IT'S  
APPROPRIATE GIVEN OUR FIRST  
DEPARTMENT TODAY'S CAMBRIDGE  
HEALTH ALLIANCE THAT I'M  
WEARING A MASK BECAUSE COVID IS  
STILL WITH US NOT WITH ME BUT  
WITH MY SPOUSE AND I HAVE  
TESTED NEGATIVE TO BE SURE, BUT  
OUT OF CAUTION I'M MAKING SURE  
I FOLLOW ALL THE PROTOCOLS AND

MASK MYSELF AND REMIND EVERYONE THAT TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES AND DO WHAT WE CAN TO KEEP THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY SAFE.

SO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE ORDER IS FOR TODAY.

WE HAVE A PACKET OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENT ITS IN FRONT OF YOU. THE LAST PAGE, IF YOU TAKE THE COMMUNICATION FROM BUDGET DIRECTOR JENNINGS, YOU WILL SEE THE DEPARTMENTS THAT WILL BE EXPECTED AS OF TODAY.

WE'VE ALREADY GONE THROUGH ALL THE DEPARTMENTS LISTED UNDER THURSDAY, MAY 8TH.

AND LAST NIGHT WE HAD THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND TODAY WE'LL BE STARTING WITH THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ASCIENCE THAT WE DID NOT GET TO ON TUESDAY WHICH ARE THE ONES IN AND TOMORROW WE ARE EXPECTED TO FINISH WITH THE REMAINING DEPARTMENTS.

WITH THAT, LET'S START WITH PUBLIC COMMENT IF THERE'S ANYONE SIGNED UP.

>> Clerk: THERE'S ONE PERSON SIGNED UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, HAROLD COLTON.

MR. COLTON HASN'T SIGNED UP FOR THE JUNE.

>> Chair: I ALSO NOTE IT SAID 4:00 P.M. COMMENT.

WE'LL BE KEEPING IT OPEN AND WE WILL TURN TO THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE SO IF THAT DEPARTMENT WANTS TO COME FORWARD.

AND JUST SO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME COMMENTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE AND THE FLOOR'S ALSO OPEN TO COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON THE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR ANY DEPARTMENT WHEN THEIR

DEPARTMENT COMES UP.  
DID YOU WANT TO START US OFF.  
>> GOOD MORNING COUNCILLORS.  
THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME  
TO HAVE US HERE.  
I'M JUST GOING TO SAY COUPLE OF  
WORDS AND HAVE MOST OF THE  
STAFF DO THE REST OF THE WORK  
I'M WITH THE COMMISSION OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE WHICH IS TRULY AN  
HONOR.  
IN THE WORK THAT'S HAPPENING  
IN CAMBRIDGE IS SECOND TO NONE  
I HAVE TO SAY.  
TODAY WE'RE GOING TO BE SHARING  
WITH YOU SOME LITERATURE THAT  
WE'VE PUT TOGETHER AS A RESULT  
OF SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT  
CAME OUT LAST YEAR AND THE WAY  
THAT WE SERVE THE RESIDENTS OF  
THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.  
THE STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE  
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE IS ABSOLUTELY  
UNIQUE.  
AND IT IS THE ENVY OF MANY  
COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA AND  
AROUND THE COUNTRY.  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE  
CITY, THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
AND AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT  
WE HAVE ONE OF THE PUBLIC  
HEALTH DEPARTMENTS THAT WAS  
FIRST ACCREDITED AMONG MANY  
AROUND THE AREA AND ONLY ONE OF  
THE THREE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT NATIONALLY  
ACCREDITED IN MASSACHUSETTS.  
THE ONLY OTHER TWO ARE IN  
BOSTON AND IN WORCESTER.  
WITH THAT, I WILL TURN THE MIC  
TO OUR CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
OFFICER DEREK NEIL.  
>> THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME THIS  
MORNING.



I DO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
DR. SAJA FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND  
THE LEADERSHIP HE PROVIDES.  
IT'S NOT ALWAYS WORKING BETWEEN  
TWO ENTITIES, BUT THEIR  
LEADERSHIP HAS REALLY MADE IT  
ADVANTAGEOUS TO ME PERSONALLY  
AND TO OUR ORGANIZATION TO  
REALLY STRIVE AND ACHIEVE A LOT  
OF THE GOALS THAT WE SET FOR  
OURSELVES.

SO I DO WANT TO MENTION THEM  
AND ALSO PUBLICLY, CONGRATULATE  
OWEN ON HIS RETIREMENT.  
THIS WILL BE THE LAST BUDGET  
MEETING THAT HE'LL BE  
ATTENDING.

SO I WAS REMARKING TO ALL HE  
HAS TO DO FROM NOW ON IS GO TO  
THE MAILBOX AS WE SAY IN THE  
COUNTRY.

CONGRATULATIONS ON IT AND THANK  
YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE  
DONE BECAUSE WE DO WORK IN AN  
INNOVATIVE FASHION AND WE HAVE  
BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR THREE  
YEARS AT THIS POINT.

THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT STATED THIS IS A  
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED PUBLIC  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT FIRST  
RECEIVE.

THE MISSION OF THE CAMBRIDGE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS TO  
IMPROVE THE BY PREVENTING  
ILLNESS, ENSURING SAFE AND  
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS.

WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION BY  
SUPPORTING COLLABORATION,  
INNOVATION, PROFESSIONALISM,  
EXCELLENCE, AND EQUITY AS OUR  
CORE VALUES IN THE DELIVERY OF  
SERVICES.

UNLIKE OTHER DEPARTMENTS WHO  
CAME OUT WITH A DECLARATION TO  
DECLARE RACISM AS A PUBLIC  
HEALTH EMERGENCY.

WE LOOKED INWORD AND WE'RE GOING INTO OUR SECOND YEAR BY HAVING A BLACK AFFINITY AND EDUCATE THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ON HOW THAT IMPROVES TO THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

IN FISCAL YEAR 25, WE COMPLETED THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT WHICH PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF DATA EXPLORING THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE POPULATIONS SERVED BY THE THIS DATA INFORMS THE CITY'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT THE CHIP WHICH IS THE COMMUNICATE HEALTH COMMUNITY PLAN, THE CPHDs WITH MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE CITY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT HEALTH CHALLENGES. THE CURRENT CHIP WILL END IN JUNE 2025, WHICH IS A COUPLE MONTHS AWAY AND CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN ITS CURRENT CHIP PLANNING WORK THE NEW CHIP WILL BE IN EFFECT IF THROUGH JUNE 30TH.

AND THE PRIORITIES FOR THE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN ARE HEALTH AND SYSTEMS LITERACY, EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND HEALTH INFORMATION, ACCESS PREVENTATIVE SCREENINGS AND NAVIGATE THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND FOCUSINGS ON MATERNAL CHRONIC DISEASE AND MENTAL HEALTH AS WELL AS ISOLATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION NAVIGATING THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE LANDSCAPE AND INCREASING NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATING WITH THE HOSPITAL SYSTEMS. THAT WILL BE OUR FOCUS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND WE ARE READY TO PIVOT ON ANY POTENTIAL

GUIDANCE THAT WE RECEIVE BASED  
ON THE HEALTH DATA.

THANK YOU.

>> MADAM CHAIR, WITH YOUR  
PERMISSION, WE'D LIKE TO  
DISTRIBUTE THE LITERATURE, IF  
THAT'S OKAY.

>> Chair: JUST TO REMIND  
COLLEAGUES, THIS IS AN  
INTERESTING BUDGET ITEM THAT  
THE CITY ALLOCATES A CERTAIN  
AMOUNT OF MONEY.

IT'S \$8.7 MILLION AND THE  
CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ASCIENCE  
MANAGES IT.

IT'S A HIGHLY UNUSUAL  
ARRANGEMENT IN THE COMMON  
WEALTH THAT STARTED 25 YEARS  
AGO.

IT'S BEEN DISCUSSED OF HOW TO  
BEST SERVE THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
NEEDS OF THE CITY, BUT THAT IS  
THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT RIGHT  
NOW.

AND IN THE BUDGET BOOK, IT'S  
PAGE V-196.

WELL, I BELIEVE NOW THAT THE  
INFORMATION'S DISTRIBUTED, I  
OPEN QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.  
I'M HAPPY TO START IF OTHERS  
DON'T.

OKAY.

THANKSMENT THANKS VERY MUCH FOR  
ALL YOUR WORK.

WE UNDERSTAND IT'S A  
CHALLENGING TIME IN HEALTH FROM  
A RANGE OF PERSPECTIVES.  
ONE THING THAT THE COUNCIL HAS  
DISCUSSED IN THE PAST A FEW  
TIMES IS THE CLOSURE OF THE  
BIRTH CENTER.

SO I'M CURIOUS TO THE STATUS.  
IS THAT SOMETHING THAT'S  
FITTING INTO THE CURRENT BUDGET  
FOR THIS YEAR?

>> THANK YOU FOR ASKING.  
THE BIRTH CENTER IS REALLY NOT

RELATED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT.  
IT IS PART OF THE CAMBRIDGE  
HEALTH ALLIANCE AND THE BIRTH  
CENTER IS NOT CLOSED.  
THE BIRTH CENTER IS OPEN, WE'RE  
JUST NOT DOING DELIVERIES AT  
THE BIRTH CENTER.  
AS A MATTER OF THERE'S A  
PRACTICE HAPPENING AND WE'RE  
WORKING WITH MIDWIFES NOT  
COMPLETELY STAFFED.  
WE'RE STILL RECRUITING FOR  
MIDWIFES TO BE ABLE TO  
APPROPRIATELY STAFF THE 24/7 TO  
BE ABLE TO CARE AND DELIVER  
PATIENTS I WOULD WELCOME  
ANYBODY TO COME AND VISIT.  
JUST DID A TREMENDOUS  
RENOVATION THERE.  
OVER \$2 MILLION.  
BEAUTIFUL ROOMS AND A HOMELIKE  
ENVIRONMENT TO APPROPRIATELY  
CARE FOR THE PATIENTS THAT WE  
SERVE FOR THE CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE.  
SO IT'S ACTUALLY OPEN.  
THE DIFFERENCE IS THE MIDWIFES  
ARE DOING THE DELIVERIES AT THE  
HOSPITAL.  
ANYWAY.  
EVEN WHEN THE BIRTH CENTER WAS  
OPEN, THE MAJORITY OF THE  
BIRTHS WEREN'T HAPPENING AT THE  
HOSPITAL BECAUSE SOME OF THOSE  
PATIENTS REALLY RISK OUT OF  
BIRTHING AT THE BIRTH CENTER.  
SO WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT  
OPENING HOPEFULLY SOMETIME IN  
THE NEAR FUTURE.  
>> Chair: IT'S IMPORTANT FOR  
ME TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT A  
BUDGET TO ENSURE THERE'S A  
MIDWIFE LED CENTER TO ENSURE IT  
PROVIDES FULL SERVICES.  
NEXT QUESTION, HAVE THERE BEEN  
ADJUSTMENTS THAT THE STAFF

SUPPORTS AND REGIONAL IN  
NATURE.

LAST YEAR WAS THE T.B. CLINIC  
WHICH LAST YEAR WAS SAID TO BE  
STAFFED BY PUBLIC HEALTH.  
ARE THE FINANCIALS  
APPROPRIATELY ADJUSTED TO  
ENSURE THAT THE CITY NUMBERS  
AND ALLOCATION IS TIED DIRECTLY  
TO THE SERVICES TO THE CITY  
RESIDENTS IN CAMBRIDGE?

>> THANK YOU FOR ASKING.  
THERE'S SOME INFORMATION IN THE  
LITERATURE THAT BASICALLY SAYS  
THAT THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH  
ALLIANCE SUBSIDIZES ITS HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT BEYOND THE SERVICE  
THAT IS GO TO THE REGIONAL  
AREA.

I CAN ASSURE YOU WHAT THE CITY  
INVESTS THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE  
HEALTH ALLIANCE THROUGH THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT GHOST  
SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF  
CAMBRIDGE AND MORE.

SO HAPPY TO GO INTO MORE  
DETAILS IF YOU'RE INTERESTED  
AND I WILL TURN IT OVER TO  
STAFF.

>> Chair: I UNDERSTAND.  
THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE  
APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS HAVE  
BEEN IN PLACE TO DETERMINE THE  
REVENUE AND COSTS.

>> AND ALSO I JUST HAVE TO  
MENTION A LOT OF THE WORK  
THAT'S HAPPENING AT THE T.B.  
CLINIC IS SUPPLEMENTED BY A  
GRANT ALSO.

SO THERE'S MONEY COMING FROM  
THE CITY.  
MONEY COMING FROM THE CAMBRIDGE  
HEALTH ALLIANCE AND A GRANT TO  
HELP SUPPORT THAT.

PLEASE GO AHEAD.

>> YEAH.

THANK YOU, ASSAD.

MOST OF THAT PROGRAM FUNDING IS UNDERWRITTEN BY A GRANT AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHEN IT COMES TO T.B. CARE WE HAVE TO HAVE A REGIONAL APPROACH TO CARE FOR THE PATIENT BECAUSE OF THE EXPERTISE WE HAVE WITH THE CLINIC.

WE'RE CONFIDENT AND COMFORTABLE THAT WE HAVE AN EQUITABLE BALANCE IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS THAT ARE SEEN IN CAMBRIDGE AS OPPOSED TO THE OTHER AREAS.

WE DO HAVE A CONTRACTUAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN TERMS OF SERVING THOSE PATIENTS THAT COME FROM OUTSIDE OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

DABORA CAN SPEAK TO THOSE SPECIFIC NUMBERS.

>> Chair: WE DON'T HAVE TO GO INTO.

THE QUESTION I OBVIOUSLY WE WANT IT ALL TO SERVE THAT. I UNDERSTAND THE CONTRACTUAL. THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND THERE WAS A QUESTION LAST YEAR ON HOW IT WAS BEING ALLOCATED SO IF THERE WAS ADDITIONAL NUMBERS TO BE SENT, THAT WOULD BE FINE IN THE FUTURE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> Chair: THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THERE HAD BEEN SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDING.

SO WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE BUILDING AND FUTURE MAINTENANCE SINCE THAT'S SOMETHING OF GREAT CONCERN.

THERE'S BEEN SOME ISSUES AND THE CHA HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE

FOR THAT AND YET THERE'S BEEN  
SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER  
THAT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED.

>> THE BUILDING IS 120-YEAR-OLD  
BUILDING AND WE'RE DOING OUR  
BEST TO MAKE SURE THAT THE  
BUILDING IS IN A STATUS TO BE  
ABLE TO APPROPRIATELY CARE FOR  
THE PATIENT.

WE DO HAVE A VERY BUSY CLINIC  
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT THERE AND WE'VE BEEN  
WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE  
CITY TO FIGURE OUT WAYS TO MAKE  
SURE THAT THE BUILDING IS IN  
THE BEST SHAPE WITH THE SUPPORT  
OF THE CITY TO CONTINUE TO MOVE  
FORWARD.

THIS YEAR, THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH  
ALLIANCE IS SPENDING SOMEWHERE  
BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR MILLION  
DOLLARS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE  
HVAC SYSTEM IS READY FOR THE  
SUMMER.

THE EXISTING ONE IS PROBABLY  
NOT GOING TO GET US THROUGH THE  
SUMMER BECAUSE THAT'S THE MOST  
URGENT PIECE.

THE WE OVER THE WINTER, WE  
WORKED VERY I'LL BE HONEST WITH  
YOU, BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF  
THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE  
TO DO IT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 30  
AND \$50 MILLION.

AND CURRENTLY WE'RE WORKING  
WITH THE CITY TO FIGURE OUT  
WHAT IS THE BEST ARRANGEMENT  
MOVING FORWARD AND THAT  
INVESTMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO  
HAPPEN TODAY BUT OVER THE NEXT  
FIVE OR TEN OR 15 YEARS, IT  
NEEDS TO HAPPEN.

WE'RE JUST MOVING THAT ISSUE  
DOWNSTREAM.

SO I'M VERY CONFIDENT BECAUSE  
WE HAVE AN AMAZING RELATIONSHIP  
WITH THE CITY AND THE CITY

MANAGER THAT WE WILL GET TO A POINT WE WILL HAVE THE BEST ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE CLINICS WE HAVE.

>> Chair: AND ISN'T IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHA TO TAKE CARE OF THE BUILDING?

>> I'M SORRY.

>> Chair: IS IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHA TO TAKE CARE OF THAT BUILDING?

>> THE MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN CONTINUING.

>> Chair: THE STATE OF THE BUILDING IN THE CONTRACT IS CHA'S RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT?

>> I HEAR YOU, YES.

>> Chair: AND THEN ONE MORE QUESTION, TWO YEARS AGO, THERE WAS THIS QUESTION OF CUTTING SOME OF THE STAFF IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, IT WAS A VERY CHALLENGING DISCUSSION WHEN SEVERAL POSITIONS WERE CUT AND IT SEEM ITS LIKE ONE OF THE POSITIONS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH POSITIONS THEN A YEAR LATER, C.H.A. ADDED BACK A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TITLE.

SO CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

>> THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE LIKE EVERYBODY IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS GOING THROUGH A VERY CHALLENGING FINANCIAL SITUATION.

YOU KNOW, THAT FIRST PHASE WAS IMPORTANT TO REORGANIZE A LOT OF THE WORK THAT WE DO.

THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT GOT A SMALL PIECE OF 285 POSITIONS THAT WERE REDUCED AT THAT TIME LAST YEAR, THERE WAS ANOTHER REDUCTION.

AND MOSTLY THERE WAS NOT A REDUCTION IN FORCE.

BUT WITHOUT THIS, I CAN TELL



YOU THE SYSTEM WAS NOT GOING TO BE AROUND FOR THE NEXT THREE OR FIVE OR TEN YEARS.

SO THIS IS WORK THAT WE HAVE TO DO FOR THE PERSISTENCE AND THE LONGEVITY OF THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

SO IT WAS NOT DONE WITH A WHIM. THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT I COULD TELL YOU IS MANAGED BY AMAZING PEOPLE AND THEY DO AMAZING JOB AND SO I'M GOING TO TURN IT UP TO THEM TO REALLY SPEAK TO THE POSITIONS AND WHO'S WORKING THERE.

>> Chair: RIGHT AND I UNDERSTAND OUR JOB IS NOT FOR THE LARGER STAFF OF THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE IT REALLY IS WITHIN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHICH THE CITY OFFERED TO FUND ALL POSITIONS AND THAT WAS NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

>> WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE CITY DOES NOT FUND ALL THE POSITIONS. WE FUND SOME OF THE POSITIONS.

>> Chair: RIGHT.

WE HAD OFFERED TO FUND MORE.

>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION, COUNCILOR NOLAN.

IN MAKING THAT DECISION, THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE SERVES AS OUR SAFETY NET HOSPITAL SYSTEM.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE ALWAYS DO IS LOOK FOR DUPLICATION OF SERVICES.

SO THE POSITION THAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO WAS THE DIRECTOR OF POPULATION HEALTH AND WE HAD A -- WE HAD THAT EXPERTISE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE IN OF ITSELF.

THAT WAS PROVIDING THAT

OVERSIGHT WHEN IT CAME TO  
POPULATION HEALTH.  
THE NEW POSITION ONCE THE CITY  
BROUGHT THE FUNDING BACK IS A  
DIRECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
WHICH HAS A DIFFERENT STRATEGIC  
FOCUS.  
SO IT WASN'T REPLACING THE  
POSITION THAT WAS LEFT.  
THAT'S REFLECTED IN OUR  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART.  
AND EVEN WITH THE CITY  
CEMENT  
SUPPLEMENTING THE FUNDING WHICH  
WE REALLY APPRECIATE, THERE  
STILL WAS A NET LOSS OF TWO  
POSITIONS.  
SO WE HAD TO MAKE SOME  
DECISIONS BASED ON THE  
DUPLICATION OF SERVICES WITHIN  
THE ALLIANCE BECAUSE THAT IS A  
SAFETY NET HOSPITAL AND WE HAVE  
AN INTEGRATED RELATIONSHIP  
WITHIN THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM AND  
OUR PROBABLY THE BIGGEST  
EXAMPLE THAT I CAN GIVE YOU WAS  
OUR SIGNATURE INITIATIVE WHICH  
IS HYPERTENSION.  
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT PUBLIC  
HEALTH IS FOCUSING ON AS WELL  
AS THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM WHICH  
INDIRECTLY OR DIRECTLY IMPACTS  
THE RESIDENTS OF CAMBRIDGE.  
>> THANK YOU, YEAH.  
I WAS FAMILIAR WITH THOSE  
POSITIONS THAT THE JOB  
DESCRIPTION WAS PRETTY MUCH THE  
SAME SO IT WAS SURPRISING TO  
SEE THAT CHANGE.  
THOSE ARE MY QUESTIONS.  
COUNCILOR ZUSY.  
ROLL CALL.  
>> Clerk: VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.  
>> Vice Mayor McGovern:  
PRESENT.  
>> Chair: COUNCILOR ZUSY.  
>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU,

MADAM CHAIR.

I JUST WANT TO SAY I'M A GREAT FAN OF THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE.

WE'VE TAKEN SEVERAL RESIDENTS TO THE CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL WHERE THEY'VE GOT EXTRAORDINARY AND VERY COMPASSIONATE CARE.

SO I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORK I'M EAGER FOR YOU TO BE IN A BETTER AND WE CERTAINLY NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW WE CAN BE AND HOW OUR HOSPITALS CAN REMAIN SOLVENT, ESPECIALLY.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT OR ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK WITH THE ARTS, THE CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL.

I'M REALLY CONVINCED THAT THE ARTS WHICH ENCOURAGE SELF-EXPRESSION WILL BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO SOLVING ISOLATION AND DEPRESSION AND I JUST THINK THERE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION THERE.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES HAS DONE AN EVERYBODY -- WHAT IS IT?

EVERYBODY LOVES THE ARTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PROGRAM'S CALLING BUT IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO I'M REALLY GRATEFUL THAT YOU'RE LOOK FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY ART.

I THINK THEY WILL BE CRITICAL TO OUR HEALTHY FUTURE AS A COMMUNITY.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR.  
GREAT QUESTION.

WE ACTUALLY WERE ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS MAYBE INTERNATIONALLY TO WRITE AND PUBLISH ON ARTS RELATIONSHIP TO

MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALING AND  
WE ACTUALLY DO HAVE A PROGRAM  
THAT REALLY HAS BEEN -- IT'S A  
HUGE PROGRAM TAKEN SOME  
PATIENTS AND ACTUALLY SOME  
RESIDENTS TO VISIT CERTAIN ART  
EXHIBITS AND MUSEUMS AS PART OF  
THERAPY.

SO THIS WORK IS ACTUALLY QUITE  
PIONEERING.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THAT UP.  
AND THE WORK OUT IN THE  
COMMUNITY AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE  
WORKING FOR IS CARING FOR THE  
COMMUNITY, OUR VISION STATEMENT  
IS EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE FOR  
EVERYONE IN THE HEALTH CARE  
ORGANIZATION.

AND OUR COMMUNITY WORK IS  
UNPARALLEL.

WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE LAST FEW  
YEARS IS ACTUALLY BRINGING THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH, POPULATION  
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CLOSER TOGETHER AND THE  
RELATIONSHIP THAT DEREK AND HIS  
TEAM HAS WITH OUR CHIEF  
COMMUNITY OFFICER AND WITH  
MICHAEL JAMES OUR CHIEF EQUITY  
OFFICER IS REALLY GROUND  
BREAKING IN BRINGING THESE  
THREE ELEMENTS THAT OUR  
COMMUNITY IS FACING TOGETHER IN  
AN EQUITABLE AND APPROPRIATE  
WAY.

I'M HAPPY -- THERE'S SOME  
INFORMATION IN THE LITERATURE  
THAT WE SEE.

I'M HAPPY TO SHARE WITH YOU A  
LOT OF THE PROGRAMS THAT WE  
WORK NOT ONLY INTERNALLY BUT  
WITH MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
THAT WE INTERFACE WITH ON A  
DAILY BASIS THAT ARE SERVING  
THE COMMUNITY AND FAITH-BASED  
ORGANIZATIONS TOO.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,

MADAM CHAIR.

I THINK THAT SOUNDS GREAT AND WORKING THROUGH THE CHURCHES TOO.

SO OFTEN WE STUDY PROBLEMS AND WE'LL HIRE SOMEBODY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM BUT IF YOU COULD JUST GET PEOPLE MOVING OR ENGAGED IN CREATIVE EXPRESSION WHETHER IT'S DANCING, MAKING MUSIC, WHETHER IT'S SINGING, WHETHER IT'S PAINTING, MAKING SOMETHING, MAKING SOMETHING IS VERY HEALING.

I WANTED TO ASK ANOTHER THAT YOUR STAFF RESPONDED TO ME BY E-MAIL, BUT I WANT MY COLLEAGUES TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF YOUR RESPONSE.

I'D ASKED IN YOUR -- IN THE BOOK IT SAID THAT THE FOUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS ONLY THROUGH 28, BUT CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT? THANK YOU.

>> SO SINCE THE ENABLING ACT AND THE INCEPTION OF THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE, THE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN IN BLOCKS AND THE INITIAL CONTRACTS THAT ARE FIVE YEARS THAT LOOK AT THE ANTICIPATED BUDGET OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND WHAT'S ANTICIPATING IN SOME OF THE PROGRAMS.

AND IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY LOOK DEEP INTO WHAT IS NEEDED.

HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO EVOLVE TOGETHER AND PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE SERVICES AND BEST WAYS TO PROJECT HOW TO FUND THOSE PROGRAMS AND THAT'S HOW IT'S BEEN.

AND THE CURRENT CONTRACT IS THROUGH 2028.

USUALLY A YEAR OR TWO BEFORE

THE EXPIRATION, THE  
CONVERSATION STARTS AND WE'RE  
ALWAYS IN CONVERSATION AND  
THAT'S HOW IT'S STRUCTURED AND  
THAT'S HOW WE'VE BEEN DOING  
THIS FROM THE INCEPTION.  
>> Councilor Zusy: SOUNDS LIKE  
A GREAT PROCESS.  
THANK YOU AND I YIELD.  
>> I DO WANT TO -- I CAN'T HELP  
MYSELF.  
I DO WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR  
PREVIOUS QUESTION.  
THE CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL, WE  
ACTUALLY HAVE ESTABLISHED A  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM THROUGH  
OUR PREPAREDNESS EQUITY AND  
RESILIENCY DIVISION.  
SO WE ARE -- I WISH DR. PORTER  
WAS HERE SO SHE CAN EXPAND ON  
THAT.  
SO WE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN  
THAT.  
WE CURRENTLY SPONSOR THROUGH  
OUR CHIP THE MUSIC JAM SESSIONS  
RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET AT THE  
SENIOR CENTER WHERE WE WORK  
WITH DIRECTLY WITH SENIORS AND  
MUSICIANS IN TERMS OF BEING  
ABLE TO STIMULATE THEM FROM A  
COGNITIVE STANDPOINT.  
WE'RE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THAT.  
WE'RE GOING TO BE EXPANDING OUR  
CHIP TO INCLUDE MANDELA YOGA  
SPECIFICALLY IN AFRICAN  
AMERICAN AND SOME OF OUR MORE  
MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES.  
SO WE'RE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN  
THAT BECAUSE PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
FOCUS IS TO MAKE SURE WE  
PROMOTE WELLNESS ACTIVITIES TO  
PREVENT PEOPLE FROM GETTING TO  
THAT CHRONIC CONDITION PHASE.  
YOU ALSO MENTIONED THE ARPA  
FUNDING.  
THE CITY HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY  
GENEROUS IN AND I JUST WANT TO

READ SOMETHING TO YOU.  
C3 IS WHAT WE CALL THE  
COMMUNITY CORPS STARTED TO  
BUILD OTHER WORK.  
C2 BEGAN SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL  
WORK AROUND THE CITY SUCH AS  
DOING OUTREACH IN THE PORT.  
IDENTIFYING THE NEED TO BUILD  
C3'S CAPACITY TO LEAD AND  
CHANGE CLIMATE CHANGE  
PREPAREDNESS EFFORT.  
THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S PARTNER  
WITH THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,  
M.A.P.C. TO APPLY FOR MUNICIPAL  
VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS  
ACTION.  
THE CLIMATE RESILIENT  
INITIATIVE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY  
TWO YEARS OF MVP FUNDING.  
THE C3 TEAM ACTIVELY ENGAGES  
WITH THE COMMUNITY AND SOME OF  
OUR MOST MARGINALIZED  
COMMUNITIES.  
THE ONE BENEFIT WE HAVE WE  
DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE HEALTH  
EQUITY ZONES OR NEIGHBORHOODS  
IN CAMBRIDGE BUT WE DO HAVE  
DOOR DATA THAT WE KNOW EXACTLY  
WHERE OUR MOST MARGINALIZED  
CITIZENS LIVE AND THE COMMUNITY  
CORPS HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL IN  
BEING ABLE TO ENGAGE THOSE  
POPULATIONS.  
NOW THEIR FUNDING WILL RUN OUT.  
WE'RE PROJECTING THAT FUNDING  
RUNS OUT IN AUGUST, BUT THEY  
PROVIDE A PRESENCE TO US.  
NOT ONLY IS THE STAFF  
CONSISTENT OF RECENTLY  
PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED  
INDIVIDUALS, BUT WE HAVE  
GRADUATE STUDENTS, WE HAVE  
COLLEGE STUDENTS, WE HAVE JUST  
AT LARGE COMMUNITY MEMBER THAT  
IS GO OUT AND PROVIDE THE  
SERVICE.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEANS BEING  
PRESENT IN THE PUBLIC NOT  
SITTING IN THE OFFICE AND  
THAT'S WHAT C3 GIVES US.  
THEY ARE A HUGE PART OF OUR  
PUBLIC HEALTH IDENTITY AND WE  
ARE LOOKING SEEKING FUNDING TO  
CONTINUE THAT PROGRAM BECAUSE  
FROM A DATA PERSPECTIVE, THEY  
HAVE AN IMPACT IN OUR  
COMMUNITY.

SO I WANTED TO MAKE SURE I  
MENTION THAT.

BUT THE CITY HAS BEEN  
INCREDIBLY GENEROUS WITH THAT  
ARPA FUNDING.

>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.  
JUST A FOLLOWUP QUESTION.  
SO WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE C3  
CORPS DO?

>> I HAVE THAT OUTLINED FOR YOU  
AS WELL.

>> Chair: IF IT COULD BE A  
SHORT REPLY BECAUSE THERE'S  
SEVERAL OTHER COUNCILLORS  
WAITING.

>> WELL, THEY -- IN THE PAST,  
THEY PROVIDED Z TEST KITS TO  
INDIVIDUALS.

WE WENT THROUGH A CLIMATE  
SURVEY.

SO THEY'LL GO AND KNOCK ON THE  
DOORS AND GET INFORMATION ABOUT  
INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE  
SUFFERING FROM SOME HEAT  
RELATED CONDITIONS.

THEY PROVIDE SERVICES FROM THE  
FOOD PANTRY DIRECTLY TO DOORS  
FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY  
BE HOME BOUND.

SO THEY DO EVERYTHING FROM A  
WRAP AROUND PERSPECTIVE BUT  
THEY ARE OUR BOOTS ON THE  
GROUND AND A BIG PART OF OUR  
IDENTITY.



>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.  
>> Chair: COUNCILOR WILSON.  
>> Councilor Wilson: THANK  
YOU.  
>> Chair: SORRY.  
ROLL CALL FOR MAYOR SIMMONS.  
SHE WAS ON.  
>> Clerk: SHE IS ON STILL.  
>> Chair: OKAY.  
NOTE THAT MAYOR SIMMONS ENTERED  
THE ZOOM.  
>> Councilor Wilson: THANK  
YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
THROUGH YOU TO THE PUBLIC  
HEALTH ALLIANCE.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING  
HERE AND IF YOU DON'T MIND JUST  
INTRODUCING THE REST OF THE  
FOLKS THAT ARE AT THE TABLE  
WITH YOU, PLEASE.  
>> THANK YOU.  
DABORAH DOZE.  
RENE WOODSON IS OUR DIRECTOR OF  
FISCAL SERVICES.  
>> Councilor Wilson: GREAT.  
THANK YOU.  
AND I APPRECIATE --  
>> AND ONE MORE.  
>> Councilor Wilson: YES.  
>> WE HAVE JULIE BACK HERE.  
I'LL LET THE BOARD INTRODUCE  
JULIE BECAUSE HER LAST NAME IS  
SLIPPING.  
I'M SORRY, JULIE.  
>> WE HAVE JULIE ENDOSI SENIOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.  
>> Councilor Wilson: WELCOME.  
FANTASTIC.  
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE FANTASTIC  
WORK THAT YOU ALL DO TO KEEP  
OUR COMMUNITY SAFE AND HAVE  
ACCESS TO QUALITY HOEMENT CARE  
AND MORE ROBUST SERVICES THAT  
YOU ALL PROVIDE MYSELF, MY SON.  
WE RECEIVE SERVICES THROUGH  
C.H.A., SO I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU

ALL NO DOUBT.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THIS C3 PROGRAM AND JUST THE FUNDING CUT OR THE FUNDING LOSS THAT IS GOING TO BE RUNNING OUT THAT YOU JUST SPOKE TO.

BECAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY GREAT PROGRAM.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A PROGRAM THAT'S DOING SOME AMAZING OUTREACH AND WORK ACROSS OUR CITY AND MAKING SURE THAT MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE HAVING ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE SERVICES AND ETC. SO CAN YOU JUST TALK ABOUT THE DOLLAR AMOUNT HERE THAT IS -- WHAT IS THE DOLLAR AMOUNT THAT IS IN QUESTION?

>> WELL, I HAD THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT TEAM WORK ON A PROJECTED AMOUNT.

THE SERVICES EBB AND FLOW DEPENDING ON THE SEASON.

WE TYPICALLY HAVE OUR HIGHEST DRAW DOWN ON THAT BUDGET DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, PROVIDING OUTREACH WHEN IT COMES TO HEAT RELATED CONDITIONS.

BUT WE'RE TALKING TO SUSTAIN THE PROGRAM ANYWHERE BETWEEN 1705 AND 200, BUT WE'LL TAKE ANYTHING AT THIS POINT BECAUSE WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THAT SUSTAINABILITY IS WITH THIS PROGRAM AND WE ONLY SEE THAT NEED BECOMING GREATER WITH THE UNCERTAINTY ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

>> Councilor Wilson: THANK YOU FOR THAT.

AND SO WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FUNDS MAY BE DUE TO RUN OUT IN AUGUST, ARE WE IN QUESTIONING, ARE WE ASKING FOR THAT DOLLAR AMOUNT AND IF SO, ARE WE JUST LIKE IN A POSITION WHERE WE'RE NOT RECEIVING IT?

BECAUSE I'M JUST CURIOUS WHAT  
WILL THEN BE THE PROCESS?  
WHAT WILL THEN HAPPEN TO THIS  
PROGRAM AND THE OUTREACH AND  
THE WORK IF THE FUNDS ARE NOT  
PROVIDED?

>> IT WILL BECOME NONEXISTENT  
AT THAT POINT AND, YOU KNOW,  
WE'RE BOUND WITHIN OUR ACCOUNT  
THAT'S THE AMOUNT GIVEN BY THE  
CITY AND WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR  
THAT.

WE UNDERSTAND THERE'S COMPETING  
PRIORITIES, SO THERE HAS NOT  
BEEN A FORMAL REQUEST FOR  
DOLLARS.

>> Councilor Wilson: OKAY.  
THANK YOU.

I JUST WANTED -- I THINK AGAIN  
GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT  
HAS BEEN ABLE TO BE DONE  
THROUGHOUT COVID AND  
CONTINUING, THIS SOUNDS LIKE A  
REALLY VALUABLE PROGRAM AND SO  
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PLAN FOR  
CONTINUING THE SERVICES, WHAT'S  
GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE MEMBERS  
OF THE COMMUNITY THAT KIND OF  
RELIED ON THIS OUTREACH?  
LIKE ON THIS TEAM TO ACTUALLY  
DO THE WORK?

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

>> WE WILL LOSE THAT SERVICE  
AND THE ABILITY TO ENGAGE WITH  
THAT COMMUNITY AT THE LEVEL  
THAT WE'RE CURRENTLY DOING.  
I'VE HAD A CONVERSATION WITH  
ASSAD AND WE NEED TO MAKE SURE  
THAT WE HAVE A GOOD BALANCE  
BETWEEN QUITE FRANKLY THE  
MANAGEMENT LEVEL IN OUR OFFICE  
AND THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN  
BE OUTWARDLY FACING IN.  
WE HAVE SOMEWHAT OF AN  
IMBALANCE WHEN IT COMES TO OUR  
LEADERSHIP TEAM AND COULD THOSE  
POSITIONS BE REPURPOSED AND

THAT'S JUST, YOU KNOW, ASSAD TELLS ME TO, HEY, GO FIND OTHER ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO REMAIN GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, BUT THE REALITY IS OUR PRIORITY IS THE COMMUNITY.

NOT PRESERVING A POSITION AND HAVING GONE THROUGH THE TOUGH CUTS WHICH COUNCILOR NOLAN ALLUDED TO, THOSE THINGS ARE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT ON THE WORK PLACE CULTURE, SO, BUT, AGAIN, OUR PRIORITY IS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND SO THOSE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS OR DISCUSSIONS THAT ASSAD AND I HAVE HAD AT HIS LEVEL.

SO WE HOPE IT DOESN'T COME TO THAT.

BUT 150, 175, 200, THAT GOES A LONG WAY IN SOLVING THE CONCERN AND QUESTION THAT YOU HAVE.

>> Councilor Wilson: THANK YOU.

>> Chair: BEFORE WE GO ON, I BELIEVE THE CITY MANAGER OFFICE AND ARPA, OUR ARPA GURU WANTED TO ADDRESS THIS COUNCIL FOR THIS QUESTION.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, MATT NELSON FROM THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE AND WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH DEREK AND NANCY PORTER WITH C3 AND JUST TO KIND OF DIAL IT BACK JUST A LITTLE BIT, THE C3 TEAM GOES BACK TO YEAR ONE, COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI'S FIRST TERM AS MAYOR ACTUALLY WHERE WE WERE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC MOSTLY IN PARKS. AND SO THE COMMUNITY WENT OUT AND WOULD GIVE OUT MASKS AND ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC AND PARKS AND THEN CHIEF PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER CLAUD JACOB  
OFFERED TO MANAGE THE TEAM EVEN  
THOUGH IT WAS ARPA FUNDING AND  
SO IT WAS A COMBINATION OF CITY  
FUNDING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMPLOYEES AND WE'VE BEEN  
GRATEFUL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO  
KEEP THIS MOVING, BUT IT IN  
TERMS OF THE ARPA FUNDING, IT  
IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HEALTH  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND AS THE  
ARPA AUDITS HAVE GOTTEN EVEN  
MORE STRINGENT, IT'S IMPORTANT  
TO MAKE SURE WE'RE BALANCING  
HOW THE ARPA FUNDS ARE BEING  
SPENT AND SO THE FUNDING FOR  
THIS PROGRAM FROM THE ARPA SIDE  
ENDS IN AUGUST AND IN TERMS OF  
THE CONVERSATION MOVING ON, I  
THINK THE CITY MANAGER'S  
WILLING TO KEEP THAT  
CONVERSATION GOING WITH THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, BUT,  
YOU KNOW, AS DEREK SAID, THERE  
HASN'T BEEN A FORMAL REQUEST  
YET.

>> Councilor Wilson:   OKAY.  
THANK YOU, MR. NELSON.  
AND SO IT SOUNDS LIKE A FORMAL  
REQUEST IS WARRANTED BECAUSE  
THE WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY IS  
DEFINITELY NEEDED AND WE WANT  
TO SEE THAT CONTINUE TO THRIVE.  
THIS HAS BEEN FROM MY  
UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS HAS  
BEEN AN ESSENTIAL PROGRAM IN  
THE AMOUNT OF OUTREACH THAT'S  
BEEN ABLE TO HAPPEN, THE  
CONSISTENCY AROUND IT IS  
SOMETHING THAT IS ONE THAT WE  
SHOULD JUST BE NOTING, RIGHT,  
AS SOMETHING THAT IT'S WORKING  
AND WE WANT TO -- I THINK THIS  
IS THE THING ABOUT HOW WE USED  
OUR ARPA DOLLARS.  
AGAIN, WE REALIZE NOW WE'RE  
HAVING CONVERSATIONS AS THE

DOLLARS ARE RUNNING OUT THAT  
THERE WERE BEAUTIFUL, REALLY  
GREAT WELL-INTENDED PROGRAMS  
THAT WERE CREATED AND  
MANIFESTED OUT OF THIS TIME OF  
URGENCY THAT CONTINUED AND WAS  
EXCELLENT THROUGHOUT THIS TIME  
AND PROCESS AND NOW BECAUSE THE  
DOLLARS ARE RUNNING OUT THE  
PROGRAM NOW ENDS AND THAT PUTS  
A HALT ON THE COMMUNITY  
ESPECIALLY AROUND WHEN YOU  
DON'T PUT IN A PROPER  
INFRASTRUCTURE OF HOW ARE WE  
ROLLING OUR COMMUNITY INTO  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY OR MAKING SURE  
THEIR BASIC NEEDS ARE BEING MET  
DIFFERENTLY, THEN WE NEED TO  
THINK ABOUT HOW WE ROLL THOSE  
FUNDS INTO OUR OPERATING  
DOLLARS BECAUSE WHEN SOMETHING  
-- YOU KNOW, THAT SAYING WHEN  
IT'S NOT BROKE DON'T --  
WHATEVER.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT  
TYPE OF THING BUT ESPECIALLY  
THROUGH COVID, WE HAD TO  
REIMAGINE AND DO THINGS  
DIFFERENTLY AND I THINK THE WAY  
WE HAVE TO USE OUR DOLLARS NOW,  
TO MAKE MORE SENSE OF HOW WE'RE  
PROVIDING ESPECIALLY TO OUR  
MOST VULNERABLE, IT'S CRITICAL.  
AND SO I APPRECIATE THE PROGRAM  
THAT YOU ALL HAVE.

I REALLY HOPE THAT THERE IS A  
FORMAL ASK SO THAT YOU ALL CAN  
GET THE SUPPORT THAT YOU NEED  
TO KEEP THIS PROGRAM GOING AND  
IF THERE NEEDS TO BE ADDITIONAL  
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOW, YOU  
KNOW, WHATEVER YOU ALL ARE  
DOING WITHIN YOUR OPERATIONAL  
FUNDS FOR MOVING THINGS FORWARD  
BUT THAT YOU GET THE DOLLARS TO  
CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST PAST  
AUGUST, EXCUSE ME FOR THE

REMAINING OF THE FISCAL YEAR  
AND THEN THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU  
ALL CAN DO IN-HOUSE TO KEEP IT  
GOING.

BUT I THINK THESE ARE THE  
CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS THAT  
WE'RE HAVING AND WHEN, AGAIN,  
WHEN IT TOUCHES BASED WITH  
VULNERABLE FAMILIES AND  
COMMUNITIES, THAT IS WHERE I  
DRAW THE LINE.

THAT'S WHERE I SAY, WE'VE GOT  
TO FIGURE THIS ONE OUT.

AND IF WE HAVE TO PULL AWAY  
FROM SOME OTHER SPENDING THAT  
WE'RE DOING, THAT'S NOT FRONT  
FACING ESPECIALLY WITH  
VULNERABLE PEOPLE, THEN WE NEED  
TO THINK ABOUT CUTTING SOME  
DOLLARS DIFFERENTLY IN ORDER TO  
MAKE PROGRAMS LIKE THIS  
CONTINUE.

IF THAT IS THE WILL.

RIGHT.

AND I DON'T KNOW.

AM I HEARING THAT THAT'S THE  
WILL FROM YOU ALL?

I DON'T WANT TO BE ADVOCATING  
FOR YOU ALL IF YOU DON'T FEEL.

>> I'M GOING TO HAVE THAT  
CONVERSATION WITH ASSAD, BUT WE  
WILL PUT IN A FORMAL REQUEST.

>> Councilor Wilson: OKAY.  
FANTASTIC.

AGAIN, I APPRECIATE THE WORK  
THAT YOU ALL DO.

CONTINUE TO DO IT AND, YOU  
KNOW, I THINK ALSO HAVING  
MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO  
WORK IN THESE SPACES IS REALLY  
IMPORTANT BECAUSE THAT LEVEL OF  
BUY-IN AND THE LEVEL OF TRUST  
EVEN GETS STRENGTHENED THROUGH  
THAT PROCESS.

SO I'LL YIELD MY TIME.

THANK YOU.

>> Chair: THANK YOU, COUNCILOR

WILSON.  
COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI AND THEN  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.  
YOUR QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED.  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.  
>> Vice Mayor McGovern: THANK  
YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
THROUGH YOU.  
THANK YOU FOR TAKING GOOD CARE  
OF MY CHILDREN.  
ONCE AGAIN, COUNCILOR WILSON  
AND I ARE ON THE SAME PAGE ON  
THIS.  
YOU KNOW, IT'S AS SHE SAID,  
THAT AS DEVASTATING AS COVID  
WAS, IT FORCED ORGANIZATIONS TO  
THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT HOW TO  
SERVE PEOPLE AND AND SOME  
REALLY GOOD THINGS CAME OUT OF  
IT BECAUSE THE FUNDS STOPPED.  
AGAIN, I KNOW WE'RE IN A TOUGH  
FISCAL TIME AND EVERYONE'S  
SAYING DON'T SPEND.  
BUT \$175,000 LET'S FIND T. LESS  
PAPER CLIPS OR SOMETHING, BUT  
THIS IS CLEARLY YOUR  
DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROGRAM.  
SHOWS THE VALUE OF IT.  
RIGHT.  
AND LIKE COUNCILOR WILSON SAID,  
YOU KNOW, AS WE THINK ABOUT HOW  
TO SHAVE A FEW BUCKS HERE AND  
THERE, I WOULD JUST SAY ONCE  
AGAIN, THIS IS MONEY THAT'S  
COMING AND YOU GUYS HAVEN'T  
BEEN HERE FOR ALL THE FINANCE  
HEARINGS.  
MY COLLEAGUES ARE SICK OF  
SAYING THIS.  
POINT IN TIME THIS IS MONEY  
THAT'S COMING OUT OF SERVING  
AND SO, YOU KNOW, WE'VE GOT TO  
FIND \$175,000 SOMEWHERE ELSE  
THAT MAYBE COMES FROM SERVICES  
THAT MAYBE SERVE PEOPLE LIKE  
ME, YOU KNOW, WHO GET SERVED  
PRETTY WELL IN THIS CITY TO



MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE TAKING  
CARE OF THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT  
MOST.

SO PLEASE MAKE THAT REQUEST.  
FIND THE MONEY, THE SERVICE  
NEEDS TO CONTINUE, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR  
SUSPECT.

>> Chair: THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
QUESTIONS.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR ARE WE  
READY TO ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO  
-- SO COUNCILOR WILSON MOVES TO  
FORWARD THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH  
ALLIANCE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT WITH A FAVORABLE  
DECLARATION.

ROLL CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR AZEEM  
ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern:  
QUESTION.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR NOLAN.

>> Councilor Nolan: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councilor Siddiqui: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR

SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

>> Councilor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR TONER.  
ABSENT.

COUNCILOR WILSON.

>> Councilor Wilson: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR ZUSY.

>> Councilor Zusy: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR NOLAN.

>> Councilor Nolan: YES.

>> Chair: THANKS FOR YOUR  
WORK.

AND NEXT UP IS THE LICENSE  
COMMISSION.

WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN THE  
BUDGET BOOK ON PAGE V70.

AND THESE JUST SO THESE NEXT  
FEW DEPARTMENTS ARE UNDER THE

PUBLIC SAFETY TAB IN THE BUDGET BOOK.

I BELIEVE THE NEXT FOUR DEPARTMENTS ARE ALL UNDER THAT TAB.

WELCOME, COMMISSIONER.

V-70.

>> THANK YOU.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR TONER.

>> Chair: WE BELIEVE HE'S ON. HE WAS HAVING TROUBLE CONNECTING.

LET THE RECORD NOTE HE'S ONMENT HOPEFULLY HE CAN HEAR US.

THIS IS FOR THE LICENSE COMMISSION WITH THE TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR OF \$1.2 MILLION. JUST TO REMIND US ALL WE RELY ON THE LICENSE COMMISSION TO DO A LOT OF WORK.

IF YOU WANTED TO QUICKLY INTRODUCE YOUR STAFF.

THIS IS THE ONE TIME WE GET TO SEE YOU, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

>> GOOD MORNING, GOOD TO SEE YOU.

WITH ME TODAY ARE.

>> DANA CLARK.

>> MICHAEL HEMMERLY.

>> AND JUST FOR THE RECORD DANA CLARK IS OUR OFFICE MANAGER AND MICHAEL HENLY IS THE MOST SENIOR STAFF FOR THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WHICH ALSO RESIDES IN THE LICENSE COMMISSION.

THANK YOU.

GOOD MORNING.

>> Chair: GREAT.

IT'S IN THE BUDGET BOOK AND JUST TO CLARIFY FOR PEOPLE, THERE WERE SOME QUESTIONS THAT WERE INTEGRATED AND SENT AHEAD AND OTHERS THROUGH FAULT OF MY OFFICE.

WE DIDN'T IMAGINE TO GET INTEGRATED.

WE UNDERSTAND THE PROTOCOLONEL  
IS OPEN TO ANY QUESTION THAT  
COMES UP, BUT WE DO TRY TO SEND  
SOME STUFF IN ADVANCE.

WE WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THERE  
WERE QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT  
SENT IN ADVANCE.

FEEL FREE FOR ANY DEPARTMENT  
LISTENS TO SAY THAT'S SOMETHING  
YOU MIGHT HAVE TO GET BACK TO  
US.

OBVIOUSLY I KNOW OUR SAL  
STELLAR STAFF WILL ADDRESS THE  
QUESTIONS COMING UP.

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SATISFY.  
SO WE ARE NOW WITH THE LICENSE  
COMMISSION.

I KNOW I HAD SENT IN TWO, BUT I  
DON'T KNOW IF OTHERS WANT TO  
START.

COUNCILOR ZUSY.

>> Councilor Zusy: YEAH.  
THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
I WASN'T SURE I WAS READING  
THIS CORRECTLY.

SO DO YOU HAVE A STAFF OF  
TWELVE?

PLUS TEN OR TWELVE?

>> WE HAVE A TOTAL STAFF OF  
ELEVEN.

THE NUMBER TWELVE WHO ASSIGNS  
OUR OFFICE IS A HACKNEY OFFICER  
BUT HE'S A SWORN POLICE  
OFFICER.

>> THANK YOU.

>> YOU'RE WELCOME.

>> Chair: IS THAT IT?  
IS.

>> Councilor Zusy: YEAH.  
HERE'S AN OPEN QUESTION.  
JUST TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE  
ABOUT THE BREATH OF YOUR WORK.  
WHAT DO THESE ELEVEN PEOPLE --  
>> Chair: THAT IS IS WHAT DOES  
THIS BUDGET PROVIDE YOU TO BE  
ABLE TO DO FOR THE CITY?  
>> THANK YOU.

SO IN THE LICENSE COMMISSION,  
WE HAVE THE LICENSING  
DEPARTMENT, CONSUMER COUNCIL,  
BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS,  
AND WITHIN ALL OF THAT, WE  
LICENSE AND REGULATE ALL  
BUSINESSES THAT ARE RELATED TO  
ALCOHOL, ENTERTAINMENT,  
INHOLDERS, LODGING HOUSES,  
SECOND-HAND GOODS, FORTUNE  
TELLERS, USED CAR DEALERS,  
FLAMMABLES, GARAGES, OPEN AIR  
PARKING LOT, AND OTHER SMALLER  
OR LESS FREQUENTLY HEARD OF  
LICENSES.

WE ALSO HAVE CONSUMER COUNCIL  
WHICH WE WORK IN COOPERATION  
WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
OFFICE FOR THE STATE OF  
MASSACHUSETTS AND PROVIDE NOT  
MEDIATION SERVICES BUT HELP  
BETWEEN THE CONSUMER AND  
BUSINESS TO RESOLVE ANY ISSUES  
RELATED TO IMPROPER BUSINESS  
PRACTICES AND WE SERVE PEOPLE  
EITHER THE CONSUMER OR THE  
BUSINESSES IN CAMBRIDGE OR IN  
SOMERVILLE, WATERTOWN, WALFAN,  
ARLINGTON, AND BELMONT.

AND THEN OUR STAFF WITHIN THE  
LICENSING, THERE'S ALSO OUR  
INVESTIGATORS WHO INSPECT  
LICENSED PREMISES SO WE CAN  
MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S OPERATING  
PURSUANT TO THE RULES AND  
REGULATIONS OF THE LAWS.

>> Councilor Zusy: VERY  
IMPORTANT WORK.

SO DID I UNDERSTAND YOU  
CORRECTLY THAT YOUR CONSUMER'S  
COUNCIL ADDRESSES CONCERNS OF  
NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES?  
IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID AND WHY  
WOULD THAT BE?

>> SO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WAS  
ESTABLISHED A LONG TIME AGO AND  
WE GET A GRANT FROM THEM TO BE

ABLE TO PROVIDE CONSUMER  
PROTECTION SERVICES TO OTHER  
NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.  
AND THE CASES GET ASSIGNED TO  
US FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
OFFICE ASK IT WOULD EITHER BE A  
CASE WHERE EITHER THE CONSUMER  
OR THE BUSINESSES IN ONE OF  
THOSE CITIES OR TOWNS.

>> Councilor Zusy: UNDERSTOOD.  
IT MAKES SENSE TO REGIONALIZE  
IT.

THANK YOU.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.  
I'LL FOLLOW UP ON THAT SINCE  
ONE OF MY QUESTIONS WHICH I  
BELIEVE YOU SAID WAS THE  
ADDITIONAL F.T.E. AND  
ADMINISTRATION WHAT WILL THAT  
ACCOMPLISH OR IS THAT A  
REORGANIZATION BECAUSE IT  
APPEARED FROM THE BOOK THAT THE  
CONSUMER COUNCIL DIVISION WAS  
GOING FROM THREE DOWN TO TWO.

>> IT WAS NEVER A THREE, IT'S  
ALWAYS BEEN A TWO.  
THE FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FOR THE CONSUMER COUNCIL  
SERVICES RETIRED AND IT'S JUST  
AN OVERLAP.

>> Chair: THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
AND THE OTHER QUESTION WAS YOU  
HANDLED SO MANY LICENSES.  
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THAT  
TOTAL NUMBER IS BUT AS YOU  
SAID, ANYTHING FROM A GARAGE TO  
FLAMMABLE MATERIAL TO AND YOU  
WORK ACROSS MANY DEPARTMENTS,  
THERE'S A LOT OF PAPERWORK  
INVOLVED IN THAT.

I KNOW WE'VE BEEN STREAMLINING  
THE CITY TO INVOLVE MORE STAFF  
EFFICIENCIES IN A BUDGET THAT  
MAY REQUIRE FOR INSTANCE I.T.  
HELP.

ARE THERE PROCESSES THAT HAVE  
BEEN STREAMLINED AND ARE THERE

ADDITIONAL SERVICES THAT YOU  
NEED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE?

>> THANK YOU.

RESOURCES, WE ALWAYS NEED  
RESOURCES.

THANKFULLY OUR DEPARTMENT  
SPECIFICALLY HAS BEEN FULLY  
ONLINE SINCE 2016 WHEN IT COMES  
TO APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS AND  
SO WE CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

WHAT WE TRY TO DO EVERY YEAR  
SINCE OUR LICENSES OR PERMITS  
GET RENEWED EVERY YEAR, AFTER  
THE RENEWAL SEASON, WE HAVE  
ABOUT FOUR ON THE CALENDAR  
YEAR.

AFTER THE RENEWAL SEASON, WE  
ALWAYS GO BACK AND TRY AND  
FIGURE OUT WHETHER THERE'S  
ANYTHING WE CAN SORT OF EITHER  
STREAMLINE OR CLEAN UP OR THAT  
ALSO HAPPENS WHEN WE GET NEW  
APPLICATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM  
THE PUBLIC AS TO IT.

SO RIGHT NOW, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR  
PERMIT COORDINATOR IS WORKING  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH SOMEONE AT  
I.T. TO MAKE SURE THAT THE  
LICENSES THAT GET RENEWED IN  
THE FALL, WE ARE SORT OF  
CLEANING UP FOR LACK OF A  
BETTER TERM, THOSE APPLICATIONS  
AS TO TRY AND CONTINUE MAKING  
IT MORE USER-FRIENDLY.

>> Chair: GREAT.

THANK YOU.

THIS MAY PUSH FORWARD ON A.I.  
AS IT MAY BE FOR THOSE CONSUMER  
QUESTIONS AND LICENSE  
APPLICATIONS QUESTIONS AND WE  
MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU EVEN  
FURTHER.

ARE THERE QUESTIONS FROM THE  
BODY?

COUNCILOR WILSON.

>> Councilor Wilson: THANK  
YOU.

HI AND WELCOME.  
I JUST HAD A QUESTION IN  
REGARDS TO THE DAY.  
IS IT CALLED PEDDLER LICENSE  
FOR THE DAY.  
CAN YOU TALK ABOUT WHAT THAT  
COST IS FOR THE DAY AND WHAT  
THAT PROCESS IS FOR INDIVIDUALS  
TO SEEK THAT DAY LICENSE?  
>> SO THAT'S THE HAWKER PEDDLER  
LICENSE.  
WE HAVE AN ANNUAL ONE AND  
YOU'RE TESTING MY MEMORY HERE.  
I BELIEVE IT'S \$39 FOR THE YEAR  
AND THE APPLICATION GETS  
SUBMITTED ONLINE.  
IT GETS PROCESSED PRETTY  
QUICKLY.  
THE ONLY ONE THAT TAKES A  
LITTLE BIT LONGER IS IF THE  
HAWKER PEDDLER IS AN ICE CREAM  
VENDOR UNDER STATE LAW.  
WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH A SPECIAL  
APPLICATION.  
BUT OTHER THAN THAT, THEY'RE  
PRETTY QUICK TURNOVERS.  
>> Councilor Wilson: GREAT.  
THANK YOU.  
AND WITH THE STAFF THAT YOU  
HAVE AND THE WORK THAT YOU'RE  
DOING ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOU  
ALL ARE NOW COMPLETELY ONLINE  
WHICH IS EXCELLENT, IT MAKES  
THINGS A LITTLE MORE EASIER.  
BUT IF SOMEONE DIDN'T  
UNDERSTAND AND THIS IS AN  
S.L.E. BUDGET BUT I THINK  
BUDGET IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO  
SOMEONE IF THEY'RE AVAILABLE.  
IF SOMEONE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO  
FILL OUT THE APPLICATION, CAN  
THEY COME ON SITE AND DO IT  
WITH SOMEBODY AT THE LICENSED  
COMMISSION OFFICE.  
>> ABSOLUTELY.  
AND SINCE 2016, WE ADVOCATED  
THREE TERMINALS AND THOSE THREE

COMPUTER TERMINALS ARE USED TO  
ASSIST THEIR CUSTOMERS WHEN  
THEY'RE RENEWING OR APPLYING  
THEY'RE ACTUALLY OUR CLIENTELE  
IS SO IN TUNE WITH THE PROCESS  
THAT THEY DON'T USE THEM AS  
MUCH ANYMORE.  
THEY'RE MORE USED BY  
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES.  
OUR STAFF HAS BECOME VERY ADEPT  
AT ANSWERING QUESTIONS EITHER  
ON THE PHONE OR SO, YES,  
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE  
AVAILABLE.  
>> FANTASTIC.  
I YIELD.  
>> Chair: ANY OTHER LICENSE  
COMMISSION QUESTIONS?  
WITH THAT, I'LL ENTERTAIN A  
MOTION TO MOVE THE LICENSE  
BUDGET MOTION FORWARD TO THE  
FULL CITY COUNCIL WITH  
RECOMMENDATION BY COUNCILOR  
ZUSY.  
ROLL CALL.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR AZEEM  
ABSENT.  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.  
>> Vice Mayor McGovern: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR NOLAN.  
>> Councilor Nolan: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.  
>> Councilor Siddiqui: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
>> Councilor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR TONER.  
>> Councilor Toner: YES.  
>> Clerk:  
>> Councilor Wilson: >>  
Councilor Wilson:  
>> Councilor Wilson: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR ZUSY.  
>> Councilor Zusy: YES.  
>> Clerk: MAYOR SIMMONS.  
>> Mayor Simmons: YES.



>> Clerk: YOU HAVE EIGHT MEMBERS RECORDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND ONE RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Chair: THANKS SO MUCH EVERYONE FOR COMING. NEXT UP IS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. I BELIEVE THE CHIEF WILL COME FORWARD, THE ACTING CHIEF AND THIS IS ON PAGE V-59 UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY TAB IN THE BUDGET BOOK.

AND FOR THIS, WE DID HAVE -- WHY DON'T WE START WITH COUNCILOR WILSON'S QUESTIONS TO

THE.

>> Councilor Wilson: HI. WELCOME.

IF WE WANT TO HAVE CHIEF CAHILL.

>> THANK YOU.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR. ACTING CHIEF CAHILL, ASSISTANT CHIEF CODER, AND MY ADMIN STAFF ARE IN THE BACK.

>> Councilor Wilson: GREAT. THANK YOU.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR. YOU KNOW I KNOW THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS GOING THROUGH THE NEW FIRE HOUSE, THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS AND WE KNOW THAT THAT WORK IS UNDER WAY AND WHILE THIS WASN'T ONE OF MY QUESTIONS, IT JUST KIND OF DAWNED ON ME REAL QUICK IN TERMS OF WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS, HOW ARE WE DOING WITH FUNDING THERE WHEN DO WE KNOW WE'LL BE UP AND READY TO GO, FOLKS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE BACK IN?

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR. THE PROJECT'S ON SCHEDULE WITH THE BUDGET AND WE ANTICIPATE MOVING BACK INTO QUARTERS

JANUARY 2027, SO WE'RE  
APPROXIMATELY A YEAR AND A HALF  
AWAY.

>> Councilor Wilson:   THANK  
YOU.

A COUPLE QUESTIONS IN A I HAD  
SUBMITTED DUE TO THE BATTERIES,  
ELECTRIC VEHICLES CAN POSE A  
MASSIVE CHALLENGE FOR  
FIREFIGHTERS, HOW ARE WE  
WORKING TO ADDRESS THAT AND HOW  
DOES THE WORKMAN FEST IN THE  
BUDGET?

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
WE HAVE STAFF DEDICATED TO  
ELECTRIC SAFETY WHICH INCLUDES  
SOLAR, TRANSFORMERS AND OF  
COURSE ELECTRIC VEHICLES,  
LITHIUM BATTERIES AND ALL THE  
HAZARDS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED  
WITH THEM.

A LITHIUM BATTERY FIRE, IT'S A  
TIME CONSUMING PROCESS.  
IT TAKES THOUSANDS OF GALLONS  
OF WATER TO EXTINGUISH THE  
SMALLEST LITHIUM FIRE.  
WE'RE ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT  
THE POTENTIAL OF SPREAD  
ASSOCIATED AND WE ARE TAKING  
ADVANTAGE OF COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION.

WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH  
HARVARD AND M.I.T..

RIGHT NOW, THAT IS ALL WITHIN  
OUR BUDGET AND THAT STAFF --  
THE STAFF IS WITHIN OUR FIRE  
PREVENTION STAFF THAT HANDLES  
THAT.

>> MY NEXT QUESTION IS AROUND  
AND REPRESENT THE CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE.

SO WHAT WORK CURRENTLY IS BEING  
DONE TO ENSURE THAT THE  
DEPARTMENT ACCURATELY REFLECTS  
THE DIVERSITY OF THE CITY?

>> SO CAMBRIDGE FIRE IS A CIVIL  
SERVICE -- I'M SORRY.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
CAMBRIDGE FIRE IS A CIVIL  
SERVICE DEPARTMENT WHICH  
DICTATES OUR HIRING.  
ALLOWS US SOME LEEWAY BUT IT'S  
STILL OVERSEEN BY CIVIL SERVICE  
ASK WITH SOME STRICT  
LIMITATIONS.  
WE'RE ACTIVELY IN THE SCHOOL  
SYSTEMS.

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF  
OPPORTUNITIES TO RECRUIT  
STUDENT THAT IS REFLECT OUR  
COMMUNITY NOW THAT THIS  
ALTERNATIVE PATH IS AVAILABLE  
AND THIS WEEK WE'RE ACTUALLY  
ASSIGNING A PERSON FROM WITHIN  
THE DEPARTMENT TO THAT FULL  
TIME POSITION OF, YOU KNOW,  
INCORPORATING THE LEGISLATION  
AND TRYING TO MAKE OUR  
DEPARTMENT MORE REFLECTIVE OF  
OUR COMMUNITY.

>> Councilor Wilson:   THANK  
YOU.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE GOOD WORK.  
IS IT MORE LIKE A FIRE?  
LIKE A CADET PROGRAM KIND OF  
WHAT THE POLICE HAVE?  
CAN YOU SPEAK TO IT A LITTLE  
BIT MORE?

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
IT'S A COMBINATION, THE  
LEGISLATION THAT PASSED  
RECENTLY ALLOWS CAMBRIDGE TO  
HAVE A FIRE CADET PROGRAM  
SIMILAR TO THE POLICE AND AS  
PART OF THE LEGISLATION WAS THE  
ALTERNATIVE HIRING WHICH ALLOWS  
US TO IF WE'RE GOING TO HIRE  
TEN PEOPLE, FIVE OF THOSE  
PEOPLE COULD -- CAN BE  
RESIDENTS AND THAT'S WHERE WE  
HAVE TO WORK ON OUR COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH AND, YOU KNOW, THE  
PROGRAMS AND OTHER  
OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE HAVE TO

GET -- TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF  
THE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE IT IS A  
PATHWAY TO I DON'T KNOW  
CIRCUMVENT IN STHE RIGHT WORD  
BUT TO BETTER REFLECT THE  
COMMUNITY.

>> Councilor Wilson: AND I'LL  
GET BACK TO CIVIL SERVICE IN A  
MINUTE BUT JUST TO GET THROUGH  
MY LAST FEW QUESTIONS HERE.  
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S CURRENTLY  
A LITTLE BIT OF  
UNDERREPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE,  
COLOR, AND PERSONNEL LEADERSHIP  
ROLES.

IS THAT ACCURATE AND IF SO HOW  
DO WE ACCOUNT FOR IT?  
WHAT WORK ARE WE DOING WITHIN  
TO ELEVATE FOLKS OF COLOR TO  
ACTUALLY ADVANCE IN THE  
DEPARTMENT?

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
PARDON ME FOR MY IGNORANCE.  
THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR TO  
CHIEF CAHILL.

>> OKAY.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
AGAIN, THAT'S VERY ACCURATE.  
UNFORTUNATELY IS VERY OF THE  
240 FIREFIGHTERS WE HAVE SIX  
WOMEN AND SIX PEOPLE OF COLOR  
AND THAT TRANSLATES THROUGH THE  
RANKS SO THE NUMBER IS LOW.

I -- OUR HANDS ARE SOMEWHAT  
TIED IN TERMS OF THE PROCESS WE  
CAN USE.

YOU KNOW, CIVIL SERVICE AGAIN  
IT DOES DICTATE WHO WE HIRE.  
IT DICTATES HOW WE PROMOTE.  
SO WE HAVE TO FALL WITHIN THOSE  
REGULATIONS.

WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT  
WE'RE LOOKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE  
OF NOW WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF  
CIVIL SERVICE AND THE  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT  
TO DO SOME SMALL THINGS IN THE

DEPARTMENT TO TRY TO BRING  
THOSE NUMBERS -- NOT  
NECESSARILY BRING THE NUMBERS  
UP BUT GET PEOPLE OF COLOR INTO  
HIGHER RANKS.

>> Councilor Wilson: AND WHAT  
WOULD YOU SAY IS THAT THROUGH  
YOU, MADAM CHAIR THAT  
ATTRIBUTES TO?

SO IN TERMS OF THE PATHWAYS TO  
LEADERSHIP IN THESE SENIOR  
ROLES.

SO IF WE'RE LOOKING AT  
FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY  
ON THE FORCE AND DOING THE WORK  
AND THERE'S MAYBE A POSITION,  
THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH.

WHAT IS THAT PROCESS THEY HAVE  
TO GO THROUGH A CIVIL SERVICE  
EXAM AND THEN TO BE PROMOTED.  
CAN YOU JUST WALK THE COMMUNITY  
THROUGH THAT PROCESS?

>> SURE.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS.  
THERE ARE EXAMS EVERY THREE  
YEARS AND WE HAVE -- IT'S A  
WRITTEN EXAM AT THIS POINT AND  
WE'RE EXPLORING OTHER  
OPPORTUNITIES TO GO OUTSIDE  
WRITTEN EXAMS AT THIS POINT.  
AS OF RIGHT NOW, YOU TAKE AN  
EXAM AND WHEREVER YOU LAND ON  
THAT EXAM BASED ON YOUR SCORE  
IS HOW WE ARE REQUIRED TO  
PROMOTE.

>> Councilor Wilson: THANK  
YOU, AND DO YOU ALL DO, THROUGH  
YOU, MADAM CHAIR, ANY TRAINING  
IN-HOUSE TO HELP AND SUPPORT  
THE ELEVATION OF THE DIVERSITY  
OF THESE ROLES?

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
IT'S AN INFORMAL PROCESS.  
WE HAVE PEOPLE ON THE  
DEPARTMENT THAT ARE WORKING  
WITH PEOPLE OF COLOR TO HELP

WITH STUDYING HABITS AND WE'VE  
SEEN THAT HAS PROVED TO BE  
PRODUCTIVE OVER THE PAST COUPLE  
OF EXAM CYCLES.

SO WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THAT.  
POINT IN TIME.

>> Councilor Wilson:  
WONDERFUL AND JUST GOING BACK  
THROUGH YOU CHAIR, THINKING  
ABOUT THIS PROCESS AS A WHOLE,  
I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY DECISION  
IS ON THIS, BUT DO WE SEE THE  
CIVIL SERVICE EXAM AS BEING A  
BARRIER TO DIVERSITY AND IF  
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE  
JURISDICTION OR COULD DO A  
PETITION TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT  
HOW WE CAN --

>> Chair: COUNCILOR WILSON, I  
THINK WE'RE HAPPY TO ENTER  
THAT.

I THINK THE CITY MANAGER WANTED  
TO WEIGH IN ON THAT.

I THINK THAT'S NOT A BUDGET  
QUESTION?

>> Councilor Wilson: IT  
WOULDN'T BE A BUDGET QUESTION?

>> Chair: WELL, EXITING CIVIL  
SERVICE.

I MEAN, IF YOU WANT TO ANSWER,  
IT'S FINE.

IT'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING  
THAT'S ON THE RADAR ABOUT HOW  
IT IMPEDES OUR DIVERSE ACROSS A  
NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND  
ANYTHING ELSE.

>> Councilor Wilson: AND I  
CAN IMAGINE IT WOULD HAVE SOME  
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS.

>> Chair: YEAH.  
THAT'S FINE.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR, I  
THINK THE SHORTEST ANSWER AND  
THE EASIEST ANSWER IS THE  
NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.  
FROM FIREFIGHTERS, LIEUTENANTS,  
CAPTAINS, FIRE CHIEFS.

>> Councilor Wilson:    THANK  
YOU.  
I YIELD.  
>> Chair:    THANK YOU.  
OTHER -- COUNCILOR ZUSY.  
>> Councilor Zusy:    THANK YOU,  
CHAIR NOLAN.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR WORK  
AND I JUST I WAS HOPING UNDER  
YOUR MISSION STATEMENT, YOU  
WOULD HAVE INCLUDED SOMETHING  
ABOUT ADVISING STREETS AND  
BUILDING DESIGN BECAUSE I THINK  
DESIGNING BOTH TO MAKE SURE  
THAT YOU HAVE EASY ACCESS TO  
RESIDENTS THAT NEED RESCUING IS  
ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.  
SO MAYBE YOU'RE DOING THAT  
ALREADY BUT I THINK IT'S  
ACTUALLY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE  
FOR THE.  
>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
I THINK THAT'S AN INTERESTING  
QUESTION.  
THE MISSION STATEMENT WOULD BE  
DIFFICULT AND PROBABLY BIKE  
LANES AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
IS IMPORTANT TO SOMEHOW  
INCORPORATE INTO THAT.  
>> Councilor Zusy:    I THINK  
STREETS ARE BEING DESIGNED NOW  
WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF THE  
NEEDS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND  
BUILDINGS ARE BEING DESIGNED  
WITHOUT THE NEEDS OF YOUR WORK  
TO RESCUE.  
>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR,  
WE'RE INVOLVED IN ALL OF THESE  
CONVERSATIONS WHETHER IT'S, YOU  
KNOW, ELEVATED -- I'M SORRY.  
WHAT DO THEY CALL IT?  
ELEVATED CROSSWALKS, THE BIKE  
LANES.  
WE'RE INVOLVED IN ALL OF THOSE  
PROCESSES.  
IN TERMS OF BUILDING DESIGN,  
THAT'S REALLY DICTATED BY THE

BUILDING CODE.

THERE IS A FIRE CODE WITHIN THE BUILDING CODE, BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMISSIONER McLAUGHLIN AND WE'RE CONSTANTLY IN COMMUNICATION WITH REGARDS TO ALL OF THESE TOPICS.

>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU SO MUCH, THAT'S A COMFORT TO HERE.

I HOPE EVERYBODY'S LISTENING. AND THEN I JUST WANTED TO ASK ABOUT THE WORK OF THE E.M.T.s AND PARAMEDICS AND FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE SO ARE THESE E.M.S. INCIDENTS, DO THEY GO THROUGH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, ARE THEY SEPARATE THROUGH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

ARE THEY PART OF YOUR STAFF OR SEPARATE?

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR. SO THE CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS FIRST RESPONDERS, EARN'S A FIRST RESPONDER.

THE MAJORITY OF OUR STAFF ARE E.M.T.s AND A QUARTER OF THEM ARE PARAMEDICS.

SO WE HANDLE ALL OF THE E. MMENT S. CALLS IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

WE DO NOT TRANSPORT.

SO PROAMBULANCE IS OUR CONTRACTED TRANSPORTING AGENCY, A LITTLE LESS THAN HALF OF OUR RESPONSES ARE E.M.S. CALLS. WE DO A LITTLE OVER 16,000 IN 2024.

A LITTLE OVER HALF OF THOSE ARE E.M.S. CALLS, BUT, AGAIN, ALL OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS ARE CERTIFIED AT ONE LEVEL OR ANOTHER.

SO ANY TIME YOU HAVE AN E.M.S. RESPONSE, ANY OF THOSE 8,000



PLUS CALLS, YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE QUALIFIED RESPONDERS TO RENDER AID.

>> Councilor Zusy: I'M JUST RECALLING SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WE HAD A FRIEND AT WOODROW WILSON COURT WHO HAD SOME -- WE WERE TRYING TO GET THEM TO A HEALTH EMERGENCY AND WE HAD BOTH THE FIRE AND THE AMBULANCE RESPOND. THERE WAS A DUPLICATE EFFORT AND THEN LATER HE DIED AT THE HOSPITAL.

BUT TEN DAYS LATER THE HOSPITAL DID THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DID A WELLNESS CHECK AND KNOCKED ON HIS DOOR BUT THERE WASN'T COMMUNICATION.

SO NOBODY KNEW IT HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT HE HAD DIED.

SO ARE YOU COMMUNICATING?  
CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE COMMUNICATION AND WITH THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AND BETWEEN THE HOSPITAL AND MAYBE SPEAK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE WELLNESS CHECK.

I THINK IT'S GREAT SOMEBODY'S DOING THE WELLNESS CHECK.

I JUST THINK THERE SHOULD BE COORDINATION, RIGHT, ABOUT THEM.

>> SURE, THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

PROAMBULANCE IS ON THE SAME SYSTEM.

WHEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS DISPATCHED, SO DOES PRO AMBULANCE.

ONE DOESN'T GET DISPATCHED WITHOUT THE OTHER BEING AWARE OF IT.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'LL GENERALLY SEE A FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE WITH A PROAMBULANCE RESPONSE BECAUSE NINE OUT OF TEN TIMES

WE NEED A TRANSPORT AND THAT'S  
WHAT THEY PROVIDE FOR US.  
WE DO WELLNESS CHECKS  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.  
WHEN IT'S COLD OUT, WE HAVE  
SOME OF OUR COMPANIES CHECKING  
ON THE FOLKS ON THE STREET.  
WHEN IT'S WARM OUT, WE'RE DOING  
THE SAME THING.  
WITH REGARD TO PEOPLE IN THEIR  
HOMES, IF WE DON'T GET THAT  
CALL TO DO A WELLNESS CHECK,  
THERE'S REALLY NO WAY TO KNOW.  
IT'S NICE TO SAY MOST OF THE  
TIME WE'RE GETTING THERE BUT  
UNFORTUNATELY I'M SORRY FOR  
YOUR LOSS BUT UNFORTUNATELY  
EVERY SO OFTEN, WE FIND THAT  
THE CALL'S MADE TOO LATE.  
>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU.  
AND JUST IS THERE SOME THOUGHT  
OF I WONDER IF CARE SHOULD BE  
DOING THE WELLNESS CHECKS AND I  
WONDER IF THERE WOULD BE SOME  
WAY OF ELIMINATING THE  
DUPLICATE RESPONSE OF FIRE AND  
THE AMBULANCE SERVICE TO CALLS.  
SO I -- IT JUST SEEMS -- IS  
SOMEONE EXPLORING THAT?  
THAT'S A QUESTION.  
>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
YES.  
WE WORK.  
I MEET WITH THE CARE TEAM, WITH  
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WE'RE  
WORKING ON THAT.  
WE'RE WORKING TO IF THERE'S  
DUPLICATION HOW WE CAN AVOID  
THAT AND WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY  
WITH THEM AND I THINK VICE  
MAYOR MCGOVERN MENTIONED IT  
LAST WEEK.  
STILL NURTURING THAT PROCESS  
AND FIGURING OUT HOW WE CAN  
UTILIZE THEM BEST AND HOW WE  
CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER.  
IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE

COMMUNITY AND TO PREVENT THAT  
DUPLICATION.

>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.

I YIELD.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

OTHER -- I DID HAVE ONE  
QUESTION FALLING ON PART OF  
WHAT COUNCILOR ZUSY SAID.  
HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT WORK  
WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO  
COLLABORATE ON GOALS?  
FOR EXAMPLE, SPEAKING OF  
WORKING CLOSELY WITH ISD, THERE  
HAVE BEEN A COUPLE DIFFERENT  
CASES THAT I HAVE TALKED TO THE  
ACTING CHIEF ABOUT OF BUILDING  
PROJECTS THAT HAVE ADDITIONAL  
FIRE REGULATIONATIONS ON IT.  
WE'RE MAKING SURE WHILE WE  
OBVIOUSLY WANT TO KEEP SAFETY  
IN MIND THAT WE'RE ALSO  
COGNIZANT OF OUR GOALS TO BUILD  
BUILDINGS AND MAKE SURE THEY  
BUILD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE  
AND NOT TO EXTEND IT OUT SUCH  
AS IT ENDS UP BEING A HUGE  
EXPENSE.

COULD YOU ADDRESS THAT QUESTION  
ARE WE MOVING FORWARD TO ENSURE  
THOSE GOALS ARE BEING TAKEN  
INTO ACCOUNT AS YOU LOOK INTO  
PROJECTS?

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE AS A  
QUESTION?

>> IT DOES.

YES, MADAM CHAIR.

I WILL TELL YOU THAT I HAVE 301  
EARS IN THIS DEPARTMENT.  
THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OVER  
THE PAST THREE TO FOUR YEARS,  
IT'S A 180 FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN.  
WE MEET WEEKLY WITH DEPARTMENT  
HEADS, SHARING IDEAS,  
STREAMLINING PROCESSES, AND  
COLLABORATING ON PRACTICALLY  
EVERYTHING.

IN TERMS OF DELAYS, THE FIRE REQUIREMENTS, THE CODES, MASS GENERAL LAWS AND CITY ORDINANCE THAT I BELIEVE ARE CLEARLY ARTICULATED WELL IN ADVANCE OF ANY PROJECTS.

THERE'S RARELY A CASE OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. AND WE DO WORK TIRELESSLY WITH FOLKS TO WALK THEM THROUGH THESE PROCESSES.

I'M AVAILABLE 24/7 HAVE RESPONDED TO A NUMBER OF PAST AND PRESENT WITH CONCERN FROM RESIDENTS, CONTRACTORS, AND DEVELOPERS TO ASSIST WITH THESE.

I CAN'T RECALL AN ASSISTANCE WHERE IT'S DELAYED A PROJECT, BUT I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING WITH ANYBODY TO, AGAIN, TO WALK THEM THROUGH THAT PROCESS.

BUT I BELIEVE EVERYTHING, AGAIN, IS PRETTY WELL-ARTICULATED WITHIN OUR STATUTORY GUIDELINES THAT WE NEED TO FOLLOW CHANCE OF SHOWERS THANK YOU.

I CAN FOLLOW UP WITH A COUPLE OF SPECIFICS.

I KNOW VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN WERE INFORMED OF SOMETHING, BUT THAT'S NOT APPROPRIATE FOR HERE.

WE'VE HAD ALWAYS DISCUSSION ABILITY WE PROVIDE STELLAR SERVICES AND IT'S ALSO REALLY IMPORTANT TO BENCHMARK.

SO CAN YOU TALK SOME ABOUT OUR STAFFING LEVELS JUST EXPLAINED WHAT IT IS THAT LEADS TO THAT.  
>> SURE.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

I THINK THE CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE OPENED TODAY BY SAYING THE CAMBRIDGE THAT'S HOW I

WANTED TO OPEN.

CAMBRIDGE IS A UNIQUE CITY.  
I'VE STATED BEFORE WITH ALMOST  
EVERY CONCEIVABLE HAZARD OUT  
THERE.

SO COMPARING OUR STAFFING TO A  
NATIONAL AVERAGE, REALLY TAKE  
THAT INTO CONSIDERATION.  
THERE ARE VERY FEW COMMUNITIES  
IN MASSACHUSETTS THAT CAN  
REMOTELY CLAIM THOSE HAZARDS  
AND EVEN LESS COMMUNITIES  
NATIONALLY.

AGAIN, I'VE STATED IN FRONT OF  
THIS COUNCIL AT OUR RESPONSE  
TIME AND THE NUMBER OF OUR  
RESOURCES WERE ABLE TO RESPOND  
ARE SECOND TO NONE AND IT'S  
ACCREDITED TO THIS COUNCIL AND  
TO THE CITY FOR PROVIDING US  
THE STAFFING AND RESOURCES TO  
MITIGATE THESE INCIDENTS BEFORE  
THEY ESCALATE.

SOME OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE OVER  
16,000 INCIDENTS AND I'M USING  
2024 AS AN EXAMPLE WHERE 223  
CONFIRMED HAZMAT INCIDENTS, 77  
CARBON MONOXIDE CONTAMINATIONS  
LET ALONE HOW MANY CALLS WE  
WENT ON.

237 ELEVATOR RESCUES AND AS  
CHRISTINA FROM ANIMAL CONTROL  
SAID THE OTHER DAY, WE'RE HAPPY  
TO ASSIST ANIMAL CONTROL  
OCCASIONALLY.

>> Chair: IT'S IMPORTANT FOR  
US TO UNDERSTAND AND CONVEY TO  
THE COMMUNITY WHAT IT IS THAT  
WE'RE DOING GINN WE ARE  
EXTREMELY WELL-RESOURCED WHICH  
WE WANT BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO  
MAKE SURE IT'S GOING TO THE  
MOST EFFECT IUSE OF THOSE  
RESOURCES AS POSSIBLE.

AS I SAY TO MANY DEPARTMENTS,  
EVENTUALLY EVERY SINGLE ONE OF  
THEM SHOULD HAVE SMART GOALS IN

THE BUDGET SO I LOOK FORWARD TO  
THAT WITHIN THE FUTURE.  
BUT I CERTAINLY APPRECIATED THE  
VERY SPECIFICS ABOUT THE NUMBER  
OF RESPONSES BECAUSE THAT  
PROVIDES US ALL WITH A SENSE  
EXACTLY OF THE RANGE OF  
SERVICES PROVIDED AND I NOTICED  
THAT, I READ IT AND I'M GOING  
TO CALL THAT OUT.  
IT IS A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR  
SOME OTHERS.  
ANY OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE  
BODY?  
ANYONE ONLINE?  
ALL RIGHT.  
SO WE'RE READY TO MOVE THE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT FORWARD.  
WE'LL ENTERTAIN A MOTION FROM  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN TO MOVE THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT FORWARD WITH A  
FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE  
FULL CITY COUNCIL.  
THE TIME OF DISCUSSION HAVING  
ALREADY HAPPENED, ROLL CALL.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR AZEEM,  
ABSENT.  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.  
>> Vice Mayor McGovern: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR NOLAN.  
>> Councilor Nolan: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.  
>> Councilor Siddiqui: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
>> Councilor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR TONER.  
>> Councilor Toner: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR WILSON.  
>> Councilor Wilson: YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR ZUSY.  
>> Councilor Zusy: YES.  
>> Clerk: MAYOR SIMMONS.  
>> Mayor Simmons: YES.  
>> Clerk: AND YOU HAVE EIGHT  
MEMBERS RECORDED IN THE

AFFIRMATIVE WITH ONE RECORDED  
AS ABSEN THE.  
>> THANK YOU.  
>> Chair: THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
AND NOW WE'RE ON TO THE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT ALSO ON TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY TAB IN THE BUDGET  
BOOK.  
ON PAGEV. SO ROMAN NUMERAL 5.  
V-75.  
THIS DEPARTMENT HAS A TOTAL  
BUDGET ALLOCATION OF 55,823,000

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE AND  
THE BENEFITS WERE SHIFTED INTO  
THE BENEFITS ALLOCATION.  
SO THE NUMBER OF F.T.E.s AND  
SALARY LINE HAS WITHOUT THE  
BENEFITS HAS GONE UP JUST ABOUT  
\$700,000 IF I'M READING THIS  
BUDGET CORRECTLY.  
SO ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE ON TO THE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND  
THERE WERE SOME QUESTIONS  
SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE AND MAYOR  
SIMMONS, YOU DID SEND A  
QUESTION.  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO START US OFF?  
IF SHE'S NOT READY, I CAN SGO  
TO COUNCILOR WILSON.  
>> GOOD MORNING.  
AND I DO HAVE AN OPENING.  
THANK YOU.  
GOOD MORNING EVERYBODY.  
HAPPY TO BE HERE.  
CHRISTINE ELO, THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER.  
>> MANISHA TIBERALL DIRECTOR OF  
PLANNING BUDGET AND PERSONNEL.  
SORRY.  
>> FRED CABRAL SUPERINTENDENT  
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION.  
>> WE ALSO HAVE COLLEEN WELLS  
AND DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT MIKE  
WELLS ON THE LINE.  
I HAVE MY WHOLE TEAM AND I ALSO

WANT TO CALL OUT THE CARE TEAM  
WHO IS HERE TO SUPPORT US.  
WE CAME LAST WEEK TO SUPPORT  
THEIR BUDGET.

THIS IS VERY INTENTIONAL.  
WE WANT OUR CITY AND OUR CITY  
COUNCIL TO KNOW WE ARE ALL  
COMMITTED TO WORKING TOGETHER  
AND WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THAT  
MORE TOWARDS TODAY'S BUDGET.  
SO I DO HAVE AN OPENING  
STATEMENT IF I COULD.

>> Chair: GO AHEAD,  
COMMISSIONER ELO.

>> SO I APPRECIATE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE BEFORE  
YOU TODAY AS WE REVIEW OUR FY26  
BUDGET.

I WANT TO BEGIN BY REAFFIRMING  
THE CAMBRIDGE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT'S DEEP COMMITMENT TO  
TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY,  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

OUR FY26 BUDGET PROPOSAL BUILDS  
ON A LONG STANDING INTENTIONAL  
BODY OF WORK FOCUSED ON  
PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION,  
AND EQUITABLE OUTCOMES FOR ALL  
WHO LIVE, WORK, AND VISIT OUR  
CITY.

THE OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS,  
CAMBRIDGE HAS BEEN AT THE  
FOREFRONT OF MODERN POLICING.  
OUR DEPARTMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY  
ADVANCED POLICIES AND PRACTICES  
THAT ALIGN WITH THE SIX PILLARS  
OF 21ST CENTURY POLICING WHICH  
ARE BUILDING TRUST AND  
LEGITIMACY, POLICY AND  
OVERSIGHT, TECHNOLOGY AND  
TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNITY  
POLICING AND CRIME REDUCTION  
OFFICER TRAINING AND EDUCATION,  
OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS.  
THESE ARE NOT THEORETICAL  
COMMITMENTS.

THEY ARE ELM BETTED IN HOW WE



LEAD, SERVE, AND INVEST OUR  
RESOURCES.  
OUR PROGRESS BEGAN UNDER  
COMMISSIONER HASS, EXPANDED  
UNDER COMMISSIONER BARD AND HAS  
CONTINUED THROUGHOUT MY TENURE.  
THROUGH OUR SAFETY NET  
COLLABORATIVE TO OUR CLINICAL  
SUPPORT UNIT.  
PARTNERSHIPS WITH HARVARD,  
M.I.T., AND OUR BUSINESS  
COMMUNITY.  
AND NONPROFITS.  
WE ARE A DEPARTMENT THAT DOES  
NOT SIT STILL.  
MENT WE PURSUE BEST PRACTICES,  
SEEK COMMUNITY INPUT AND WE  
ADJUST WHEN THE MOMENT CALLS  
FOR IT.  
SOME OF OUR RECENT AND ONGOING  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE  
LAUNCHING OUR LONG AWAITED BODY  
WARN CAMERA PROGRAM WHICH BEGAN  
APRIL 1ST.  
IT IS NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL.  
THIS PROJECT WAS YEARS IN THE  
MAKING AND REQUIRED EXTENSIVE  
COLLABORATION WITH YOUR UNIONS,  
CITY STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY.  
I WANT TO SPECIFICALLY  
RECOGNIZE THE EXTRAORDINARY  
EFFORTS OF OUR INTERNAL  
LEADERSHIP TEAM AND CITY  
PARTNERS WHO WORK TIRELESSLY  
PARTICULARLY IN THE FINAL 60  
HOURS BEFORE OUR LAUNCH TO  
REACH A HISTORIC AGREEMENT WITH  
BOTH UNIONS.  
I DO WANT TO RECOGNIZE  
SUPERINTENDENT FRED CABRAL,  
SUPERINTENDENT PAULINE WELLS ON  
THE LINE.  
JAMIE MATHIES FROM THE CITY'S  
H.R. DEPARTMENT.  
THEIR COMMITMENT TO  
COLLABORATION ENSURED THAT WE  
IMPLEMENTED THIS VITAL TOOL

WITH THE THE SUPPORT OF OUR  
OFFICERS.  
A SUCCESS MADE POSSIBLE BY HARD  
WORK, COMPROMISE AND SHARED  
VALUES.  
ALSO, PARTNERING WITH THE  
CENTER FOR POLICING EQUITY TO  
ANALYZE DEPARTMENT DATA AND  
ENGAGE IN TRANSPARENT EQUITY  
ASSESS AM THE.  
THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE  
RELEASED LATER THIS YEAR.  
LAUNCHING THE DATA DASH BOARD  
THAT BRINGS VISIBILITY TO  
EVERYTHING FROM STOPS AND  
ARRESTS TO TRAINING AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.  
ALSO ADVANCING ACCREDITATION  
WITH A FULL RIGHT -- REWRITE OF  
OUR POLICIES NOW COMPLETE.  
AND I JUST HAVE TO SAY, THIS IS  
THE CLOSEST WE HAVE COME TO  
ACCREDITATION IN MY 30 YEARS.  
WE HAVE TWO MORE MOCK  
ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL HAPPEN  
THIS SUMMER BUT WE'RE ON  
SCHEDULE TO BE FULLY ACCREDITED  
BY THE FALL AND I REALLY WANT  
TO RECOGNIZE JIM MOCAHEE WHO  
HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE IN  
THIS INITIATIVE.  
WE HAVE TRIED THREE TIMES TO  
BECOME ACCREDITED.  
WE'RE THE CLOSEST WE HAVE EVER  
BEEN.  
EVERY LINE ROOTED IS PREVENTION  
AND CARE.  
THIS INTENTIONALITY IS CENTRAL  
TO HOW WE OPERATE AND HOW WE  
MEASURE SUCCESS.  
THE CHALLENGES WE FACE TODAY  
REQUIRE ALIGNMENT,  
COLLABORATION, AND AN OPENS TO  
EVOLUTION.  
WE ARE NOT HERE TO PROTECT THE  
STATUS QUO.  
WE ARE HERE TO WORK WITH OUR

CITY PARTNERS INCLUDING OUR  
EMERGING COMMUNITY SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT.

I ALSO KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN  
QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ABOUT  
THE INTERSECTION OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN  
THE COMMUNITY SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT.

WHILE WE WILL ADDRESS THOSE  
CONCERNS IN THIS BUDGET, I WANT  
TO AFFIRM NOW THAT WE ARE  
COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION,  
CLARITY, AND A SHARED GOAL OF  
ENSURING THE MOST EFFECTIVE  
RESPONSES FOR OUR RESIDENTS.  
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT CAMBRIDGE  
DOES WELL.

WE WORK TOGETHER.

AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO  
DO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> Chair: THANK YOU,  
COMMISSIONER ELO.

ANYONE ELSE AT THE TABLE?

>> I KIND OF TOOK THAT.

>> Chair: YEAH.

THANKS SO MUCH AND THANK YOU  
ALL FOR BEING HERE.

WE CAN MOVE INTO QUESTIONS.

>> Councilor Wilson:

COUNCILOR WILSON, DO YOU WANT  
TO?

ALL RIGHT.

COUNCILOR ZUSY.

>> Councilor Zusy: YEAH.

I'M HAPPY TO START THANK YOU  
THROUGH YOU MADAM CHAIR I JUST  
WANTED TO NOTE I THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR WORK AND YOUR STATEMENT  
AND I APPRECIATE YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION  
COLLABORATION AND SHARED GOALS.  
THAT'S CAMBRIDGE.

SO I WANTED TO ASK FOR ABOUT  
THE SPECIFIC JUST NUMBERS THAT  
YOU SHARED IN YOUR BUDGET

REPORT HERE.

I WANTED TO HEAR -- UNDERSTAND  
MORE ABOUT THE NATURE OF  
NONEMERGENCY CALLS AND THEN,  
YEAH, I HAVE MANY OTHER  
QUESTIONS.

>> SO THE NATURE OF  
NONEMERGENCY CALLS, SORRY,  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, I BELIEVE  
CAN BE BETTER ANSWERED THROUGH  
OUR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
PARTNERS.

YEAH.

BECAUSE THAT'S REALLY KIND OF  
--

>> Councilor Zusy: OKAY.  
LET'S MOVE ON TO ANOTHER  
QUESTION.

THERE HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS  
INCREASE IN CRIME.

I REALIZE WE DON'T HAVE THAT  
MUCH CRIME BUT THERE'S BEEN AN  
INCREASE BETWEEN 2020 AND 2024  
AND I WONDER IF YOU WOULD SPEAK  
TO WHAT YOU THINK THAT MIGHT BE  
DUE TO I KNOW SOME HAVE  
SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY BE DUE TO  
THE CLOSURE OF MASS IMPASSE.

>> THROUGH YOU TO COUNCILOR  
ZUSY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE  
RISING CRIME BETWEEN 2020 AND  
2025 CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO ANY  
ONE FACTOR AND CERTAINLY NOT  
SOLELY THE CLOSURE OF MASS  
IMPASSE.

LARGE CLEARINGS LIKE THOSE OR  
EVEN LOCALLY CAN HAVE SOME  
IMPACT PARTICULARLY AROUND  
QUALITY OF LIFE.

FIRST WE ANALYZED ARREST DATA  
TO SEE IF WE WERE ENCOUNTERING  
BETWEEN 2019 AND 2024 AND THAT  
STAYED FAIRLY CONSISTENT  
BETWEEN 28% AND 30% EVEN IN  
YEARS MASS WAS CLEARED.

THE SECOND THING WE DID WE  
COMPARED BEFORE AND AFTER THE

MAJOR CLEARINGS AND WHILE WE  
DID SEE SOME SHIFTS, THERE WAS.  
THERE WERE NO STATEMENTS  
INCLINED THAT CAN BE DIRECTLY  
LINKED TO THE CLOSURE.

WHILE REGIONAL CHANGES CAN  
CREATE SOME PRESSURE POINTS OUR  
DATA DOES NOT SHOW A CONNECTION  
CONNECTION BETWEEN A CLEARING  
OF MASS AND BUT WE ALWAYS  
MONITOR AND CONTINUE TO MONITOR  
AND ADAPT AS NEEDED.

>> Councilor Zusy: SO I JUST  
REMEMBER AT THE VERY BEGINNING  
OF THE AND MAYBE THIS IS PART  
OF THE COVID FALLOUT.

SO YOU IN YOUR REPORT YOU NOTE  
THERE ARE MORE PROPERTY CRIMES  
CAMBRIDGE THAN NEIGHBORING  
COMMUNITIES. CAN I SPECULATE  
TO THAT AND WHAT YOU THINK  
MIGHT EXPLAIN THE RISE IN  
SHOPLIFTING BY 88%.

>> Chair: AND FOR THOSE OF YOU  
FOLLOWING ALONG 22, 24, 205,  
AND 26.

THERE'S FOUR PAGES OF THE  
HIGHLIGHTED CRIME AND DATA.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.

>> POPULATION DENSITY AND  
FOOTHILL TRAFFIC.

WE HAVE A LARGE RESIDENTIAL  
POPULATION.

AND DURING THE DAY,  
UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS.

MEASURE PEOPLE CREATE MORE  
CRIME.

COMMUTER ROUTES, BIKE TRAFFIC,  
CAMBRIDGE IS HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE  
MAKING IT A PRIME LOCATION I  
WANT TO OF COURSE TAKE SOME  
CREDIT.

WE HAVE VERY HIGH REPORTING  
STANDARDS HERE IN THE CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE.

WE ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO FILE  
REPORTS FOR MAJOR CRIMES.

SOME DO NOT.  
YOU HAVE TO SO PART OF THE  
CHANGE ALSO.  
AND WITH A HIGH NUMBER OF  
RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT THES,  
PARTICULARLY SHOPLIFTING IS  
ALSO AN ISSUE WE'VE HAD IN OUR  
MAJOR SQUARES.  
WE HAVE IMPACT WITH LARCENIES  
FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND BIKE  
THEFTS HAVE ALSO DECREASED.  
SO WE USE REAL TIME DATA TO  
DEPLOY OUR RESOURCES AND  
PARTNER CLOSELY WITH OUR  
BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND  
RESIDENTS TO PREVENT AND  
RESPOND TO THESE CRIMES.  
>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.  
SO I'M GLAD BIKE THEFTS ARE  
COMING DOWN.  
I KNOW THERE ARE A REAL ISSUE.  
I WAS HOPING WHEN REMEMBER  
THERE WAS THAT VERY ACTIVE CHOP  
SHOP NEAR MAGAZINE BRIDGE.  
I WAS HOPING WHEN THAT CLOSED  
MAYBE THERE WOULD BE FEWER  
BIKES STOLEN BUT PERHAPS THE  
CHOP SHOP HAS JUST MOVED.  
AND I DO FEEL LIKE WE -- I'M  
AWARE THAT YOU ARE THE BOOTS ON  
THE GROUND, YOU'RE THE ONES  
THAT SEE EVERYONE THAT'S THE  
UNDERBELLY OF OUR CITY, BUT,  
YEAH, I WISH -- I THINK IT'S  
ESSENTIAL THAT WE REDUCE.  
IN SHOPLIFTING, I UNDERSTAND  
THAT WALGREENS LEFT BECAUSE  
SHOPLIFTING WAS AN ISSUE THERE  
AND THERE MAY BE BUSINESSES WE  
LOSE FROM PORTER SQUARE.  
SO I PLEASE DO EVERYTHING IN  
YOUR POWER TO REDUCE THAT.  
AND THEN I HOPE YOU'LL SPEAK TO  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND THE THREE  
DEPARTMENTS DELIVERING THESE  
SERVICES.

I KNOW YOU'RE DELIVERING  
SERVICES, CARE IS DELIVERING  
SERVICES.

HEART HOPES TO BE DELIVERING  
SERVICES, CAN YOU SPEAK TO  
THAT.

>> YEP.

AND IF I CAN JUST BACK UP TO  
SHOPLIFTING REALLY QUICK THIS  
IS A NATIONAL TREND THAT WE'RE  
SEEING AN INCREASE IN  
SHOPLIFTING AND WE'VE BEEN  
WORKING CLOSELY WITH OUR  
BUSINESS PARTNERS, WITH THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE JUST  
TO FIND SOME, YOU KNOW,  
LEVERAGE -- SOME  
ACCOUNTABILITY.

THERE'S ALMOST STEER  
ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COURTS SO  
WE'RE TRYING TO WORK WITH THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO  
SEE HOW WE CAN BETTER IMPACT  
THE SHOPLIFTING CHARGES.

>> JUST TO CLARIFY, WALL GREENS  
IS CLOSING 1200 STORES AROUND  
THE COUNTRY, SO THE CLOSING OF  
THE STORE IN CENTRAL SQUARE, I  
WOULDN'T ATTRIBUTE TO  
SHOPLIFTING.

THERE'S MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT  
BUSINESS CHALLENGES THAT  
WALGREENS IS FACING NATIONWIDE.

>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU  
FOR THAT CLARIFICATION.  
ABOUT YOUR CO-RESPONSE TEAM AND  
CARE AND HEART.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.  
ONE OTHER THING ON SHOPLIFTING.  
WE'VE NOTICED THROUGH OUR  
RESEARCH THAT ALCOHOL,  
SHOPLIFTING ALCOHOL IN CENTRAL  
SQUARE HAS DROPPED AND THAT IS  
A RESULT OF OUR COMMUNITY  
ACTION TEAM AND WHAT USED TO BE  
THE CENTRAL HARVARD SQUARE  
UNITS WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

IN THE SQUARE THAT CHANGED THE WAY THEY DISPLAY ALCOHOL AND THE WAY THEY DO IT, SO JUST AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WE'RE WORKING ON CREATIVE NEW WAYS TO TRY TO CONTROL SHOPLIFTING WHICH IS A NATIONAL TREND.

>> OKAY.

NOW, THROUGH YOU, COUNCILOR NOLAN ABOUT THE QUESTIONS ABOUT CARE.

SO COUNCILOR ZUSY, NATIONAL PRACTICE --

>> Chair: THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS FROM MANY COUNCILLORS AROUND CARE, SO IF YOU'RE ADDRESSING SOME OF THEM.

>> I'M ADDRESSING THIS ONE FOR NOW.

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE UP HERE FOR A WHILE.

WE'LL HAVE TIME.

>> Chair: I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU AND HELP ALL OF US.

>> YOU'VE GOT ME FOR THE DAY. SO NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES, COUNCILOR ZUSY, SUPPORT CORE RESPONSIVE MODELS IN MR. PRESIDENTS.

CAMBRIDGE IS ONE OF THE FEW CITIES IN THE COUNTRY NOT AS REDUNDANCY BUT AS INNOVATION. WE ARE COLLECTING DATA TO EVALUATE WHAT WORKS AND WE BELIEVE THE CO-RESPONSE TEAM AND THE CARE TEAM WORKING FORGOT ARE ESSENTIAL PIECES OF THAT VISION.

I CAN GET IN DEEPER IF I WANT BUT I'LL WAIT FOR THE QUESTIONS.

>> Councilor Zusy: JUST BEFORE I YIELD, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT BICYCLE TRAINING OR ALL OF OUR KIDS.

I KNOW SOME OF THE SCHOOLS, SOME OF THE KIDS IN OUR SCHOOLS



ARE THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES ARE  
GETTING TRAINED IN BICYCLE  
SAFETY BUT ARE ALL OF THEM?  
THIS IS REALLY I HOPE THE  
ANSWER IS ALL OF THEM.

YEAH.

>> HISTORICALLY WE HAVE WORKED  
WITH THE -- WORKED ON SAFE THEY  
SET THAT CURRICULUM IF A SCHOOL  
MAKES YOUR REQUEST, WE'LL WORK  
WITH THEM ON THAT.

WE DO SUPPORT THIS SAFE ROUTES  
TO SCHOOL WITH OUR ON BIKES AS  
THEY DO THE ROUTES THROUGH THE  
CITY.

WE ESCORT THOSE, BUT RIGHT NOW  
WE'RE NOT DOING ALL OF THEM,  
WE'RE DOING OUR REQUESTS.

>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU.  
AND MY LAST QUESTION IS PLEASE  
SPEAK TO US ABOUT YOUR  
ENGAGEMENT IN PLANNING FOR  
STREETS IN THE CITY AND BICYCLE  
LANES.

>> THROUGH YOU, COUNCILOR  
NOLAN.

SO WE ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN  
THIS STREET AND BICYCLE LANE  
PLANNING.

WE HAVE A DEDICATED TRAFFIC  
ANALYST.

A DEPARTMENT TO SHARE DATA AND  
PROVIDE INPUT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE OUR TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT  
UNIT ALSO REGULARLY  
COLLABORATES WITH OUR CITY ON  
COMMUNITY EVENTS SUCH AS THE  
CITY'S DANCE PARTY, THE MAY  
FAIR AND WE'RE PARTICIPATING IN  
THE UP COMING SPEED PROJECT AS  
THE CITY'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGET  
PROCESS.

>> Councilor Zusy: EXCELLENT.  
GOOD WORK.

I THINK YOUR ENGAGEMENT IS  
ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I YIELD.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.  
MAYOR SIMMONS AND THEN  
COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,  
MADAM CHAIR.

GOOD MORNING TO THE CAMBRIDGE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT.

AND I APOLOGIZE IF I'M ASKING A  
QUESTION BUT I WASN'T SURE I  
HEARD THE ANSWER I WAS LOOKING  
FOR.

SO THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR, TO  
OUR POLICE COMMISSIONER AND  
STAFF AND, AGAIN, GOOD MORNING.  
I WANT TO JUST PAUSE FOR A  
MOMENT I'M PROUD OF THE WORK OF  
THE CAMBRIDGE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT.

I THINK WE ARE EXTRAORDINARY  
REALLY STAYING HEAD AND  
SHOULDERS ABOVE OTHER PUBLIC  
SAFETY DEPARTMENTS BECAUSE WHAT  
WE DO IS JUST SO COMPREHENSIVE.  
BUT TO THAT POINT, I WANTED  
JUST TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT  
AND I APOLOGIZE IF I'M ASKING A  
QUESTION YOU ANSWERED, CAN YOU  
PROVIDE MADAM COMMISSIONER ON  
THE FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL WORK  
PROGRAM AND SPECIFICALLY HOW  
HAS THE PROGRAM EXPANDED OVER  
THE PAST YEAR AND WHAT ARE THE  
INTENDED OUTCOMES FOR THE UP  
COMING FISCAL YEAR?

THIS IS MULTI-LAYERED I  
APOLOGIZE.

IF SO, ARE WHAT ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES WOULD BE REQUIRED.  
AND I CAN REPEAT THAT IF YOU  
NEED ME TO.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,  
CHAIR NOLAN TO.

>> Mayor Simmons: MAYOR  
SIMMONS.

OUR CLINICAL SUPPORT UNIT IS STAFFED WITH TWO INDEPENDENT LICENSE ITS AND THEY DO FOLLOW-UP OF CASES THAT OUR OFFICERS RESPOND TO AND TAKE REPORTS OF ON THE STREET. AND THEN WE ALSO HAVE A CASE MANAGER THAT ALSO DOES THAT: NOW THE OTHER SOCIAL WORKER THAT IS PART OF THE CO-RESPONSE MODEL IS NOT PART OF OUR BUDGET PROCESS THAT'S ON A GRANT. AND THEY'RE DOING CALLS RESPONDING WITH OFFICERS FOR HIGHER KIND OF LEVEL CALLS THAT INVOLVE, YOU KNOW, A POLICE RESPONSE A SOCIAL WORKER IS NOT IN OUR BUDGET PROCESS RIGHT NOW.

SO OUR CLINICAL SUPPORT UNIT THAT'S PART OF OUR BUDGET, THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE OUR CORRESPONDER MODEL.

I'M GOING TO STOP HERE AND SEE IF THERE ARE.

>> Mayor Simmons: LET ME FOLLOW UP ON THAT: THAT'S GRANT FUNDED IF THAT QUESTION IS GRANT FUNDED. NOT CITY-BASED.

WILL YOU BE IN JEOPARDY OF LOSING THAT RESOURCE BECAUSE YOU LOSE THAT FUNDING?

>> SO WHAT WE'RE HOPING FOR -- THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, WHAT WE'RE REALLY HOPING FOR IS WE'RE COLLECTING DATA ON THIS CO-RESPONSE MODEL.

IT'S REALLY BEEN VALUABLE TO OUR OFFICERS.

IT'S BEEN VALUABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

IT HAS REDUCED EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS.

IT HAS THE REDUCED EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS AND HAS REDUCED PEOPLE THAT END UP IN JAIL.

SO WE'RE HOPING THAT THIS DATA DOES SUPPORT HAVING ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS BUT WE'RE STILL IN THE INFANCY OF COLLECTING THAT DATA.

AND I'M NOT SURE IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO WHAT I JUST SAID.

>> JUST THROUGH THE CHAIR TO YOUR QUESTION, MAYOR, THE CURRENT CO-RESPONSE CLINICIAN IS FUNDED ON A DMH, IT'S CALLED DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH JAIL DIVERSION PLANTS.

WE HAVE SUBMITTED FOR RENEWAL OF THAT GRANT.

WHEN WE ORIGINALLY APPLIED, WE APPLIED FOR TWO CLINICIANS, WE WERE GRANTED ONE CLINICIAN.

AS THE COMMISSIONER SAID AS A PILOT TO SHOW SUCCESS.

WE REAPPLIED WITH THE REQUEST FOR TWO CLINICIANS IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH FACES CUTS IN THE CURRENT STATE BUDGET.

THAT GRANT, THAT SYSTEM OF GRANT IS ALSO POTENTIALLY FACING CUTS.

SO FRANKLY WE WILL NOT KNOW. WE SHOULD KNOW HOPEFULLY IN A FEW WEEKS, BUT THERE IS A POTENTIAL THAT WE WILL NOT BE FUNDED THIS FISCAL YEAR.

>> Mayor Simmons: AND THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR TO DR. BARRETT, WHAT'S THE COST OF THAT POSITION OR RESOURCE. LET'S CALL IT A RESOURCE AND NOT A POSITION.

>> 100, THROUGH THE CHAIR, IT'S ABOUT --

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, THE ENTIRE IS ABOUT 120,000 OF THAT APPROXIMATELY I WANT TO SAY BETWEEN 80 AND 90 IS ALLOCATED

TOWARDS A SOCIAL WORKER.

>> Mayor Simmons: VERY GOOD.  
THANK YOU.

PLEASE KEEP US POSTED ON THAT  
BECAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S A  
RESOURCE THAT REALLY HELPS US  
THROUGH YOU TO DO THAT WORK AND  
IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF WE  
LOST THAT.

AND I GUESS THIS IS A QUESTION  
TO THE CITY MANAGER.  
SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT  
THAT IN THE RESOURCE THAT IT  
PROVIDES THE CITY MANAGER, ARE  
WE THINKING ABOUT ANY  
CONTINGENCIES?

SHOULD WE NOT GET THAT GRANT  
FUNDING?

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS  
THAT WE'VE PARTICIPATED IN AND  
WE'VE TYPICALLY GONE AFTER  
THOSE STATE OR FEDERAL GRANTS  
AND IF WE GET THE FUNDING, THEN  
WE'RE ABLE TO EXPAND OR SUSTAIN  
THOSE PIECES OF WORK, BUT WE'VE  
TENDED NOT TO GUARANTEE FOR  
INSTANCE THAT WE'RE GOING TO  
BACK PHYSIOLOGY THAT FUNDING.

>> Mayor Simmons: THROUGH YOU,  
MADAM CHAIR TO THE CITY  
MANAGER.

SO IF WE LOST THAT GRANT  
FUNDING, WE ARE PRETTY MUCH  
LOSING RESOURCES.

>> I BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE  
CORRECT.

I THINK THE GRANT CURRENTLY  
RUNS THROUGH WHAT DATE?

>> THROUGH YOU, I BELIEVE THE  
GRANT EXPIRES IN JUNE AND THE  
NEW ONE IS SET TO START IN  
SEPTEMBER AND THEN THE NEW  
GRANT STARTS SHORTLY  
THEREAFTER.

>> Mayor Simmons: AND SO I  
GUESS MY THEN QUESTION BECAUSE  
IF SOUNDS LIKE IT'S AN

IMPORTANT FUNCTION AND SERVICE.  
MADAM CHAIR TO THE COMMISSION,  
WHAT DEFICIT WOULD THAT PUT YOU  
AT IF YOU LOST THAT GRANT  
FUNDING?

>> I GUESS ONE OF THE THINGS  
THAT I'M REALLY REFLECTING ON  
NOW IS THE IMPACT AND I REALLY  
WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MARIE  
MATTHEW WHEN SHE TALKED ABOUT  
IT LAST TIME.

THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING HERE  
IS REALLY UNBELIEVABLE AND THE  
FACT THAT WE ARE HAVING A  
SOCIAL WORKER RESPOND TO HIGH  
IMPACT POLICE-RELATED CALLS AND  
IS ABLE TO HELP US EFFECTIVELY  
DIFFUSE, DEESCALATE THAT CALL  
AND GET THAT PERSON SOME  
SUPPORT I THINK IS TOTALLY  
INVALUABLE.

I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE  
L.I.C.S.W.s WITH OUR POLICE  
OFFICERS ON THE STREET  
RESPONDING TO THOSE HIGH IMPACT  
CALLS AND I REALLY WANT TO SEE  
WHAT THE DATA TELLS US ABOUT  
HOW IMPACTFUL THIS HAS BEEN.

I THINK, AGAIN, EARLY  
INDICATORS THIS IS A VALUABLE  
PROGRAM AND IF WE REALLY FEEL  
LIKE IT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
AND I BELIEVE WE WILL COMING  
BACK TO THIS BODY AND SAYING IS  
THIS SOMETHING THAT WE'D BE  
WILLING TO INVEST IN BECAUSE I  
THINK IT REALLY DOES THINKING  
ABOUT DIFFUSING, DEESCALATING  
SOMEBODY IN CRISIS WITH THE  
SOCIAL WORKER AND GETTING  
SUPPORT WE NEED.

YOU CAN'T DO BETTER THAN THAT.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU.  
SORRY.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT  
PARTICULAR POSITION AND THEN  
THE PROGRAM IN GENERAL, I AM

ALMOST AFRAID TO REPEAT THE  
QUESTIONS ARE THERE PLANS TO  
FURTHER SCALE UP THE MODEL IF  
THERE'S NO FUNDS.

SO I GUESS AT SOME POINT, WE  
SHOULD HAVE A CONVERSATION  
SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

IF WE HAVE THIS PROGRAM THAT'S  
FUNCTIONING BASED ON  
ALLOCATIONS IN THE 2425 YEAR,  
25, 26, AND WE DON'T HAVE IT,  
WHAT DO WE DO?

>> RIGHT.

>> Mayor Simmons: THAT'S  
CONCERNING.

WELL, ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU  
WANT TO SAY SPECIFIC TO MY  
QUESTIONS?

OTHERWISE I'LL YIELD THE FLOOR.

>> YOU KNOW, I THINK FOR ME  
JUST REALLY SAYING THAT, YOU  
KNOW, THE CITIES TOGETHER THESE  
MODELS REALLY REFLECT THE  
CITY'S COMMITMENT TO REIMAGINE  
PUBLIC SAFETY.

THEY ENSURE SOMEBODY IN CRISIS  
WHETHER YOU NEED CLINICAL  
SUPPORT, SAFETY INTERVENTION OR  
BOTH RECEIVES A TIMELY AND  
APPROPRIATE RESPONSE AND I, YOU  
KNOW, YEAH.

>> AND THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR  
THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER AND TO  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT,  
YOU'RE ACTUALLY RIGHT ABOUT  
THAT.

I MEAN, FOR ME, THIS TALKS TO  
DEESCALATION AND WE ALWAYS WANT  
TO TALK ABOUT HOW DO WE INTO  
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.  
IT'S MORE PSYCHOSOCIAL OR  
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL.

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE  
CERTAINLY AND THIS IS THE CITY  
COUNCIL AND MY COLLEAGUES  
CERTAINLY SHOULD BE SOMETHING  
WE PAY ATTENTION TO.

BECAUSE I THINK THIS IS  
SOMETHING WE DO VERY WELL.  
MADAM COMMISSIONER, AGAIN,  
THANK YOU TO YOU AND TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT FOR  
YOUR STELLAR WORK AND I YIELD  
THE FLOOR.

>> Chair: RIGHT.

I THINK IT WAS COUNCILOR  
SIDDIQUI AND THEN VICE MAYOR  
MCGOVERN BUT I COULD HAVE HAD  
THE ORDER.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: I  
JUST, MADAM CHAIR, IF YOU JUST  
INDULGE MOW FOR A SECOND, I DID  
WANT TO JUST SHARE AN EXAMPLE  
BECAUSE THERE'S SO MANY  
QUESTIONS ON THIS CO-RESPONSE  
MODEL AND REDUNDANCY AND WHY IS  
IT EFFECTIVE.

AND I JUST WANT TO THINK BACK  
AND I THINK BACK TO SEVERAL  
YEARS AGO, RIGHT AT THE START  
OF COVID, THERE WAS A SITUATION  
WHERE A WOMAN PASSED AWAY IN AN  
APARTMENT BUILDING ON FRANKLIN  
STREET.

AND NOBODY KNEW HOW SHE PASSED  
OR WHY SHE PASSED THEY JUST  
KNEW THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO  
PASSED AWAY IN AN APARTMENT.  
THE POLICE WERE CALLED.

THE POLICE WERE SORT OF AND  
THEY COULDN'T LET EVERYBODY IN.  
THE WOMAN'S SON SHOWED UP  
EXTREMELY DISTRAUGHT, REALLY IN  
CRISIS THAT HIS MOTHER HAD  
PASSED AND THE POLICE DID THEIR  
BEST TO TRY AND CALM HIM DOWN.  
HE DIDN'T -- HE WAS HAVING A  
HARD TIME AND ENDED UP WITH THE  
POLICE HANDCUFFING HIM AS A WAY  
TO TRY AND HIM.

THIS WAS ALL ON VIDEO AND IT  
BECAME A BIG THING.

IF COUNCILOR WILSON HAD BEEN  
THERE AS A SOCIAL WORKER NOT IN



A UNIFORM OR IF I HAD BEEN  
THERE, I WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY  
SAID, HEY I'M MARK, WHAT'S YOUR  
NAME?

FRED.

FRED, I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR  
ABOUT YOUR MOM.

THIS IS SO DEVASTATING, I'M SO  
SORRY.

THESE GUYS HAVE TO BLOCK THE  
DOOR FOR A LITTLE BIT.

WHY DON'T WE TAKE A WALK AND  
GET A GLASS OF WATER.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MOM.

AND I'LL GET YOU AS SOON AS WE  
CAN.

HANDCUFFS.

RIGHT.

SO THAT'S WHY THESE THINGS ARE  
IMPORTANT AND WHETHER IT'S CARE  
WHO'S DOING IT OR CO-RESPONSE  
OR SOMEONE ELSE, THIS IS, YOU  
KNOW I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT'S  
REAL LIFE WITH PEOPLE IN REAL  
LIFE SITUATIONS AND SOMETIMES  
HAVING A LITTLE MORE STAFF  
THERE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN SOMETHING BECOMING A  
MUCH BIGGER ISSUE OR A MUCH  
SMALLER ISSUE.

SO I JUST USED THAT EXAMPLE  
BECAUSE I THINK IF A SOCIAL  
WORKER HAD BEEN AVAILABLE ON  
THAT CALL, I DON'T THINK THAT  
PERSON EVER WOULD HAVE BEEN  
HANDCUFFED.

I DON'T THINK IT EVER WOULD  
HAVE BEEN THE ISSUE THAT IT  
WAS.

SO THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT.  
I'LL YIELD.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councilor Siddiqui: SURE.

THANK YOU.

THANKS FOR THE PRESENTATION,  
OPENING REMARKS.

I THINK I'M STILL A LITTLE I  
THINK CONFUSED BY BOTH MODELS

PARTICULARLY AROUND THE FACT  
THAT THE CARE TEAM DOES HAVE  
SOCIAL WORKERS ON THEIR TEAM  
AND THAT'S SOMETHING THEY'RE  
LOOKING FOR AND HIRING.

I THINK ONE OF THE BIG THINGS  
THAT THIS PARTICULAR MODEL, IT  
WASN'T ANTICIPATED AS IT WAS  
NEWS TO A LOT OF US.  
THAT'S THE ATTENTION THAT I'M  
STILL GRAPPLING WITH AND I WANT  
TO BE UPFRONT ABOUT THAT  
WHENNED THE CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE THAT WAS PUT  
TOGETHER, THAT WAS A SURPRISE  
AND WE'VE SEEN THAT PLAY OUT IN  
CONVERSATIONS.

I THINK I STILL AM TRYING TO  
UNDERSTAND HOW THEY BOTH WORKED  
TOGETHER AND GROW TOGETHER AND  
SO I JUST -- I DON'T HAVE A  
QUESTION THERE, BUT I THINK  
THAT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT I  
WANTED TO SHARE AND OBSERVE.  
I'M TRYING TO THINK ABOUT THE  
REDUNDANCY QUESTION AND THINK  
ABOUT THE GOALS FOR EACH.  
SO THAT'S JUST MY THOUGHTS ON  
THAT.

I DO HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS  
AROUND I GUESS, SORRY I'M  
STEALING YOUR THUNDER A LITTLE  
BIT BUT OBVIOUSLY THE FREE CASH  
APPROPRIATION THAT WE HAD MADE  
IN MARCH.

I HAD EXPRESSED WHY I DIDN'T  
VOTE FOR IT.

WHY I WAS SURPRISED BY IT.

I ON THAT -- ALONG THOSE LINES,  
I THINK THINKING AHEAD I WOULD  
ASSUME THAT YOU DO HAVE A SENSE  
OF ANY TECH EQUIPMENT THAT  
YOU'LL NEED TO UPGRADE WITHIN  
THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS AND SO

I GUESS THE QUESTION IS DO YOU  
HAVE KIND OF ANY SPECIFICS IF  
YOU DO HAVE NEEDS COMING UP?  
I THINK THE MORE NOTICE OR  
INFORMATION AHEAD OF THAT  
PROCESS WOULD BE REALLY  
IMPORTANT.

>> CAN I COMMENT?

THANK YOU, COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.  
I REALLY WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
MANY OF YOU HAD CONCERNS ABOUT  
THAT APPROPRIATION AND THE  
TIMING AND PROCESS WERE NOT  
IDEAL AND I DO ACKNOWLEDGE HOW  
THAT FELT FOR THE BODY AND THIS  
PUBLIC HOW WE WERE CAUGHT OFF  
GUARD.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S  
IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO  
POLICING.

THIS WAS A COMPLEX AND VERY  
TIME-SENSITIVE DECISION AND I  
KNOW WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT THAT  
AND WE'VE BEEN TRACKING THIS  
ISSUE INTERNALLY WITH OUR FIRE  
AND COMMUNICATING WITH THE CITY  
EFFECTIVELY.

[CAPTIONER SWITCH]

AND WE HAVE BEEN TALKING A LOT  
ABOUT HOW TO DO THAT BETTER AND  
I REALLY APPRECIATE AGAIN HOW  
HARD THIS WAS FOR THIS BODY AND  
WE'RE COMMITTED TO DOING BETTER  
MOVING FORWARD.

>> THROUGH YOU, THANK YOU.

DO YOU HAVE NEEDS YOU CAN SPEAK  
TO FOR THE FUTURE OR RIGHT NOW  
YOU'RE NOT ANTICIPATING  
ANYTHING?

>> WE HAVE BULLET-PROOF VESTS.

>> WE HAVE A REQUEST IN AND I  
BELIEVE A COUPLE REQUESTS FOR  
RADIOS.

>> AND NOTHING ELSE BIG WE CAN  
ANTICIPATE CORRECT?

>> WE'RE LOOKING ON PLANNING AND

COMING TO CITY COUNCIL ONCE WE  
HAVE SOME INFORMATION.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU.

THE SECOND QUESTION I HAD WAS I  
KNOW ALSO THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS  
AROUND THE LICENSE PLATE READERS  
AND THE CELL PHONE ACCESS  
SOFTWARE.

I BELIEVE THAT WAS FUNDED IN  
PART BY THE SECURITY COMMISSION  
GRANT.

I WANT TO CONFIRM WE STILL HAVE  
THAT GRANT AND CAN YOU SAY  
SPECIFICALLY HOW MUCH THAT WAS  
FOR?

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR.

THE ALPRs, AUTOMATIC LICENSE  
PLATE READERS.

>> APPROXIMATELY  
[INDISCERNIBLE].

>> THAT'S 100% FUNDING THROUGH  
THEM.

THE CELL PHONE CRACKER WE  
BOUGHT.

>> AND FOR THE CITY BUDGET TO  
PURCHASE THAT APPROXIMATELY  
\$60,000 OR \$62,000.

>> AND YOU'LL BE FUNDING THE  
SAFETY CAMERAS IN CENTRAL  
SQUARE?

>> WE DON'T HAVE CONCERN ABOUT  
LOSING THE GRANTS IN THE FUTURE?

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, I DON'T  
KNOW THAT ANSWER.

WE HAVE THE CAMERAS THAT WE HAVE  
IN PLACE.

WE MAY HAVE TO PICK UP THE  
FUNDING FOR THE \$3,000 PER  
CAMERA IF WE LOSE THE FUNDING  
EVENTUALLY.

>> THEN THE CITY WILL BE FUNDING  
THOSE.

>> AND ANOTHER FINAL QUESTION  
AND THEN I'LL YIELD.

WITH RESPECT TO BODY-WORN  
CAMERAS, I UNDERSTAND IT WAS A

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE.

WHAT IS PLAB'S ROLE IN THIS WORK  
AND ENSURING COMPLIANCE?

I KNOW THEY INVESTIGATED THE  
POINT BUT CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE  
BIT ABOUT THAT?

>> SO, THROUGH YOU, CHAIR.  
IT'S GOING TO BE INTERESTING TO  
SEE HOW IT WORKS WITH THE  
BODY-WORN CAMERAS BUT THERE'S  
STILL COMPLAINTS SO WE'LL SEE  
HOW LEGALLY WHAT THEY HAVE  
ACCESS TO AND WHAT THEY CAN AND  
CANNOT BUT I'M EXCITED TO SEE  
THE TRANSPARENCY IN WORKING  
TOGETHER TO BUILT COMMUNITY  
TRUST WITH THE ADVISORY BOARD  
AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT IT LOOKS  
LIKE BUT WE'RE OPEN.

>> THOSE ARE MY QUESTIONS, THANK  
YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR  
SIDDIQUI.

COUNCILLOR WILSON DO YOU HAVE  
ANY QUESTIONS?

SOBRINHO-WHEELER

>> Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
I WANT TO PROVIDE CONTEXT AROUND  
THE INCREASE IN TIME.  
AND YOU'RE ASKING HOW MANY  
MURDERS IN CAMBRIDGE BECAUSE IN  
SPRINGFIELD THEY HAVE 20-30 A  
YEAR AND THEY'RE NOT MUCH BIGGER  
THAN CAMBRIDGE AND WE HAD YEARS  
WITH ZERO HERE AND LESS VIOLENT  
CLIMB AND I WANTED TO REITERATE  
WE'RE A SAFE COMMUNITY IN THE  
THINGS AROUND VIOLENT CRIME WHEN  
THEY THINK A COMMUNITY'S SAFE OR  
NOT AND I THINK IT'S A CREDIT TO  
OUR SAFETY STAFF AND HOUSING AND  
I WANT THAT ON THE RECORD.  
AND A COUPLE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS  
AROUND THE CONVERSATIONS AROUND  
THIS BEFORE MENTIONED IT WAS  
FUNDED PARTIALLY.  
WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH?  
JUST WANT TO CLARIFY WHERE THE  
GRANT FUNDING IS COMING FROM.  
>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, THE  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH, DMH.  
>> Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
AND IT'S NOT PAYING FOR THE  
STAFF TIME OF NON CO-RESPONDERS  
SO THEY'RE NOT PAYING FOR POLICE  
ON THE CALLS?  
>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR.  
IT'S SOLELY TO CONTRACT TO  
PROVIDE THE PROCESS AND PROVIDE  
OVERHEAD SUPPLIES AND TRAINING.  
THE OFFICERS RESPOND TO CALLS IN  
A WAY SO THAT'S JUST PART OF OUR  
REGULAR BUDGET.  
AND THERE'S NO ADDITIONAL COST  
FUNDED.  
>> Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
OKAY, THANKS.  
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A LOT TIME  
ON THIS AND JUST SAY WE DO  
APPRECIATE THE WORK THE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT DOES.  
I DO THINK THE INITIATION OF A  
CO-RESPONSE PROGRAM SHOULD HAVE  
GONE THROUGH THE COUNCIL BEFORE  
ROLLING OUT AND IT LED TO THE  
CREATION OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT AND SEEING THE POLICY  
ORDER THE COUNCIL'S EXPECTATION  
IS THE COMMUNITY SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT WOULD BE THE  
CO-RESPONSE PRESENTATION IN THE  
CITY ALONG WITH BEING A STAND  
ALONE AND COULD BE THE  
CO-RESPONSE.  
IF THAT WASN'T GOING TO BE THE  
CASE, IF THE CITY THOUGHT THERE  
WAS A NEED FOR A POLICE  
CO-RESPONSE IN ADDITION TO THAT  
THE CARE TEAM WASN'T SET UP TO  
DEAL WITH AND I UNDERSTAND THE  
ARGUMENTS FOR THAT CASE BUT IT  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CONVERSATION

WITH THE COUNCIL BEFORE THAT WAS ROLLED OUT.

SO NO DISRESPECT BUT I'LL BE VOTING NO BECAUSE I THINK THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CONVERSATION BEFORE THAT WAS ROLLED OUT.

WITH THAT I YIELD BACK.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR WILSON.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU COMMISSIONER AND TEAM FOR BEING HERE.

I ASKED A FEW QUESTIONS BUT YOU ANSWERED MANY OF THEM AND I WANT TO TAKE IT BACK BECAUSE I KNOW COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI DIDN'T REALLY ASK A RESPONSE TO THIS BUT I AM CURIOUS ABOUT -- I THINK IN TERMS OF LONG-TERM PLANNING IN THE BUDGET AND RECOGNIZING THE DOLLARS FOR THE FIREARMS, I FEEL LIKE THAT'S A CONVERSATION THAT WAS HAD -- SOMETHING WAS SAID IN THE FIREARMS AND MAYBE CONVERSATION YOU WERE ALL HAVING INTERNALLY PRIOR TO BRINGING IT TO US BECAUSE IT FELT LIKE A SHOCKER AND WAS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF DOLLARS.

I JUST THINK AS YOU ALL WERE WORKING THROUGH PLANNING AND BUDGETING TO ENSURE YOU ALL ARE DOING IT WITHIN THE BUDGET THAT YOU ALL HAVE SO THAT WE'RE NOT HAVING TO TAP INTO FREE CASH. AS YOU ALL THINK ABOUT TIMING AND ROLLING OUT OF THE NEXT THING, THE BULLET-PROOF VESTS AND OTHER TOOLS THAT YOU ALL NEED TO DO YOUR JOB EFFICIENTLY, I GUESS MY QUESTION IS DO WE ANTICIPATE ANYTHING HAPPENING WITHIN THAT'S GOING TO BE OUTSIDE OF YOUR BUDGET WITHIN THE FISCAL YEAR OR NEXT FISCAL YEARS?

>> THROUGH YOU WE'RE LOOKING  
THROUGH A NUMBER OF THINGS AND  
WE DO TRY TO ABSORB WHAT WE CAN  
WITH OUR FUNDS.  
WE DON'T OFTEN COME TO THE  
COUNCIL FOR FREE-CASH  
APPROPRIATIONS.  
I THINK THE LAST TIME WAS IN  
2020 BECAUSE THERE'S ONE-TIME  
EXPENDITURES THAT CANNOT BE  
ABSORBED WITHIN OUR BUDGET.  
SO WHEREVER POSSIBLE WE AS A  
TEAM FIGURE OUT WHERE OUR  
PRIORITIES ARE AND TRY TO ABSORB  
THE FUNDS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN  
ALLOCATED.  
THAT BEING SAID WE'RE LOOKING AT  
THE PLANNING.  
WE'LL COME BACK TO YOU IF THERE  
ARE THINGS WE FEEL ARE OUTSIDE  
OUR BUDGET CAPABILITIES WITH THE  
CITY MANAGER'S TEAM AND  
COLLABORATE WITH YOU GUYS IN THE  
FUTURE.  
>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.  
YEAH, I THINK THAT LEVEL OF  
COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS WILL  
BE REALLY IMPORTANT AND WHETHER  
WE CAN BRING THINGS UP THROUGH A  
COMMITTEE MEETING OR SOMETHING  
OF THAT SORT TO MAP THINGS OUT  
TO BE PREPARED FOR IT BECAUSE  
THAT WAS HUGE AND OBVIOUSLY AS  
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR DOLLARS  
BEING SO TIGHT RIGHT NOW AND HOW  
WE FUND AND SUPPORT MEMBERS OF  
OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATION  
AND COMMUNITY, OUR NEIGHBORS WHO  
REALLY ARE AT RISK AND AT NEED,  
IT WAS HARD.  
AND I RECOGNIZE I SUPPORTED IT  
WITH HESITANCY BUT I SUPPORT IT  
BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE SURE  
YOU ALL HAVE WHAT YOU NEED TO DO  
YOUR JOBS EFFECTIVELY.  
SO THAT WAS A TOUGH ONE.  
BUT I DID HAVE A QUESTION IN



REGARD TO THE EVIDENCE AND NEED  
OF BOTH REGARDING THE  
CO-RESPONSE AND CARE.

I SAY THIS AND I DON'T WANT TO  
CONTINUE TO HARP ON -- PUN  
INTENDED, TO MAKE SURE WE'RE  
GETTING THIS RIGHT.

SO, WHILE YOU HAVE A LICENSED  
SOCIAL WORKER AND I WANT TO  
RECOGNIZE THAT MY COLLEAGUE,  
VICE MAYOR McGOVERN SPOKE TO  
THIS AS A SOCIAL WORKER, I WANT  
TO SEE TO MANY MORE SOCIAL  
WORKERS.

I WANT THAT AND WE NEED THAT AND  
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL SKILL SET  
SOCIAL WORKERS BRING TO ANY ROLE  
THEY'RE IN.

THAT'S THAT.

AND I RECOGNIZE THAT IN THIS  
KIND OF ROLLING OUT OF THE PLAN  
TO HAVE A CO-RESPONSE MODEL,  
WHILE CARE WAS BEING FORMULATED,  
THE OPTICS AROUND REDUNDANCY AND  
HEART BEING A NON-PROFIT,  
COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM THE  
REDUNDANCY SEEMED REALLY -- IT  
WASN'T A GOOD FEELING I THINK  
ACROSS OUR CITY.

AND SO, YOU SPOKE TO HAVING ONE  
SOCIAL WORKER WORKING THROUGH A  
GRANT-FUNDED POSITION THAT'S  
SCHEDULED TO RUN OUT AT THE END  
OF JUNE WHO IS CURRENTLY ON  
CALLS DOING CO-RESPONSE.

CAN YOU SPEAK TO THE AMOUNT OF  
CO-RESPONSE THAT PERSON HAS --  
THE CALLS THEY'VE GONE THROUGH,  
WORKED ON AND IF WE FEEL THIS IS  
CONTINUED TO BE NEEDED IN THE  
DEPARTMENT.

>> I'LL TURN IT OVER FOR THAT.

>> SO, THE LAST NUMBERS WE HAVE  
ARE A COUPLE WEEKS OLD.

THEY'VE HAD OVER 271 RESPONSES  
RANGING FROM A VEHICLE CRASH  
WHERE A GRANDMOTHER WAS DRIVING

AND THERE WAS A DISTRAUGHT CHILD  
AND TO PULLING SOMEONE OFF A  
ROOF THAT WAS GOING TO COMMIT  
SUICIDE TO SOMEONE THREATENING  
PEOPLE WITH KNIVES AND MORE  
ELEVATED CALLS.

OF THOSE RESPONSE, BECAUSE OF  
THE GRANT THEY HAVE THE DUAL  
ROLE DIVERTING PEOPLE FROM THE  
COURT SYSTEM AND FROM E.D. WHEN  
POSSIBLE.

THERE'S BEEN 59 INCIDENTS WHERE  
CHARGES COULD HAVE BEEN  
APPROPRIATE WE WERE ABLE TO  
DIVERT FROM CHARGING THE PERSON  
IN CRISIS.

IN ADDITION, OF CALLS ELIGIBLE  
TO BE DIVERTED BECAUSE SOMETIMES  
THE CO-RESPONSE GETS SENT TO A  
SECTION 12 WHERE THEY'RE  
EXPECTED TO SEND SOMEONE TO THE  
HOSPITAL.

NOT EVERYBODY'S AN LICSW.  
OF THE CALLS WHERE THEY HAVE THE  
OPTION, 65% THEY'VE DIVERTED THE  
E.D. VISIT.

THAT'S A STATISTIC THAT IS  
PRETTY DRAMATIC AND WILL RESULT  
IN LESS MONEY SPENT AT THE  
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND LESS  
TRAUMA FROM THE PERSON WHO  
DOESN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE  
AMBULANCE RIDE AND BE IN THE  
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR EVEN  
MASS GENERAL WHERE THE TRANSPORT  
GOES.

IT'S BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND  
AGAIN I WANT TO REITERATE, THESE  
ARE MUCH MORE ELEVATED CALLS  
THAT THEY'RE RESPONDING TO THAN  
WHAT CARE IS GOING THROUGH.  
THESE ARE POLICE CALLS WHERE  
THERE'S ADDITIONAL RESOURCES  
HELPING AND OUR OFFICERS ARE  
UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF  
BRINGING THIS ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCE INTO THE CALL TO SLOW

THINGS DOWN TO GET THESE TYPES  
OF RESULTS.

SO IT'S BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL  
THAN WE'D HOPED SINCE IT STARTED  
IN AUGUST.

SO WE'RE VERY HAPPY WITH IT.

>>

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.  
I GET IT, WE HAVE THIS WORK  
AHEAD OF US AND WANT TO GET IT  
RIGHT AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIP  
AND THAT INCLUSIVENESS WITH THE  
HEART PROGRAM IS ALSO CRITICALLY  
IMPORTANT.

SO HEART, CARE, CPD CO-RESPONSE  
IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE CITY  
NEEDS TO SEE US AS A UNITED  
FRONT IN HOW WE'RE RESPONDING TO  
CALLS AND NOT FAILING OR MAY BE  
A BURDEN OF TERRITORY THROUGHOUT  
OUR CITY.

A QUESTION I HAD AND I HAD THIS  
FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS  
AROUND THE WORK YOU'RE DOING TO  
ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT ACCURATELY  
REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF OUR  
CITY.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.

WE HAVE CIVIL SERVICE  
CONSTRAINTS AND WE WORK  
INTENTIONALLY ON.

I'LL SAY THE MAKE UP OF OUR  
PATROL OFFICERS IS REALLY  
DIVERSE.

WE SPEAK OVER 17 DIFFERENT  
LANGUAGES AND WERE ONE OF THE  
MOST DIVERSE DEPARTMENTS IN OUR  
PATROLLING.

SOME OF OUR CHALLENGES ARE IN  
THE SUPERVISORY RANKS AND  
GETTING PEOPLE TO TAKE THE CIVIL  
SERVICE EXAM.

I SEE CHALLENGES IN GETTING MORE  
DIVERSITY THROUGH THE CIVIL  
SERVICE TEST PROCESS.

WE DO A NUMBER OF THINGS WITHIN  
THE CITY OR DEPARTMENT TO MAKE

SURE EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS WHAT THE CIVIL SERVICE PROCESS LOOKS LIKE.

I HARD YOU TALKING TO THE FIRE CHIEF AND WE HAVE EXAM PREP AND THE CITY PAYS FOR IT.

THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT AND WE DO INFORMAL MENTORING.

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING TO GET YOUNG, DIVERSE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TAKING THE PROMOTIONAL EXAM. THE CADET PROGRAM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AS FAR AS GETTING PEOPLE INTO POLICE POSITIONS. WE HAVE SIX FORMER CADETS AND WE'LL SPEAK TO THIS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE PROCESS IF YOU WENT TO A CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL YOU ARE ELIGIBLE AND ARE HOPING THAT WILL INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD A CONNECTION IN THE CITY BUT HAD TO MOVE OUT.

>> ONE OF THE REASONS WE WERE LOSING A LOT OF CANDIDATES WAS DUE TO THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT WE HAVE DONE OTHER THINGS TO ATTRACT CANDIDATES BUT IT'S PREFERABLE TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE TIE TO OUR COMMUNITY AND THE CHANGE GOES IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR WILL HAVE A POSITIVE CHANGE ON THE DIVERSITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

I DO WANT TO ADD AS PART OF OUR PROGRAM WE'RE RECRUITING.

>> ALSO IN OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF POSITIONS, WE'VE BEEN INTENTIONAL ABOUT TRYING TO HIRE PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY WHEN WE STOOD UP THE BODY-WORN CAMERA UNIT AND WE GOT RESIDENTS WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH BUT WE'RE LOOKING FOR TIES TO CAMBRIDGE WHETHER STAFF POSITIONS OR SWORN OFFICER POSITIONS.

>>

>> Councillor Wilson: GREAT,  
THANK YOU AND THROUGH YOU,  
MADAME CHAIR.

THE QUESTIONS SHOW MY SUPPORT  
AND COMMITMENT TO THE DIVERSITY  
OF OUR DEPARTMENTS TO MAKE SURE  
IT'S REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY  
OF CAMBRIDGE AND HOW ARE WE  
BEING INTENTIONAL AROUND THOSE  
ADVANCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
TO ADVANCEMENTS.

AND LOOKING FORWARD WHEN THERE'S  
THE NEXT CLASS OF FOLKS  
ELEVATING TO THAT NEXT  
LEADERSHIP ROLE THAT THERE IS  
MORE REPRESENTATION THERE.

I TRULY DO APPRECIATE AND VALUE  
THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS WORK AND  
RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE -- THOSE  
WHO WE SEE IN THE LEADERSHIP  
POSITIONS REALLY DO MATTER IN  
TERMS OF REPRESENTATION ACROSS  
THE BOARD.

SO, ANY WORK WE CAN DO TO BE  
HELPFUL, ANY WORK I CAN DO AS  
CHAIR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO HELP  
AND BRING CONVERSATIONS AND  
AWARENESS OR WHATEVER TO THE  
ROLES OF THE DEPARTMENT THE  
CADET PROGRAM I KNOW IS VERY  
STRONG AND IT'S BEEN YEARS IN  
THE MAKING.

I'M EXCITED THAT THAT'S LIKE  
THIS GREAT PATHWAY INTO THE ROLE  
AND TO BECOMING A POLICE  
OFFICER.

AND I SEE THAT WE COULD DO A LOT  
BETTER.

JUST SAYING WHAT DOES THAT LOOK  
LIKE?

I WILL VOTE TO SUPPORT THE  
BUDGET BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE  
ACROSS THE BOARD WE'RE DOING THE  
WORK THAT TRULY DOES REPRESENT  
OUR CITY.

THANK YOU, I YIELD.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
I THINK PEOPLE HAVE ASKED  
QUESTIONS AND I HAD A COUPLE  
QUESTIONS ON THE BUDGET.  
RELATED TO THE BODY-WORN CAMERA  
IS LAUNCHED, IS THERE A PROCESS  
AND WHAT'S THE STATS OF  
IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
IF PEOPLE REMEMBER POLICE  
EXECUTIVE REFORM WERE BROUGHT IN  
AND SOME IMPLEMENTED.  
I'M CURIOUS WHERE WE ARE ON  
THAT.

>> MADAME CHAIR, RIGHT NOW AS  
FAR AS IMPLEMENTING THE PERF  
RECOMMENDATIONS THERE'S NO PRIOR  
COST AND OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
WE DO 31 IN THE POLICY.  
THE ONE THAT WE WERE MORE  
AGGRESSIVE AND VIDEO MORE IF THE  
VIDEO IF A VICTIM REQUESTS NOT  
TO BE ON VIDEO, WE WILL SHUT IT  
OFF.  
THERE'S A SLIGHT DIFFERENT IN  
THE WAY THE PERF PHRASES THAT  
AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS HAD 18  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BODY-WORN  
CAMERAS AND OUR POLICY HITS ALL  
18.  
WE'RE THOUGHT ANTICIPATING ANY  
COSTS FOR HEEDING THOSE  
RECOMMENDATIONS.

>> Councillor Nolan: YOU'RE  
TALKING ABOUT THE WHOLE REPORT?  
AND WHEN WE HAD THE MEETING JUST  
ON THE POLICE BUDGET END OF  
MARCH THIS YEAR, THERE HAD BEEN  
A QUESTION AND THERE ARE SIX  
OFFICERS ON PAID ADMINISTRATIVE  
LEAVE WHILE AWAITING.  
ARE WE DOING TO ENSURE THOSE  
OFFICERS CAN GET BACK ON THE  
STREET?  
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO  
ENSURE WHILE WE HAVE THESE

OFFICERS, THEY COULD BE DEPLOYED  
IN THE COMMUNITY?

I UNDERSTAND THE WHEELS OF  
JUSTICE GO SLOWLY BUT ANYTHING  
IN OUR CONTROL.

AS WE KNOW THERE'S OFTEN A  
STRAIN ON STAFF SO THE MORE WE  
CAN DO THE JOB THE BETTER FOR  
THE COMMUNITY.

>> IT THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR,  
THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THE  
STRAIN WHEN PEOPLE ARE PLACED ON  
INVESTIGATIVE LEAVE AND WE DO  
ALL WE CAN TO MOVE  
INVESTIGATIONS ALONE AND WE MAKE  
IN EFFORT TO MOVE AS FAST AS  
POSSIBLE.

>> Councillor Nolan: IT MAKES IT  
CHALLENGING FOR THE DEPARTMENT.  
IF THERE'S NO OTHER QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS BEFORE WE MOVE TO A  
MOTION -- COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councillor Siddiqui: THANKS.  
I JUST WANTED TO CLARIFY WHERE  
I'M LANDING, WHICH IS THE FIRST  
TIME I'M LANDING IN THIS WAY.  
I DO APPRECIATE, COMMISSIONER,  
YOUR WILLINGNESS TO DO BETTER IN  
THE FUTURE AND HAVE BETTER  
COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION  
AND I KNOW THAT WE HAVE OUR  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE TO HELP  
WORK THROUGH SOME OF THESE  
BIGGER ISSUES BUT GIVEN MY  
CONCERNS AROUND SOME OF THE  
CONCERNS ALREADY MENTIONED,  
WE'LL BE VOTING NO TO FORWARD  
THE BUDGET AND I HOPE IN THE  
FUTURE WE CAN SEE SOME OF THAT  
PROGRESS AROUND SOME OF THE LONG  
TERM PLANNING AND APPROPRIATIONS  
AND MORE SPACE FOR DISCUSSION  
AROUND THIS CO-RESPONDER MODEL  
AND OTHER REQUESTS.  
SO I JUST WANTED TO EXPLAIN  
BECAUSE I DIDN'T DO THAT  
EARLIER.

THANK YOU.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI AND THE TRANSPARENCY IS AN ISSUE BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THERE COULD HAVE WELL BEEN A DEVELOPMENT OF CARE, 100% WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE IT A JOINT DEPARTMENT WITH CARE.

WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DUPLICATIVE OFFICES AND THERE'S MODELS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU TRAIN PEOPLE IT MAKES SENSE TO ME FOR OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT TO BE THAT CO-RESPONSE AND WORK CLOSELY.

WE HEARD IT IN THE OPENING STATEMENT.

I JUST DON'T SEE IT REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET AND THAT'S THE DILEMMA FOR ME.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS BEFORE WE -- IS THERE A MOTION TO MOVE THIS? WE CAN MOVE IT WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION, NO RECOMMENDATION OR NEGATIVE.

>> FAVORABLE.

>> VICE MAYOR McGOVERN MOVES WE MOVE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET OF THE \$55,823,490 WITH A FULL RECOMMENDATION. DISCUSSION HAVING HAPPENED. ROLL CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM. ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR McGOVERN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR NOLAN.

NO.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

NO.

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

NO.

COUNCILLOR TONER.

YES.

COUNCILLOR WILSON.

YES.



COUNCILLOR ZUSY.

YES.

MAYOR SIMMONS.

YES.

YOU HAVE FIVE MEMBERS RECORDED  
IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THREE  
RECORDED IN THE NEGATIVE AND ONE  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, ALL FOR COMING.

LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE  
DISCUSSIONS.

AND WE ARE ON TRACK NOW FOR  
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES.

AND THANKS TO THE TEAM FOR  
COMING HERE AND FOR CARE COMING  
HERE.

THAT BODES WELL WE HOPE FOR THE  
FUTURE.

THANK YOU.

SO FIRST AN UPDATE ON OUR  
SCHEDULE.

WE WILL BE TYPICALLY TAKE A  
BREAK AROUND NOON SO WE'LL SEE  
WHERE WE ARE IN ABOUT HALF AN  
HOUR IN TERMS OF THE DEPARTMENTS  
SO PEOPLE KNOW.

YES, MAYOR SIMMONS.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,  
MADAME CHAIR.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE DO IT AT  
12:00 FOR A COUPLE THINGS.

SO PEOPLE THAT MAYBE NEED TO  
CHECK IN WITH THEIR OFFICE OR  
MAKE A CALL OR EAT OR STAND, WE  
CAN DO THAT.

I THINK IT HELPS WITH ANY KIND  
OF NOURISHMENT MYSELF INCLUDED  
TO MOVE AND WALK AROUND SO 12:00  
WOULD BE PERFECT, I, SPEAKING  
FOR MYSELF, CAN STEP AWAY AND I  
DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THE  
MEETING.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.

THE INTENT TO GO AT NOON AND I  
THINK WE'LL FINISH THE  
DEPARTMENT.

WE'LL SEE HOW THE NEXT A LITTLE  
BIT GOES BUT I APPRECIATE IT.  
AND TO BE CLEAR, WE WILL DO ALL  
WE CAN TO BREAK RIGHT AROUND  
NOON DEPENDING ON WHERE WE'RE AT  
WITH THIS.

THANK YOU.

WE ARE NOW ON TO ANOTHER REALLY,  
REALLY IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT WE  
RELY ON FOR DOING A RANGE OF  
SOME OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT WORK  
AROUND WHETHER IT'S BUILDING OR  
HOUSING OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OR WORKING WITH THE LICENSED  
COMMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT.  
SO COMMISSIONER, IF YOU'D LIKE  
TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND YOUR  
TEAM.

>> THROUGH, MADAME CHAIR, WITH  
ME IS JACOB LAZARO THE ASSISTANT  
COMMISSIONER.

BACK HERE IS DAVE POWER WHO IS  
THE PROJECT COORDINATOR,  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ALSO KNOWN  
AS THE RATSA AND ANTHONY  
TUCCINATI THE MANAGER OF  
OPERATIONS.

I'D LIKE TO START WITH AN  
OPENING STATEMENT IF I MAY.  
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
CONTRIBUTES BEYOND COLLECTION OF  
REVENUE THROUGH PERMITS AND  
INSPECTION.

IN FOLLOWING THE CITY MANAGER'S  
GUIDANCE, WE ARE FOCUSSED ON  
BECOMING A MORE OUTWARD-FACING  
DEPARTMENT.

OUR INITIATIVES INCLUDE  
PROVIDING ENERGY AND TRADING TO  
ARCHITECTS AND HOMEOWNERS.

WE'RE CURRENTLY PLANNING  
UPCOMING TRAINING IN PORTUGUESE  
AND SPANISH FOR CONTRACTORS  
LEVERAGING THE STAFF AND 28% OF  
OUR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES SPEAK  
MULTIPLE LANGUAGES AND WITH  
THEIR HELP WE'RE IN THE PROCESS

OF TRANSLATING TRAINING GUIDES.  
IN THIS FISCAL YEAR A 15-PAGE  
RESPONSE REGARDING  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
REFINEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF  
THE HOUSING PERMIT PROCESS WAS  
DONE AS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
ALL DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN THE  
PERMITTING PROCESS.  
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPORT  
HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND SOME  
ARE CURRENTLY IN THE WORKS.  
WE ALSO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION  
AND JOINT TRAINING WITH THE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF, COMBATTING ROAD  
ACTIVITY WITH PUBLIC WORKS AND  
REGULAR COORDINATION WITH  
BIWEEKLY MEETINGS WITH PUBLIC  
HEALTH ON AIR QUALITY, ASBESTOS  
AND LEAD PAINT AND OTHER ISSUES  
AND WE'RE IN CONSTANT  
COMMUNICATION WITH CDD REGARDING  
RECENT ZONING CHANGES AND GREEN  
BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.  
I JUST WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE AND SINCERELY THANK  
THE DEDICATED STAFF OF ISD FOR  
THEIR VITAL WORK.  
28 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES ARE  
COMMITTED TO PROVIDING CLEAR  
GUIDANCE AND EFFECTIVELY  
COMMUNICATING COMPLEX TECHNICAL  
INFORMATION AND CODE  
REQUIREMENTS TO A DIVERSE  
AUDIENCE.  
THIS REQUIRES STRONG VERBAL AND  
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS.  
OUR INSPECTORS CONSTANTLY  
REPRESENT THE MUNICIPALITY  
PROFESSIONALLY BUILDING POSITIVE  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.  
A TASK THEY EXECUTE  
EXCEPTIONALLY WELL AND FINALLY  
INVALUABLE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM  
OF FIVE IS THE BACKBONE THAT

HOLDS ISD TOGETHER AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ALL OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

THANK YOU.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU, SO MUCH.

DOES STAFF WANT TO WEIGH IN? ARE WE READY TO GO?

ALREADY.

MAYOR SIMMONS, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE YOUR HAND UP AND WANTED TO --

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU TO THE ISD DEPARTMENT, COULD YOU SHARE HOW MANY ISD INSPECTORS ARE ACTUALLY IN THE DEPARTMENT AND HOW DOES THAT BREAK DOWN IN TERMS OF BUILDINGS TO INSPECTOR RATIO? DO YOU HAVE A SENSE WE HAVE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF INSPECTORS TO COVER ALL THE GROUND THAT WE NEED TO COVER OR WOULD YOUR DEPARTMENT BENEFIT FROM HAVING ADDITIONAL FEET ON THE GROUND?

>> THROUGH, MADAME CHAIR, THE BUILDING DIVISION AT INSPECTION SERVICES EMPLOYS FIVE BUILDING INSPECTORS, TWO FULL TIME AND ONE PART-TIME ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR.

WE ALSO HAVE TWO FULL TIME PLUMBING INSPECTORS AND A FILL-IN PLUMBING INSPECTOR. THE SUPERVISOR AND MANAGER OF BUILDING INSPECTIONS IS ALSO A CERTIFIED BUILDING INSPECTOR. THE COMMISSIONER AND ASSISTING COMMISSIONER ARE CERTIFIED BUILDING OFFICIALS WHICH IS THIS NEXT LEVEL OF INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION.

WE SOMETIMES BRING IN ADDITIONAL PART-TIME HELP FOR ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING WHEN INSPECTORS ARE ON VACATION SO WE DON'T HAVE THE BACK UP OF CONTRACTORS WAITING

FOR INSPECTIONS TO HAPPEN.  
THE HOUSING DIVISION HAS ONE  
PART-TIME INSPECTOR AND THREE  
SANITARY AND HOUSING INSPECTORS  
AND THEY'RE CROSS-TRAINED AND  
ABLE TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN THE  
SHARED DUTIES OF SANITARY AND  
HOUSING AND IT'S MADE A HUGE  
IMPACT ON OUR ENFORCEMENT AND  
INSPECTIONS HAVING THEM  
CROSS-TRAINED.

IN ADDITION TO THESE INSPECTORS  
WE CONTINUE TO EMPLOY.

WE HAVE A NEW POSITION WE'VE  
BEEN TRYING TO FILL FOR A WHILE  
AND ON THE VERGE OF HAVING GOOD  
CANDIDATES FOR THIS POSITION.  
BUT TO GIVE YOU SOME FACTS AND  
SOME STATISTICS, THERE'S  
APPROXIMATELY 13,000 BUILDING IN  
THE CITY.

AND FOR FISCAL YEAR '26, WE HAVE  
NOT PROJECTED AN INCREASE IN ISD  
INSPECTIONS.

IN FACT, WE EXPECT A SLIGHT  
DECREASE.

WE ARE FULLY STAFFED NOW AND  
CURRENTLY INTERVIEWING FOR THE  
ONE POSITION THAT WE'VE BEEN  
TRYING TO FILL.

WE ALSO ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES  
OF TRYING TO UPDATE OUR WEBSITE  
WHICH WILL HELP A LOT BUT YOU  
COULD SAY WE'D BE GROWING IN A  
COUPLE OF YEARS BUT AS OF NOW,  
THE WAY THE ECONOMY IS I BELIEVE  
OUR BZA APPLICATIONS HAVE GONE  
DOWN SINCE FISCAL YEAR 21-22.  
LAST YEAR THERE WAS 161, BZA  
APPLICATIONS AND PROJECTING 85  
THIS YEAR.

ADDITIONAL PERMITS ARE DOWN 400  
TO 500 PERMITS FROM ALMOST 2,000  
FISCAL YEAR '24.

SO I BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH  
PEOPLE ON THE GROUND AS WE SIT  
HERE TODAY FOR THIS BUDGET, YES.

>> Mayor Simmons: THAT'S  
IMPORTANT TO KNOW.  
I'VE HAD SOME CONCERNS IN TERMS  
OF TYPICALLY AROUND THE  
INSPECTIONS YOUR ABILITY AND  
CAPACITY TO KEEP THAT MOVING IN  
SUCH A WAY IT DOESN'T SLOW DOWN  
OTHER THINGS IN THE INDUSTRY IN  
TERMS OF BUILDINGS AND THOSE  
KINDS OF ISSUES AND SO YOU'RE  
SAYING THAT YOU HAVE THE  
CAPACITY THAT I'M GLAD TO HEAR  
THAT.  
I JUST WANT TO BE SURE THAT WE  
HAVE THE CAPACITY BY WAY OF  
STAFF TO FULLY HAVE YOU EXECUTE  
VIA DEPARTMENT.  
THANK YOU AND MADAME CHAIR, I  
YIELD THE FLOOR.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
AND FOR PEOPLE'S REFERENCE,  
SORRY, I DON'T THINK I  
MENTIONED, INSPECTION SERVICES  
IS ON BUDGET BOOK V SECTION 105  
PAGE 65 AND HAS A NUMBER OF  
MEASURES WHAT THE COMMISSIONER  
SAID ABOUT THE NUMBER OF  
INSPECTIONS AND SOME OF THE  
DATA'S THERE.  
> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU,  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.  
I APPRECIATE YOU'RE THE BOOTS ON  
THE GROUND LIKE POLICE SEEING  
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CITY OR  
BOOTS ON THE GROUND FOR OUR  
BUILDING.  
THANK YOU FOR THE QUICK UPDATE  
ABOUT BZA APPLICATIONS BEING  
DOWN AND PERMITS FOR RENOVATIONS  
BEING DOWN.  
NOT THAT THAT'S GOOD NEWS.  
I JUST WONDERED WITH YOUR  
TRAININGS AT THE NATIONAL LEAGUE  
OF CITIES, THERE WERE SOME  
CITIES LIKE IN DELAWARE THEY  
HAVE A PROGRAM WHERE IT'S SORT

OF A PROACTIVE WORKSHOP TRAINING THAT THEY OFFER TO PEOPLE TO HELP THEM IF THEY'RE PLANNING A RENOVATION OR IF THEY'RE GOING TO ADD AN ADU.

THEY CAN MEET WITH INSPECTIONAL SERVICES AND OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS BEFORE HAND.

AND GET SORT OF A ROAD MAP FOR WHAT THEY NEED TO DO, WHAT THE GUIDELINES ARE, WHAT THE PROCESS IS, WHAT THE HOOPS ARE THEY HAVE TO JUMP THROUGH.

DO YOU HAVE SUCH A PROCESS OR WOULD YOU CONSIDER CREATING SUCH A PROCESS?

I THINK IT COULD BE REALLY BENEFICIAL.

I REALIZE THAT RENOVATIONS ARE DOWN AND DEVELOPMENT IS DOWN BUT I JUST THINK GOING FORWARD IT COULD BE REALLY BENEFICIAL.

I KNOW WE DID A RENOVATION IN 2009, I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE ATTENDED THIS PROGRAM IN ADVANCE.

THANK YOU.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, THIS FISCAL YEAR OR LAST FISCAL YEAR WE HAD TWO SESSIONS AT THE LIBRARY FOR HOME OWNERS A NUMBER OF COUNCILS PUT IN THERE A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OR THOSE TYPES OF THINGS.

AND WE HAD A GREAT RESPONSE.

WE'RE CURRENTLY PLANNING ON ONE THAT WILL SPECIFICALLY SPEAK TO ADUs AND WE'VE DONE A LOT OF RESEARCH ON ADUs AND WHY A LOT OF TIMES I MET WITH COUNCILLOR NOLAN AND PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHY IT'S HARD TO HAVE DEVELOPERS TO COME IN FOR MORE UNITS.

I BELIEVE, ONE OF MY THOUGHTS IS THE ZONING IS AT A POINT NOW WHERE IT'S EASIER TO PUT UP A FOUR, FIVE-STORY BUILDING BUT

STILL REQUIRES A LOT OF  
DETERMINATION AND INTELLIGENCE  
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO SPECIFIC  
WAYS HOW TO GO ABOUT TAKING YOUR  
GARAGE AND MAKING IT AN ADU.  
I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING  
ONE OF THESE SESSIONS JUST ON  
ADUs TO PEOPLE CAN GET AN  
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S INVOLVED  
BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING LIKE --  
IT'S JUST NOT ISD AND THROUGH  
THAT COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WE DID  
WITH THE PERMITTING, YOU SEE  
DPW'S INVOLVED AND THERE'S  
TRAFFIC AND PARKING INVOLVED AND  
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S INVOLVED.  
SO, IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR  
INDIVIDUALS TO GET AN  
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT TO EXPECT  
PRIOR TO THEM.  
IN OTHER WORDS, KEEP THEIR  
EXPECTATIONS LOW INSTEAD OF  
HAVING EXPECTATIONS SO HIGH AND  
THEN FIND OUT THEY'LL HAVE TO DO  
A, B AND C.  
AND THE RESEARCH WE'VE BEEN  
DOING, ZONING IS ALLOWING HOMES  
TO GO UP BUT ONE OF THE THINGS I  
THINK WE CAN DO IS NOT ALLOW  
CERTAIN THINGS IN ZONING.  
THAT'S SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T  
LOOKED AT AND I THINK IT'S  
IMPORTANT WE START TAKING A LOOK  
AT THOSE TYPES OF THINGS.  
I CAN ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT IF  
YOU WANT BUT THAT'S SOMETHING  
WHERE I'M TRYING TO FOCUS MY  
ATTENTION ON.  
I'LL GIVE A GOOD EXAMPLE.  
IN THE LAST 14 OR 16 MONTHS  
THERE'S BEEN 18 TO 24 TWO-FAMILY  
HOUSES CONVERTED TO SINGLE  
FAMILY HOUSES AND THAT'S  
SUBSTANTIAL ALLOWING TWO  
FAMILIES TO GO TO SINGLES IS  
SOMETHING MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK  
AT THINGS LIKE THAT.



I DON'T KNOW.

THERE'S ALWAYS WAYS TO GET --  
BECAUSE WE NEED MORE HOUSING IN  
THE CITY AND THERE'S NO DOUBT  
ABOUT THAT AND ISD IS REALLY  
TRYING WHATEVER THEY CAN DO TO  
HELP PEOPLE GET MORE AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING IN THE CITY.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU  
FOR THE UPDATE AND I'LL LOOK  
FORWARD TO MORE ON THE PROGRAM  
WHEN ADUs WILL HAPPEN TO  
REITERATE WHAT YOU SAID, WE WANT  
TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO HAVE MORE  
HOUSING SO LET'S MAKE IT EASIER.  
I ENTERED OUR RENOVATION MAYBE  
NAIVELY AND MAYBE THAT WAS BEST  
BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD FOR  
ME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS  
GETTING INTO.

THANK YOU AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
WORK.

I YIELD.

>> I HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS ON  
THE MAYOR'S QUESTION ON  
INSPECTIONS AND WHETHER STAFFING  
IS AVAILABLE.

HOW DO WE MEASURE THE TIMELINESS  
OF INSPECTIONS?

I KNOW THERE'S SOME TIME FRAME  
AND THAT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGE IN  
THE PAST AS WE SAID.

DO WE MEASURE SO SOMEONE CAN  
LOOK IN AND SAY, OH, HERE ARE  
THE SEVEN INSPECTIONS THAT NEED  
TO HAPPEN FOR THE PROJECT AND  
THREE OR TWO.

HOW MUCH TIME DID IT TAKE.

IS THERE CAPACITY TO DO THAT  
EASILY?

>> I'M SURE WE COULD FIGURE OUT  
A WAY.

I KNOW ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE  
WE'VE HAD ISSUES IS WITH  
ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS AND NOT  
TO SAY THE ELECTRICAL  
INSPECTIONS ARE NOT DOING THEIR

JOB BECAUSE THEY'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF THEY HAVE A LOT OF MORE INSPECTIONS TO DO AND WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF IS BROUGHT IN PART-TIME OR FILL-IN INSPECTORS WHEN WE HAVE ADMINS WHO NOW TAKE THE PHONE CALLS OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS AND PUT THEM ON A SHEET AND MAKE SURE PEOPLE ARE GETTING CALLED BACK, MAKE SURE THE INSPECTORS KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

WE'RE TRYING TO HELP AS BEST WE CAN.

SO BY STATUTE, WE HAVE TO DO AN INSPECTION WITHIN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME.

YOU KNOW, 90% OF THE TIME WE MEET THOSE REQUIREMENTS.

WHEN IT CAME TO ELECTRICAL WE WERE HAVING ISSUES BECAUSE WE WERE INUNDATED WITH ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS AND ALL ADMINS ARE HELPING OUT AND MAKING SURE IF THE INSPECTION NOT DONE WITHIN TWO, THREE DAYS THE PERSON IS CALLED BACK AND KNOW WHEN THE INSPECTION IS COMING AND NOT WAITING JUST FOR AN ANSWER FOR AN INSPECTION.

I THINK WE'VE MADE GREAT STRIDES THERE.

>> THE MAYOR ALLUDED TO AND I THINK WE HEARD YOU TRIED FOR THAT AND SOMETIMES IS LONGER SO THIS IS THE KIND OF THING WHERE IT SEEMS LIKE SYSTEMIZING IT AND A.I. HAS A ROLE BUT DOING EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO SUPPORT THE STAFF SO THE STATUS IS OUT THERE IN THE FIELD DOING THAT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT.

AS YOU NOTED ELECTRIFICATION IS ONLY GOING TO GET MORE AND MORE, NOT JUST FOR E.V.s BUT WE HOPE

IT'S EXPLODING.

WHAT'S THE OTHER QUESTION YOU ALLUDED TO.

THE QUESTION ASKED ABOUT NEW CODES AND WE HAVE FOSSIL-FUEL FREE REQUIREMENTS AND COMMUNICATION TO FOLKS ABOUT THE AND USING A.I. AND WHEN THEY THINK OF DOING A RENOVATION AND HEY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO REPLACE YOUR STOVE, THINK OF ELECTRIC OR INDUCTION AND WHERE ARE WE ON THE JOURNEY TO ENSURE EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THAT? OFTEN PEOPLE DON'T KNOW UNTIL AFTER THEY'VE ALREADY PULLED THE PERMIT AND THEN IT'S TOO LATE.

>> SO WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO LETTING PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIFICATION, FOSSIL FUEL AND ALL THE NEW CODE REQUIREMENTS WHAT WE TRY TO DO IS WE HAVE INSPECTORS THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OF LAST YEAR'S AGREEMENT WITH OUR UNION EMPLOYEES.

WE PUT IN A LOT OF INCENTIVES FOR THEM TO GET CERTIFIED AND LEED CERTIFICATION TO GET CERTIFIED IN SOLAR PANELS AND IN THE SUSTAINABLE NEW ENDEAVORS TO SPEAK ABOUT IT WHEN THEY GO OUT ON INSPECTIONS.

ONE OF THE MAIN GOALS OF THIS FISCAL YEAR IS TO REDO OUR WEBSITE AND PART WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PUTTING IN THE GOALS OF THE CITY TO BE A NET ZERO GOALS BY 2050 SO ANYONE THAT GOES TO OUR WEBSITE CAN SEE THAT.

THAT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING THAT WILL TAKE TIME TO DO.

AS OF RIGHT NOW WE DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF DEPLOYMENT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IF SOMEONE COMES IN TO A PERMIT TO CHANGE FROM

ELECTRIC TO GAS BUT WORTH  
LOOKING AT TO SEE HOW TO DO THAT  
TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF WHAT OUR  
GOALS ARE.

I KNOW OUR CITY AND STAFF TRY TO  
DO IT BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY  
WAYS TO DO A BETTER JOB.  
IT'S SOMETHING I DON'T THINK ANY  
OF US HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT AND  
WE'D BE HAPPY TO TRY TO DO  
WHATEVER WE COULD TO MAKE THOSE  
GOALS HAPPEN.

>> Councillor Nolan: IT DOES  
RELATE TO OUR BUDGET BECAUSE  
MOVING FORWARD WE NEED TO HAVE  
THIS TO PEOPLE IN THE CITY AND  
WILL SAVE THEM MONEY IF WE  
ENSURE THEY'RE DOING THIS NOW.  
ARE WE THINKING AT ALL ABOUT  
SPEAKING OF SYSTEMIZATION  
GETTING BUILDING PERMIT DATA  
EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYBODY?

>> YEAH, I THINK WE ARE.  
THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, OVER  
THE PAST YEAR WE WORKED CLOSELY  
WITH DATA TEAM TO IMPROVE THE  
AVAILABILITY OF PERMITTING DATA  
ON LINE THROUGH THE CITY'S OPEN  
DATA PORTAL ALLOWING PUBLIC  
PERMITTING DATA FROM HOME AND  
THE DATA SETS ARE UPLOADED  
WEEKLY.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THE TEAM HAS  
DONE WORK TO IMPROVE THE  
AVAILABILITY OF THE INFORMATION  
AND WE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS.  
WE ALSO HAVE FULL TIME RECORDS  
COORDINATOR, JORDAN ROSARIO AND  
PROVIDES ACCESS TO OUR INVENTORY  
OF PAPER AND DIGITAL RECORDS AND  
ALSO PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN  
OUR DIGITIZATION PROJECT.  
WE ARE TRYING TO GET EVERYTHING  
DIGITIZED.

WE'RE WAITING TO GET ANOTHER  
GRANT THROUGH CHARLIE SULLIVAN  
AND HIS ENDEAVORS TO TRY TO GET

MORE MONEY TO START GETTING OUR  
DRAWING DIGITIZED.

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S IN THE  
WORKS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
RESOURCES HAS REQUIREMENTS FOR  
EACH CITY AND TOWN TO SUBMIT  
ENERGY CODE DATA SPECIFICS,  
WHICH WE DO WITH CDD.

WE JUST HAD A MEETING WITH THE  
OTHER 10 COMMUNITIES THAT WILL  
FOSSIL-FUEL FREE ON HOW THE  
STATE WANTS US TO REPORT AND  
THAT'S GOING TO BE OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC.

THE RATING NUMBERS AND DRAWING  
AND PASSIVE HOUSE  
CERTIFICATIONS.

SO, YEAH, I THINK WE'RE DOING A  
GREAT JOB WITH THE OPEN DATA AND  
PERMITTING.

>> Councillor Nolan: HOPEFULLY  
THAT WILL FREE UP STAFF TO BE  
OUT IN THE FIELD INSTEAD OF THE  
OFFICE PRODUCING THE PAPER SO  
THE BUDGET WILL BE MORE  
EFFICIENT.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS FROM --  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.

> Councillor Zusy: I APOLOGIZE,  
I HAVE ONE MORE.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, CAN  
YOU GIVE US -- WHAT ARE YOU  
SEEING PRODUCED FROM THE  
MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROPOSAL,  
ARE YOU SEEING ANYTHING CREATE?

>> RIGHT NOW WE'RE SEEING A FEW  
PROJECTS THAT WERE ALL READY TO  
BE PERMITTED STOP.

AND REDESIGN.

I DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE SEEN ONE  
PROJECT COME IN THAT HAS A  
FULL-SET OF DRAWINGS.

THE PROJECTS THAT WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT WOULD TAKE MONTHS TO HAVE  
PERMITTING -- HAVE THE PLANS  
READY FOR PERMIT.

THERE'S BEEN A FEW PROJECTS THAT  
LIKE I SAID THE FOUNDATION CAME  
IN AND STOPPED THE JOB AND  
CHANGED THE PLANS BECAUSE THEY  
CAN PUT MORE UNITS ON WHAT'S A  
THREE STORY NOW AND FOUR STORY.  
I KNOW THE DUNCAN DONUTS IS ONE  
THEY'RE STARTING -- WE HAVEN'T  
SEEN ONE COME IN AS A NEW PERMIT  
YET WHICH WE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE  
BECAUSE OF THE TIME OF THE  
DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND  
THE MECHANICAL AND HAD  
ELECTRICAL AND DRAWINGS COME IN.  
IT TAKES A GOOD AMOUNT OF TIME.  
> Councillor Zusy: SO WITH THE  
PROJECTS STOPPED AND REDESIGNED  
TO BE LARGER BUT NOT TO INCLUDE  
INCLUSIONARY UNITS?  
>> IT'S YET TO BE SEEN.  
I WOULD ASSUME THEY WOULD  
INCLUDE INCLUSIONARY HOUSING FOR  
SURE.  
BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE DRAWINGS  
OR THE AMENDMENT YET.  
> Councillor Zusy: OKAY, SO  
THEY'RE BIG PROJECTS.  
>> YEAH.  
> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU SO  
MUCH.  
>> THROUGH YOU CHAIR, WE SEE  
DELAYS IN FUNDING WITH SOME  
PEOPLE WITH SOME DEVELOPERS BUT  
THERE ARE A LOT OF THOSE  
CONVERSATIONS GOING ON.  
NOT NECESSARILY PERMIT  
APPLICATIONS AND WHAT THE  
COMMISSIONER IS SPEAKING TO ARE  
ALL THE PROJECTS, THEY FIGURED  
OUT SOME OF THEIR FUNDING AND  
HAD A BASE OF DRAWINGS ALREADY  
AND ADDING AND EXPANDING AND  
MAKING THE PROJECTS BIGGER  
BECAUSE THEY CAN.  
LUCKILY WE'RE HAVING THE  
CONVERSATIONS BUT AT THE  
CONCEPTUAL AND PRE-PERMIT

APPLICATION PHASE ABOUT PROJECTS  
THAT WOULD INCLUDE MORE UNITS.

> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU SO  
MUCH.

I YIELD.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU  
AND ELECTRIC WILL INCREASE AND  
HAS TO BE BY LAW.

I'M MAKING SURE WE'RE NOT GIVING  
EXCEPTIONS.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, I  
HAVE DATA YOU WOULD LIKE.  
SINCE MARCH 22, 2024, SINCE THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF FOSSIL-FUEL  
FREE, 31 MAJOR RENOVATIONS,  
ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS PROJECTS  
OUT OF 1800 PERMITS ARE NOW HAVE  
A LOW HERS RATING WHICH IS GOOD.  
IN 34 NEW CONSTRUCTION PERMITS  
ARE ALL FOSSIL-FUEL FREE.

>> Councillor Nolan: THAT'S WHY  
WE PASSED THAT.

COUNCILLOR WILSON.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
MADAME CHAIR AND THROUGH YOU.  
THANK YOU ALL FOR THE OVERVIEW  
AND PRESENTATION OF THE WORK YOU  
ALL ARE DOING.

I JUST HAD A QUICK QUESTION IN  
REGARDS TO THINKING HOW YOU ALL  
TACKLE SOME OF THE INSPECTIONAL  
REQUESTS THAT MAY COME IN  
PRIMARILY AROUND FOR SMALL  
BUSINESSES PRIMARILY AROUND  
PATIOS AND AROUND WHAT THE  
PROCESS MAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU  
ALL.

SO YOU ALL DO INSPECTIONS OF OR  
PROVIDE SERVICES AROUND PATIOS.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, IT  
DEPENDS ON IF IT'S A PATIO FOR  
SEATING FOR A RESTAURANT IS THAT  
WHAT YOU MEAN?

>> Councillor Wilson: YES.

>> WE WORK WITH THE LICENSE  
COMMISSION AND DPW.

WE HAVE A COUPLE -- FOUR

MEETINGS A YEAR ON THE LICENSING  
OF OUTDOOR PATIOS AND OUTDOOR  
SEATING FOR RESTAURANTS THAT  
CHOOSE TO HAVE OUTDOOR SEATING  
AND OUTDOOR PATIOS.

SO WE WORK WITH ALL OF THEM.

AND FOR ADDING THE PATIO  
WOULDN'T REQUIRE A BUILDING  
PERMIT BUT TRIGGERS DIFFERENT  
THINGS FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND  
THINGS LIKE THAT.

>> Councillor Wilson: THROUGH  
YOU, MADAME CHAIR, THINK DEPUTY  
CITY MANAGER --

>> THROUGH YOU, COUNCILLOR AS  
THE COMMISSIONER INDICATED THERE  
ARE A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS  
INVOLVED IN THIS AND IT'S ALL  
DONE THROUGH THE ONLINE PORTAL  
VIEW POINT.

AND THE LEAD DEPARTMENT IN THIS  
IS GENERALLY THE LICENSE  
COMMISSION TOGETHER WITH THE  
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC  
WORKS.

I THINK YOU ALL WORK TOGETHER TO  
ENSURE THE PROCESS RUNS SMOOTHLY  
AND IN THE LAST COUPLE YEARS  
IT'S BECOME EASIER FOR  
RESTAURANTEURS.

>> Councillor Wilson: I'M  
SOMETIMES IT'S CHALLENGING TO  
GET THROUGH AND I DON'T KNOW  
WHERE THE BUCK LIES OR WHERE THE  
CHALLENGES REALLY STOP OR END  
BUT WONDERING IF THERE'S A NEED  
FOR ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS,  
WORKERS TO STAFF THAT TIME AND  
WE KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING INTO  
LIKE MAYBE AN INFLUX OF REQUEST  
DATA COMING IN.

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S JUST FOR  
ISD OR MAYBE THE LICENSE  
COMMISSION AS WELL BUT I AM  
CURIOUS IF THERE MIGHT BE A NEED  
OR IF YOU ALL MAY SEE WHEN  
THERE'S THIS TIME OF SEASON



WHERE YOU GET MORE REQUESTS COME  
IN IF THERE'S A NEED FOR  
ADDITIONAL STAFF.

>> THROUGH YOU, COUNCILLOR ZUSY,  
THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS HAVE  
GONE DOWN THE LAST COUPLE YEARS.  
THERE'S OCCASIONS WHERE THEY  
WERE INVOLVED IN THIS WHO DON'T  
FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR PROCESS AND  
PERHAPS ARE LOOKING TO THE  
PROCESS IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS  
AND THINK OURS SHOULD BE THE  
SAME AS THEIRS BUT BY AND LARGE  
PEOPLE GET THROUGH IT.  
WE HAVE PEOPLE THAT CAN TALK TO  
THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS SO THEY  
GENERALLY GET THROUGH IT IN A  
REASONABLY TIMELY BASIS.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU  
AND ONE FINAL QUESTION AND I'VE  
BEEN ASKING THIS QUESTION TO A  
FEW OTHER DEPARTMENTS TODAY IS  
ABOUT THE DIVERSITY OF YOUR  
DEPARTMENT.

I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT SHARING IN  
ADVANCE BUT DO YOU KNOW OFFHAND  
THE 28 INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR  
DEPARTMENT FROM WOMEN AND PEOPLE  
OF COLOR, CAN YOU SPEAK TO SOME  
OF THAT DEMOGRAPHIC?

>> SURE.

THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, OUT  
OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC WE HAVE DO  
YOU REMEMBER THE NUMBERS?

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU WITH  
THE NUMBERS

> Councillor Zusy: I WOULD  
APPRECIATE THAT.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

> Councillor Zusy: AND IF I CAN  
PUT IT ON RECORD, I'LL BE ASKING  
THAT OF ALL DEPARTMENTS TODAY SO  
IF FOLKS WANT TO GATHER THAT I  
RECOGNIZE I DOESN'T SHARE THAT  
IN ADVANCE BUT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT  
IT FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS.

THANK YOU, I YIELD.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
I THINK ANY DEPARTMENT WE CAN  
LOOK UP WE HAVE AN INTERACTIVE  
EQUITY AND INCLUSION DASHBOARD  
YOU CAN GO BY DEPARTMENT, UNION  
AND NON-UNION AND VARIABLES AND  
AN EXTENSIVE LOOK OF THE  
DEMOGRAPHICS AND CAN HAVE  
DEPARTMENTS LOOK AT THAT IN  
ANTICIPATION OF COUNCILLOR  
WILSON'S QUESTION.  
I'LL ENTERTAIN TO MOVE THE  
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
BUDGET OF \$4,012,110 FOR COUNCIL  
WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION  
DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED, ROLL  
CALL.

>> COUNCILLOR AZEEM.  
ABSENT.  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR TONER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
YES.  
MAYOR SIMMONS.  
YES.  
YOU HAVE EIGHT MEMBERS RECORDED  
IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND ONE  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Councillor Nolan: IT'S  
EXACTLY NOON I WOULD HAVE HOPED  
TO GET TO CABLE TELEVISION.  
I THINK WE SHOULD BREAK FOR  
LUNCH.  
I'M SEEING ASSENT.  
FROM 12:30 WE'LL BE BACK AT.

>> Councillor Nolan: ROLL CALL.  
[ROLL CALL]  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR TONER.

ABSENT.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
ABSENT.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
PRESENT.  
MAYOR SIMMONS, ABSENT.  
YOU HAVE THREE RECORDED AS  
ABSENT.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
MOVING ON TO CABLE TV, WHICH IS  
THE BUDGET BOOK ON V-98.  
WE HAVE THE DIRECTOR HERE.  
DID YOU HAVE OPENING REMARKS?  
>> I'LL INTRODUCE THE STAFF  
SINCE YOU NEVER GET A CHANCE TO  
SEE THEM.  
WE HAVE WITH ME MONIQUE DOYLE  
AND EDWARD COLIN YOUR STAIRS OUR  
EDITOR.  
OUR PRODUCTION MANAGER AND  
DANIEL JONES OUR ASSOCIATE  
PRODUCER AND I WANT TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE JOANNE MALIESKI WHO  
HELPED US PREPARE THE BUDGET.  
>> Councillor Nolan: EXCELLENT.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.  
WE CAN JUST -- LET'S SEE THE  
FULL BUDGET IS \$1,620,275 THE  
FTEs WERE FIVE JUST INTRODUCED.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY, IF YOU WANT TO  
START WITH YOUR QUESTION AND WE  
CAN SEE IF THERE'S OTHER  
QUESTIONS FROM THE BODY.  
> Councillor Zusy: I WANT TO  
HEAR HOW LARGE YOUR VIEWERSHIP  
ARE AND ARE YOU THE SAME AS CCTV  
OR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?  
>> SOMETHING DIFFERENT.  
THERE IS THE, CALLED PEGS.  
THERE'S A PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL AND  
GOVERNMENT.  
WE'RE THE G PART AND CCTV IS THE  
PUBLIC AND CEA OVER AT THE  
SCHOOL IS THE EDUCATIONAL.  
AS FAR AS THE VIEWERSHIP, WE  
DON'T KEEP THE NUMBERS AND

COMCAST DOESN'T KEEP THEM OTHER.  
CLOSEST ANSWER I CAN GIVE YOU,  
YEARS AGO WHEN WE THE SURVEY AND  
I DON'T HAVE THE HARD NUMBERS  
FROM THAT SURVEY BUT WE DID GET  
A VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE IN THAT  
SURVEY FROM THE PEOPLE WHO ARE  
VIEWING 22 CITY.

I CAN GET THEM BUT I DON'T HAVE  
THE HARD NUMBERS FROM THE SURVEY  
IN FRONT OF ME.

> Councillor Zusy: SO YOU  
FILM -- AND I APOLOGIZE, I CAN'T  
REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE  
BUDGET BOOK BUT

>> Councillor Nolan: V-98.

> Councillor Zusy: SO YOU FILM  
OUR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND  
YOU FILM SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS BUT WHAT -- AND I  
UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU HAVE 77  
HOURS A WEEK PROGRAMMING BUT WHO  
IS PRODUCING THE PROGRAM AND  
WHERE?

>> SO WE ARE, CHANNEL 22,  
THROUGH YOU CHAIR, WE DID THE  
PLANNING MEETINGS AND PLANNING  
BOARD AND WE DO WORK FOR THE  
DEPARTMENTS, FOR INSTANCE, WE'VE  
BEEN DOING SOME WORK WITH THE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT, VETERANS,  
WATER DEPARTMENT, THE ARTS  
COUNCIL, WE DO A LOT OF WORK  
WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM.  
DPW.

SO THERE'S A LOT OF PROGRAMMING  
THAT WE DO OUTSIDE OF THE  
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE WORK AS  
WELL.

> Councillor Zusy: SO, YOU'RE  
STAFF, ARE THEY THE PRODUCERS OF  
THE PROGRAM?

>> YES.

> Councillor Zusy: YEAH.  
OKAY.

SO, AGAIN THIS IS JUST WITHIN  
THE CITY.

SO IF YOU WERE A CITY DEPARTMENT  
AND YOU WANTED TO BROADCAST  
SOMETHING IF YOU WANTED TO  
COMMUNICATE MORE BROADLY, A  
DEPARTMENT WOULD REACH OUT TO  
YOU?

>> CORRECT.

> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU.

>> YOU'RE WELCOME.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.

THAT WAS HOW THE BUDGET AND  
STAFF GETS TO THE PROGRAMMING  
WAS NOTED IN THE BUDGET.

THERE'S 77 HOURS, 20 DIFFERENT  
CITY, 22 CITY VIEWED PROGRAMS  
PER DAY AND IN CITY COUNCIL AND  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE BODY?

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councillor Siddiqui: THROUGH  
YOU, NO QUESTIONS JUST THANK YOU  
FOR GETTING A GOOD ANGLE.

NO, I THINK IT'S A GREAT WAY --  
MY MOM CAN TUNE IN.

THIS IS AN EASY WAY.

AND THERE'S SO MANY MEETINGS WE  
DO NOW SO THANK YOU TO YOU AND  
YOUR TEAM FOR YOUR WORK.

>> YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.

THANK YOU.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON AND MAYOR  
SIMMONS.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.  
AND AGAIN I ECHO THE THANKS FOR  
YOUR WORK, YOU AND YOUR TEAM.

I AM CURIOUS ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE  
GETTING INTO FILM AND PRODUCTION  
AND JUST LIKE WHAT IS YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH BRINGING YOUNG  
PEOPLE IN AND IS THAT SOMETHING  
THAT YOU ALL PAY FOR, HAVE  
INTERNSHIPS, SPOTS OR YOUTH  
SPOTS, POSITIONS, AS WE TALK  
ABOUT THE BUDGET, OR DO YOU DO  
THINGS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE  
MAYOR'S PROGRAM?

IF YOU CAN SPEAK TO THAT.

>> THROUGH YOU CHAIR, A TWO PART ANSWER.

WE DON'T DO -- LIKE A LOT OF THE TRAINING, THAT KIND OF STUFF HAPPENS THROUGH CCTV WHICH IS THE PUBLIC PART OF THE ARM WE WORK ON.

WE'RE TALKING NOW ABOUT DEVELOPING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM BECAUSE WE -- PHYSICALLY WE'RE AT THE STUDIO SO WITH THE CEA IS RIGHT NEXT DOOR AND SO -- SO WE ARE TALKING WITH CEA ABOUT POSSIBLY DEVELOPING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AS WELL.

>> Councillor Wilson: GREAT AND BASED ON YOUR PROGRAMMING WHAT NEW STUFF DO YOU HAVE COMING UP IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR?

>> THROUGH YOU CHAIR, WE HAVE A COUPLE SERIES WE STARTED WE'RE CALLING CAMBRIDGE WORKS. BASICALLY WHAT WE'RE DOING IS GOING THROUGH -- WE STARTED THAT ONE WITH THE DPW AND THEIR OPERATION.

AND WE'RE DOING A PIECE NOW WITH HISTORICAL -- WHAT THAT IS, IS GOING THROUGH DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND OUR THINKING IS TO GO THROUGH AND HIGHLIGHT ALL THE DEPARTMENTS AND TO SHOW FOLKS, HERE'S KIND OF HOW YOUR CITY WORKS.

THIS IS HOW THE CITY OPERATES. THAT'S THE CAMBRIDGE WORKS PIECE.

WE HAVE A COUPLE OF -- WE HAVE ANOTHER PIECE WE'RE DOING -- ACTUALLY WE'RE GOING TO BE SHOOTING AND DOING A SHOOT LATER ON THIS MONTH WHICH WILL BE AN ONGOING PIECE WITH THE VETERANS DEPARTMENT SO WE CAN KIND OF SHOW THE KIND OF WORK THEY'RE DOING.

WE HAVE ANOTHER ONE WE'RE DOING  
WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.  
WE JUST DID A PIECE WITH THE  
COMMISSIONER WITH THE BODY-WORN  
CAMERAS.  
IT'S A PSA ON THE CPD WEBSITE.  
THAT'S A PIECE WE DID.  
THE ARTS COUNCIL AND A LOT OF  
THAT IS BEHIND PERSONAL  
PREFERENCE BUT JASON AND I WORK  
CLOSELY TOGETHER DOING SOME  
THINGS.  
SO, A LOT OF SERIES PIECES LIKE  
THAT.  
>> Councillor Wilson: WONDERFUL.  
THANK YOU.  
>> YOU'RE WELCOME.  
>> Councillor Nolan: MAYOR  
SIMMONS.  
IS THE AUDIO ON IN THE CHAMBER?  
THANK YOU.  
I BELIEVE THERE WAS A PROBLEM  
AND NOW SHOULD BE ON.  
MAYOR SIMMONS, IF YOU CAN HEAR  
US.  
>> Mayor Simmons: I CAN HEAR YOU  
NOW.  
>> Councillor Nolan: DID YOU  
HAVE A QUESTION?  
>> Mayor Simmons: YES, THANK  
YOU, MADAME CHAIR, THROUGH YOU.  
THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU'VE  
DONE AND ITERATIONS WHEN YOU  
WERE IN THE LIBRARY TO HAVING A  
REAL ADEQUATE SPACE TO DO  
PROGRAMMING.  
JUST SPEAKING, I KNOW YOUR  
BUDGET'S \$1.6 MILLION.  
YOU DO SO MUCH PROGRAMMING.  
IS THE STAFFING SUFFICIENT, NOT  
ONLY TO DO TO WHAT YOU DO BUT TO  
BE ABLE TO DO MORE BECAUSE SO  
MANY OF OUR FAMILIES,  
PARTICULARLY THE ONES THAT HAVE  
BASIC CABLE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO  
SEE OUR MOVIES AND PROGRAMMING  
AND SUCH, USE THE CHANNEL TO GET

NEWS.

SO COULD YOU DO MORE IF YOU HAD  
GREATER FUNDING OR AT LEAST WHAT  
ARE YOUR VIEWING OPTIONS MADE  
MORE ROBUST?

ARE YOU BEING HELD BACK FROM  
WHAT YOU COULD DO BECAUSE OF THE  
AMOUNT OF FUNDING THAT YOU HAVE?  
>> THROUGH YOU CHAIR, THANK YOU  
FOR THE QUESTION.

IN TERMS OF STAFFING WE'RE IN A  
GOOD PLACE RIGHT NOW.  
AND I THINK IN TERMS OF THE  
INCREASED PRODUCTION, ONE OF THE  
THINGS THAT WILL HELP IS  
STREAMING.

SO WE'RE MOVING INTO THE STREAM  
ING SPACE RIGHT NOW, WHICH  
INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, ALLOWS US  
TO DO A LITTLE MORE WITH LESS.  
BECAUSE WE CAN NOW GO OUT WITH  
ONE PERSON TO SHOOT AN EVENT AND  
DO STREAMING.

SO WE'RE IN A GOOD PLACE RIGHT  
NOW.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU.  
THROUGH YOU MADAME CHAIR, YOU  
TALK ABOUT STREAMING AND WHEN I  
THINK ABOUT STREAMING I THINK  
ABOUT THE ABILITY TO DO B ROLL  
BECAUSE PEOPLE LOVE TO SEE THE  
CITY.

DO YOU HAVE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT  
IN STAFF TO DO THE LEVEL OF  
COMMUNITY FILMING?

THERE WAS A TIME YOU DID A  
SERIES.

THIS WAS A LONG TIME AGO AROUND  
THE NEIGHBORHOODS.

AND ARE YOU ABLE -- LET'S TAKE A  
STEP BACK.

IT HAS BEEN SAID PARTICULARLY  
WITH OUR SENIORS THEY'RE  
EXPERIENCING HIGH LEVELS OF  
LONELINESS, FEELING ISOLATED.  
ONE OF THE THINGS THROUGH THE  
STUDIO PROGRAM YOU SEE WHAT'S



GOING ON IN THE CITY AND THE  
VETERANS COMMEMORATION AND  
THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

WE HAD THE 250th WHATEVER IT'S  
CALLED -- YOU KNOW WHAT I'M  
TRYING TO SAY, COMING UP AND  
THAT'S GOING TO BE A RICH  
OPPORTUNITY TO FILM.

I WANT TO BE SURE BECAUSE YOU'RE  
ROLE IS SO PIVOTAL IN TERMS OF  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THAT YOU  
HAVE THE PROPER STAFFING AND  
EQUIPMENT TO DO THAT AND IF NOT  
WE NEED TO KNOW THAT BECAUSE WE  
DON'T WANT OUR ACCESS TO THE  
COMMUNITY TO BE DIMINISHED BUT  
GROW IT OUT.

SO, COULD YOU SPEAK TO THAT A  
LITTLE BIT, PLEASE?

>> ABSOLUTELY.

THROUGH YOU CHAIR, WE'VE SPENT  
THE LAST TWO YEARS UPGRADING OUR  
EQUIPMENT SO WE HAVE THE  
SUFFICIENT CAMERAS AND EQUIPMENT  
NOW.

I THINK THE LAST PIECE OF THE  
PUZZLE IS TO WORK ON THE  
STREAMING SIDE AND IN THAT WE'RE  
WORKING WITH THE I.T. DEPARTMENT  
BECAUSE THERE'S CHALLENGING  
OBVIOUSLY WITH THE SECURITY ON  
THE CITY'S NETWORK AND THINGS.  
SO WE'RE VERY ACTIVELY WORKING  
WITH THE I.T. DEPARTMENT TO KIND  
OF FIGURE OUT WAYS AROUND THOSE  
CHALLENGES.

SO, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION  
DIRECTLY OR YOUR CONCERN  
DIRECTLY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO  
ADDRESS THOSE CONCERNS, YES.

>> Mayor Simmons: GREAT.

I WOULD LOVE THE IDEA AND  
THINKING BACK A DECADE OR TWO, A  
LOT OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD  
PROGRAMMING -- HAVING THE  
CAPACITY TO GO AROUND AND FILM  
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY.

DO YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY TO GO  
AROUND AND MAKE SOME OF OUR  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PROGRAMMING?  
I JUST THINK IT'S SO VERY  
IMPORTANT.

I DON'T WANT DOLLARS OR  
EQUIPMENT OR PERSONNEL TO SLOW  
THAT DOWN.

SO, PLEASE CONTINUE TO ENGAGE  
WITH THE COUNCIL AROUND THE  
ABILITY TO BE IN THE COMMUNITY  
BECAUSE I THINK THAT'S SO  
IMPORTANT.

>> CERTAINLY.

>> Mayor Simmons: MADAME CHAIR I  
YIELD THE FLOOR.

>> Councillor Nolan: ANY OTHER  
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE  
BODY?

>> I JUST WANTED TO ASK THE  
QUESTION I'VE BEEN ASKING TO THE  
OTHERS.

WHILE I KNOW IT'S A RELATIVELY  
SMALL IMPORTANT IT'S STILL  
IMPORTANT TO ASK THE QUESTION  
AROUND DIVERSITY.

WOMEN, PEOPLE OF COLOR.

SO IF YOU CAN SPEAK TO THAT,  
PLEASE.

>> THROUGH YOU CHAIR, I WAS  
ANTICIPATING THIS QUESTION FROM  
YOU AND I WOULD SAY ANECDOTALLY  
WE ARE A SMALL DEPARTMENT VERY  
VERY DIVERSE.

I THINK WE HAVE IN THE WAY I  
LOOK AT IT AND AM TALKING ABOUT  
IN LIKE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.  
SO ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, OF THOSE  
POSITIONS, I THINK, I'M VERY  
MINDFUL OF THAT POSITIONING AND  
VERY MINDFUL OF THAT WORK.

AND I'M PROUD TO SAY IT'S  
CERTAINLY IN OUR DEPARTMENT WE  
ARE SUPER REFLECTIVE OF THE  
GOALS THE CITY'S TRYING TO GET  
TO.

THE GOALS THAT DEIDRE BROWN IS

TRYING TO GET TO.  
SO I WOULD ABSOLUTELY, YES.  
>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
I YIELD.  
>> Councillor Nolan: COUNCILLOR  
ZUSY.  
> Councillor Zusy: A FOLLOW-UP.  
WHY DO YOU NOT HAVE VIEWERSHIP  
NUMBERS AND WHY DIDN'T COMCAST  
BECAUSE DIDN'T CCTV HAVE  
VIEWERSHIP NUMBERS?  
>> THROUGH YOU CHAIR, WHILE I  
GOT YOUR QUESTION A COUPLE DAYS  
AGO AND WAS THINKING ABOUT IT, I  
BELIEVE THE REASON WE TALK ABOUT  
COMCAST FIRST, FOR COMCAST A  
PART OF THE LICENSING FOR THEM  
TO COME INTO A COMMUNITY THEN  
THEY HAVE TO PROVIDE THE PE AND  
G LEVELS WHETHER THERE WERE A  
MILLION PEOPLE OR ONE PERSON  
WATCHING THEY HAVE TO DO THAT TO  
OPERATE IN A MUNICIPALITY.  
SO, AGAIN, THIS IS JUST MY  
INTERPRETATION OF THE REASONS  
WHY.  
SO THAT'S WHY I THINK THEY'RE  
NOT PUSHING FOR HARD VIEWERSHIP  
NUMBERS BECAUSE OFTEN TIMES THE  
VIEWERSHIP NUMBERS THEY DON'T  
USE THOSE IN RELATION TO ARE WE  
GOING TO FUND THIS EFFORT.  
IT'S NOT VIEWERSHIP THAT  
DETERMINES WHETHER THEY FUND THE  
EFFORT.  
>> I SEE.  
AND ONE ANOTHER -- SO THERE'S NO  
WAY YOU CAN TRACK VIEWERSHIP  
NUMBERS?  
>> CORRECT  
> Councillor Zusy: SO IN YOUR  
BUDGET FOR THE LAST YEARS YOU'VE  
HAD OVER A MILLION DOLLARS IN  
ORDINARY MAINTENANCE.  
IS THAT TO BUY EQUIPMENT?  
HOW IS THAT MONEY SPENT?  
>> THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, A

LARGE PORTION IS THE CONTRACT  
WITH CCTV FOR SERVICES.  
SO THAT FUNDING BIG CHUNK COMES  
IN FROM COMCAST AND LICENSE  
REVENUES AS PART OF THEIR  
AGREEMENT AND THEN WE CONTRACT  
OUT WITH CCTV FOR SERVICES.  
> Councillor Zusy: THAT MEANS  
THEY DISTRIBUTE THE PROGRAMS  
YOU'RE CREATING?  
>> THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SET OF  
PROGRAMMING AND THINGS LIKE THAT  
BUT AS PART OF COMCAST  
COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAMMING  
THE PEG, A PORTION OF THE  
FUNDING THAT COMES IN AS PART OF  
THE LICENSE AGREEMENT GOES TO  
CCTV.  
THE REST IS TO THE CITY.  
[CAPTIONER SWITCH]  
>> Councillor Zusy: I'M STILL A  
LITTLE CONFUSED BUT I'LL ASK YOU  
ABOUT THAT LATER.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
COUNCILOR TONER?  
>> Councillor Toner: JUST WANT  
TO BE RECORDED AS PRESENT.  
THANK YOU.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILOR TONER IS  
LISTED AT -- AS PRESENT.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
I SEE NO OTHER HANDS UP FOR THE  
CABLE TELEVISION BUDGET.  
>> Mayor Simmons: MOVE FOR A  
FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION.  
>> Councillor Nolan: SO THE  
MAYOR MOVES FOR A FAVORABLE  
RECOMMENDATION AFTER A  
DISCUSSION HAS BEEN HAD.  
[Roll Call]  
>> Clerk: YOU HAVE EIGHT MEMBERS  
RECORDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH  
ONE RECORDED AS ABSENT.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU,  
CABLE T.V. STAFF.

NICE TO MEET THE TEAM WHO'S  
HERE.

WE'LL BE MOVING -- NEXT UP IS  
CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS, WHICH  
IS IN THE BUDGET BOOK ON ROMAN  
NUMERAL FIVE, SO V-100.

TOMORROW, WE'RE HAVING THE  
SPECIFIC AMENDMENT SECTION AND I  
THINK THAT'S WHERE WE'LL HAVE  
THE CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECT  
DISCUSSION BUT THAT'S REALLY THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF CAPITAL  
BUILDING PROJECT.

THIS IS REALLY A RELATIVELY NEW  
DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE ALL THE  
BUILDING PROJECTS OVER THE  
YEARS.

IT HAS A TOTAL BUDGET OF  
1.7 MILLION, \$1,727,000.

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU WANTED TO  
OPEN IT UP WITH OPENING REMARKS.

>> NO OPENING STATEMENTS.

>> Councillor Nolan: YOUR NAME.

>> MY NAME IS BRENDAN ROY.

I'M THE MANAGER OF THE CAPITAL  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND MY STAFF  
WHO IS HERE RIGHT BEHIND ME.

.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THIS IS THE  
CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECT BUT  
SOME SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS WILL  
HAPPEN TOMORROW IN THE CAPITAL  
BUILDING PROJECT INVESTMENT.

ANYONE WITH ANY QUESTIONS?

I CAN START WITH ONE.

VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THIS  
DEPARTMENT.

IT'S CRITICAL FOR US TO BE DOING  
THIS.

WE ARE BRINGING A NUMBER OF  
PROJECTS FORWARD AND I HOPE IT  
GO BRING MORE DIS -- I HOPE IT  
WILL BRING MORE DISCIPLINE  
AND -- INTO THE BUDGET.

THE [indiscernible] INCREASE IN  
THE BUDGET WAS ONLY ABOUT

\$120,000, SO IS THERE A REASON FOR THAT?

>> YES.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S NOW COMING UP ON THIS IS OUR NEW LEASE SPACE. DUE TO SOME SPACE CONSTRAINTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD AND PART OF OUR PROGRAMMING WE HAVE BEGUN A LEASE OF AN OFFICE SPACE FOR OUR GROUP SO THAT IS THE REFLECTION FOR A LARGE PORTION OF OUR INCREASE JUST AS WELL AS STARTING TO FILL OUT SOME OF THE OTHER POSITIONS ON OUR ROSTER.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR --

>> Councillor Nolan: YEAH, I DON'T THINK THAT ANSWERED THE SALARY QUESTIONS.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.

THAT'S A REFLECTION OF VACANCIES WHEN WE COMPARE THE PROJECTED FOR 2025, THAT REFLECTS VACANCIES THAT MAY BE IN A DEPARTMENT VERSUS A BUDGETED AMOUNT.

THERE IS ONE NEW ADDITIONAL POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT, THOUGH.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU. THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS, IF TWO YEARS AGO IT WAS EIGHT F.T.E.s FOR \$750,000 AND NOW IT'S TWO MORE FOR \$1.5 MILLION, THAT SEEMS LIKE A LOT?

>> IF I MAY, MADAM CHAIR, TWO YEARS AGO THEY WERE JUST TRYING TO BUILD UP THE DEPARTMENT. IF THERE'S TWO OR THREE VACANT POSITIONS, WE DIDN'T SPEND THAT MONEY SO THAT'S PROBABLY LOWER THAN THE ACTUAL BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR 23-24.

>> Councillor Nolan: GOT IT. IN THE FUTURE, IT MIGHT HELP IF WE HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

WE DO PAY PEOPLE WELL BUT THIS  
BUDGET -- OKAY.

COUNCILOR ZUSY?

>> Councillor Zusy: YEAH, I'M  
JUST SO HAPPY THAT OUR  
DEPARTMENT EXIST BECAUSE WE NEED  
TO TAKE CARE OF BUILDINGS, AND  
IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF  
BUILDINGS, THEY'RE MORE  
EXPENSIVE TO TAKE CARE OF.  
IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE STAFF IN  
PLACE TO MAINTAIN THE BUILDINGS,  
AS WELL.

YOU'VE GOT A STAFF OF TEN AND  
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH LISTED IN  
ORDINARY MAINTENANCE.  
ARE YOU DOING PROJECTS IN-HOUSE?  
ARE YOU MOSTLY CONTRACTING OUT  
OR ARE THOSE EXPENSES REFLECTED  
IN THE NUMBERS THAT WE'LL BE  
LOOKING AT TOMORROW?

>> SURE.

THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR, MUCH  
OF THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING IS  
FUNDED THROUGH THE CAPITAL  
BUDGET SO WE WOULDN'T SEE IT IN  
THESE OPERATING COSTS.

TO YOUR QUESTION IF WE WERE  
SENDING THINGS OUT OR TRYING TO  
DO IT IN-HOUSE, WE TRY TO DO  
WHAT WE CAN IN-HOUSE.

WHEN THEY GO BEYOND, THEY BECOME  
CAPITAL PROJECTS AND WE LOOK TO  
OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS, BUT WE TRY  
TO DO A LOT WITH D.P.W. STAFF  
IN-HOUSE.

>> >> Councillor Zusy: TO YOU,  
COUNCILOR WILSON, I WISH AS WE  
TRAIN WORKERS IN THE CITY, I  
WISH THEY WERE TRAINED IN  
BUILDING MAINTENANCE BECAUSE  
IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED AN AWFUL  
LOT OF, SO I'M GLAD YOU'RE DOING  
SOME IN-HOUSE AS WELL AS  
CONTRACTING OUT.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
I YIELD.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
COUNCILOR ZUSY YIELDS.  
COUNCILOR WILSON?  
>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
AND I CAN PROBABLY RESERVE THIS  
FOR TOMORROW.  
WHERE IS THE STREET MAINTENANCE  
COMING INTO PLAY?  
CAN I HAVE THAT CONVERSATION  
TOMORROW?  
>> COUNCILOR, WE APPROPRIATED  
ABOUT 4.5 MILLION FOR THE START  
OF THAT FACILITY.  
I THINK WE'RE STILL TALKING  
AROUND THE PROCESS OF WHAT THAT  
FACILITY SHOULD BE.  
>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
SO I'LL HOLD ON THE REST OF MY  
QUESTIONS.  
THANK YOU.  
I YIELD.  
>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
I WILL NOTE SINCE WE JUST PASSED  
A POLICY ORDER ASKING THAT  
PARKING ACCESS BY THE COMMUNITY  
BE INCLUDED IN ALL PROJECTS,  
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING IT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD TO HAVE  
INCLUDED IN THIS DEPARTMENT TO  
BE AWARE THE COORDINATING FACTOR  
AS WAS POINTED OUT SEVERAL OF  
THE SCHOOLS HAD PARKING  
AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.  
LET'S HOPE THERE'S MORE  
COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION  
AROUND THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.  
I'LL ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO MOVE  
THE CAPITAL BUILDINGS PROJECTS  
WHICH IS THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
OUR CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS  
FORWARD TO THIS FULL CITY  
COUNCIL WITH A FAVORABLE  
RECOMMENDATION UNLESS THERE'S  
ANYTHING ELSE YOU ALL WANT TO  
ADD BEFORE WE DO THAT?  
COUNCILOR WILSON?  
>> Councillor Wilson: I'M



FORGETTING MY OWN QUESTION I'M  
ASKING TO EVERY DEPARTMENT.  
SO IN TERMS OF THE DIVERSITY IN  
YOUR DEPARTMENT STAFF, IT'S A  
DECENT STAFF.

CAN YOU JUST SPEAK TO THE  
DIVERSITY OF YOUR DEPARTMENT AND  
WHERE YOU HAVE AREAS TO GROW,  
ETC.?

>> YES, THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
AS WE'RE TRYING TO FILL THIS  
OUT, WE ARE LOOKING AT  
OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY TO BECOME  
MORE DIVERSE.

WE'RE ABOUT 25% FEMALE  
POPULATION OF OUR DEPARTMENT AND  
HOPEFULLY THAT WILL CONTINUE TO  
GROW.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.  
AND WHAT ABOUT FOR PEOPLE OF  
COLOR?

>> RIGHT NOW, AS FAR AS I KNOW,  
I BELIEVE IT IS ZERO, BUT IT'S  
SOMETHING WE'RE GOING THROUGH A  
NEW HIRING PROCESS FOR A BUNCH  
OF POSITIONS BUT THAT MAY  
CHANGE.

>> Councillor Wilson: OKAY.  
THANK YOU.  
I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.  
I YIELD.

>> Councillor Nolan: OKAY.  
THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WILSON.  
WITH THAT, COUNCILOR WILSON, DO  
YOU MOVE THIS DEPARTMENT FORWARD  
WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION  
TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL?  
DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED, ROLL  
CALL.

[Roll Call]

>> Clerk: YOU HAVE SEVEN MEMBERS  
RECORDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH  
TWO MEMBERS AS ABSENT.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU  
SO MUCH, TEAM.  
WE'LL GET TO YOUR DEPARTMENTS  
TOMORROW.

NOW WE'RE STARTING ON THE BUDGET BOOK, STARTING ON PAGE 5 WITH ROMAN NUMERAL TWO.

15 F.T.E.s WITH A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$9 MILLION.

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE AACM PETERS HERE, IF YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND YOUR TEAM AND HAVE ANY OPENING REMARKS, HAPPY TO HEAR THEM.

>> THANK YOU.

I'M MICHELLE PETERS.

JEFF ROBERTS, DIRECTOR OF ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT.

DREW CANE WHO'S FILLING IN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DESIGN, AND ALSO JOINED BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, AND THE NEWLY REBRANDED DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

I DO WANT TO NOTE THAT WHILE THE OPERATIONAL FUNCTION OF TRANSPORTATION HAS NOW SHIFTED TO COMMISSIONER MCKENNA'S DEPARTMENT THEY ARE REFLECTED IN C.D.D.s BUDGET FOR THIS NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU. DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTED TO SAY?

>> YEAH, I'LL JUST SAY SOME BRIEF REMARKS, AND THAT IS, YOU KNOW, AS THE PLANNING AGENCY IS TO SHAPE OUR ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, ENHANCING THE DIVERSITY OF THE CITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD, INCREASING DIVERSITY, AND CREATING A SAFE AND RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.

I JUST WANTED TO CALL OUT SOME OF THE KEY SUCCESSES WE HAD IN THIS PAST YEAR.

WE PASSED REFORMED ZONING.

WE'VE ADVANCED THE CITY'S SUPPLIER DIVERSITY EFFORTS,

LAUNCHED A SMALL  
BUSINESSMENTORSHIP PROGRAM,  
COMPLETED THE NET-ZERO  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN, AND  
ADVANCED FLEXIBLE ZONING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR OFF-STREET  
PARKING ALONG MAJOR STREETS.  
AND OUR GOAL REALLY HAS BEEN TO  
WORK LOCK STEP WITH CITY COUNCIL  
TO FOCUS ON YOUR PRIORITIES AND  
DEVELOP WORKING GOALS.  
UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR, WE'RE  
WORKING ON PLANS TO UPGRADE MASS  
AVENUE TO CODIFY ZONING  
REGULATIONS, TO COME BACK TO  
CENTRAL SQUARE AND PASS ZONING  
REFORM, CONTINUE TO WORK WITH  
M.T.A. ON THE ZONING OF THE AIL  
WAY STATION, AND ACTIVATING THE  
SQUARES AND CORRIDORS THROUGH  
THINGS SUCH AS CAMBRIDGE DAYS  
AND CAMBRIDGE NIGHTS.

>> Councillor Nolan: YES.  
HAPPY TO OPEN IT UP TO QUESTIONS  
FROM THE BODY.

MAYOR SIMMONS, DID YOU WANT TO  
START?

OKAY.

WE CAN HAVE COUNCILOR ZUSY IF  
YOU HAVE SOME QUESTIONS RELATED  
TO THE BUDGET?

>> Councillor Zusy: YES.

I HAVE MANY QUESTIONS THAT I  
SHARED BEFORE.

I THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR WORK  
THAT TOUCHES ALL OF US WITHIN  
THE CITY.

I JUST HAD SOME SPECIFIC  
QUESTIONS.

THERE'S \$2.2 MILLION FOR OVERALL  
ORDINARY MAINTENANCE, SO I WAS  
JUST WONDERING WHAT THAT WAS  
FOR.

BEFORE I ASK ACTING CHAIR  
PETERS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
PETERS TO RESPOND, ARE WE NOT --  
ARE WE ASK -- ARE WE TALKING

ABOUT TRANSPORTATION ABOUT THIS  
OR NOT?  
BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT  
TRANSPORTATION TOMORROW.  
>> Councillor Nolan: YES,  
TRANSPORTATION, FORMERLY T.P.T.,  
TRAFFIC, PARKING, AND  
TRANSPORTATION, WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT THAT TOMORROW.  
>> Councillor Zusy: BUT THERE IS  
THAT TOMORROW --

>> Councillor Nolan: THERE IS  
SOME TODAY, SO ACTING CITY  
MANAGER, IF YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN.  
>> SO THERE ARE SOME  
REPRESENTATIVES HERE TODAY.  
THEY ARE ACTING OUT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.  
THEY CAME PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY  
QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.  
>> Councillor Zusy: SO ARE THE  
QUESTIONS TOMORROW ABOUT CAPITAL  
PROJECTS AND TODAY IT'S ABOUT  
ADMINISTRATION?  
>> Councillor Nolan: WELL, THE  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT IS  
TOMORROW AND THE CAPITAL  
PROJECTS ARE TOMORROW.  
WHILE THEY'RE OFTEN PART OF  
TRANSPORTATION THEY'RE  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING --  
>> SO THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, I  
THINK THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE  
BUDGET FOR TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING SITS WITHIN C.D.D., SO  
THE ACTUAL CONVERSATION WE'RE  
HAVING NOW INCLUDES THE  
COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR  
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION.  
WE HAVE MOVED THE TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING INTO THE TRANSPORTATION  
DEPARTMENT.  
I THINK THE IDEA WAS TO PULL  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CLOSER  
TO THE BROADER TRANSPORTATION

IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION  
THAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE  
CITY, BUT THE BUDGET ACTUALLY  
DOES SIT WITHIN WHAT WE'RE  
DISCUSSING RIGHT NOW.

SO I WOULD SAY HAPPY TO HAVE THE  
CONVERSATION IN EITHER PART OF  
THE CONVERSATION, WHETHER WE  
WANT TO HAVE THE CONVERSATION AS  
PART OF TRANSPORTATION OR  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

I ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT SOME OF  
THESE QUESTIONS MAY NOT BE ABOUT  
THE BUDGET BUT ABOUT THE  
DEPARTMENT OVERALL, BUT I  
WOULD -- TO THE PLEASURE OF THE  
CHAIR OR THE COUNCIL.

>> Councillor Zusy: OKAY.

I UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE TWO  
BINS AS OPPOSED TO ONE BIN.

OKAY.

LET ME ASK SOME MORE QUESTIONS.  
I'M INTERESTED HOW YOU USE THE  
ORDINARY MAINTENANCE FUNDS IN  
THE C.D.D. BUDGET?

>> SO IT'S OPERATING SALARY AND  
WAGES.

THIS IS EXCLUSIVE TO C.D.D.s  
BUDGET EXCEPT FOR AN INCREASE OF  
\$70,000 FOR THE HARVARD SQUARE  
KIOSK NOW THAT THE CONSTRUCTION  
IS COMPLETED AND WE'LL BE  
OPENING THAT AND OPERATING THAT  
LATER THIS MONTH.

BUT THE MAJORITY OF ORDINARY  
MAINTENANCE IS FOR PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES, AND SO THAT WOULD  
INCLUDE CONSULTANTS FOR OUR  
PLANNING STUDIES, ZONING  
ANALYSES, ECONOMIC ANALYSES WE  
DO AS PART OF ZONING PETITIONS,  
TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, BLUE  
BIKES, AND OUR SMALL BUSINESS  
SUPPORT.

>> Councillor Zusy: OKAY.

AND THEN I'D LOVE TO HEAR MORE  
ABOUT THE PUBLIC SPACE LAB.

I HEAR THAT THE PLAY STREETS PROGRAM HAS BEEN FABULOUS AND I LOVE THAT YOU'RE ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACES.

I'D LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE PLAY STREETS EXPANSION.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

GREAT QUESTION.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT PUBLIC SPACE LAB. AS YOU KNOW, THAT CAME OUT OF THE PANDEMIC AS A WAY TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO EXPLORE AND ACTIVATE PUBLIC SPACE THROUGH TEMPORARY AND TACTICAL LOW-COST INTERVENTIONS.

IT'S BEEN WILDLY SUCCESSFUL. THE BLOCK PARTY AND PLAY STREET PROGRAMS, PUBLIC PATIOS, AND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ABOUT HOW WE'RE EXPANDING, THIS PAST P.B. CYCLE, THERE'S A PLACE FOR COOL SPOTS IN THE CITY SO WE'VE BEEN WORKING TO IDENTIFY HEAT ISLANDS THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM SHADE THAT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE PUBLIC GATHERING SPACES SO THAT WOULD BE A SHARED PROJECT FOR THIS YEAR'S SPACE LAB.

>> Councillor Zusy: EXCELLENT, CHAIR.

I'M EXCITED TO HEAR ABOUT THE EAST CAM BRIDGE BUSINESS MARKERS, AND ARE YOU WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION ON THAT. HAS IT NOT BEEN DETERMINED IF IT'LL BE PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL?

>> YEAH, THANK YOU.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, SO THIS WAS AN IDEA THAT CAME OUT OF THE -- OUR CAMBRIDGE STREET PLANNING STUDY.

OUT OF OUR STUDY AND THE EAST CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION WE'VE BEEN WORKING TO UNDERSTAND BOTH PAST AND PRESENT BUSINESSES THAT REALLY MAKE THE CORRIDOR

UNIQUE IN TERMS OF ITS HISTORY  
AND IMPACT AND LIVELIHOOD TO THE  
COMMUNITY.

SO WE CURRENTLY ARE DOING  
ON-LINE AND COMMUNITY EVENTS TO  
LEARN DIRECTLY FROM THE  
COMMUNITY ABOUT THOSE MEMORABLE  
BUSINESSES THAT WE SHOULD  
HIGHLIGHT.

AT THIS POINT WE'RE FOCUSING ON  
AN ON-LINE REPOSITORY TO DEPOSIT  
IN THE PUBLIC REALM.

>> Councillor Zusy: I THINK IT'S  
GREAT THAT WE'RE DISCOVERING  
THAT HISTORY AND SHARING IT.  
AND IT SAYS YOU'RE WORKING TO  
UPDATE THE HOUSING FAMILY  
ORDINANCE, SO WHAT DOES THAT  
MEAN?

>> YEAH, THANK YOU, SO AS JEFF  
WILL ALWAYS SAY, PASSING  
ZONING'S THE MORE -- IT'S VERY  
DIFFICULT BUT SOMETIMES IT'S THE  
EASIER STEP.

A LOT OF WORK COMES IN UPDATING  
THE ORDINANCE, WORKING WITH  
I.S.D. AND THERE WAS SOME  
WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC,  
REQUIRED POSTING, COMMUNITY  
MEETINGS.

REALLY FIGURING OUT THE  
LOGISTICS TAKES A LOT OF  
COORDINATION BETWEEN  
DEPARTMENTS.

>> Councillor Zusy: AND I HOPE  
PART OF THAT WILL BE CONTINUING  
TO FIGURE OUT THE SOLAR ASPECT  
AND THE MINIMUM LOT SIZE ASPECT.  
OKAY.

GREAT.

SO NOW I'LL SEGUE TO A FEW  
TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS THAT  
ARE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.  
I GUESS THE MONEY, THE 800,000  
IN ORDINARY MAINTENANCE IS FOR  
CONSULTANTS.

PLEASE CONFIRM IF THAT'S TRUE,

AND THEN OVERALL, I WAS  
CONCERNED ABOUT  
TRANSPORTATION -- AGAIN, I AM A  
CYCLIST.

WITH THE NEW TRANSPORTATION, I  
FEEL SAFER.

MY HUSBAND BIKES TO WORK AND I  
FEEL LIKE YOU ARE WORKING TO  
HELP THE COMMUNITY AND KEEP US  
ALIVE, BUT I DO FEEL THAT WE ARE  
BROADER THAN BICYCLES, SO I WAS  
SURPRISED IN FRAMING THE WORK OF  
THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT IT  
DIDN'T TALK ABOUT PARKING OR THE  
NEEDS OF -- WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT  
PEDESTRIANS BUT YOU DON'T TALK  
ABOUT THE NEEDS OF DRIVERS, AND  
WE'VE GOT TO RECOGNIZE THAT  
WE'VE GOT 42,000 REGISTERED  
VEHICLES IN THE CITY THAT COME  
IN TO DRIVE HERE, INCLUDING CITY  
STAFF, SO I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT  
HOW YOU'RE THINKING MORE  
BROADLY, ACTUALLY, ABOUT  
TRANSPORTATION.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, THANK YOU  
FOR THE QUESTIONS.

I'LL ADDRESS THE ORDINARY  
MAINTENANCE QUESTION FIRST.  
THAT BUDGET IS PRIMARILY MADE UP  
FOR EDUCATION OF OUR SAFER  
BICYCLE EDUCATION PROGRAM, OUR  
SAFER RIDE TO SCHOOL.  
WE ALSO HAVE OUR EASY SHUTTING  
SERVICE IN THERE AND PLANNING  
THAT'S RELATED TO LOGAN AND I-90  
NOISE AS WELL AS OUR UPCOMING  
MOBILITY -- SORRY, ACCESS AND  
MOBILITY PLAN FOR ALL MODES  
WHICH WILL ENCOMPASS EVERYTHING,  
INCLUDING BIKE, PED, TRANSIT,  
DRIVING, MICROMOBILITY, AND IT  
ALSO INCLUDES OUR CONTRACT FOR  
THE STATE MANDATED EMPLOYEE  
SURVEY WHICH IS HAPPENING THIS  
WEEK, WHICH YOU ALL HAVE BEEN  
ASKED TO FILL OUT.



PLEASE DO, AND ALSO OUR BLUE BAGS MAINTENANCE COSTS.

>> Councillor Zusy: WOW, SO IT COVERS A LOT OF EXPENSES. SO I WAS SURPRISED THAT -- I HAD REALLY HOPED THAT YOU TOLD US A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO ABOUT HOW YOU WERE WORKING ON A BROADER TRANSPORTATION PLAN, BUT YOU'RE SAYING IT'S ONE OF YOUR GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. YOU SAY IT'S LISTED AS ONE OF YOUR -- IT'S NOT LISTED AS ONE OF YOUR GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. YOU SAY IT'S IN YOUR EXPENSES BUT I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO SEE IT'S NOT A GOAL.

>> YEAH, I'M HAPPY TO ANSWER IT. IT'S NOT A GOAL BUT WE'RE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR IT. IT'S CERTAINLY ON THE MENU FOR F.Y. 26, AND I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A MINUTE TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT THE PLAN WILL DO, IF THAT'S OKAY. OKAY.

SO CAMBRIDGE ACCESS AND MOBILITY PLAN, IT'S GOING TO BE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO --

>> Councillor Nolan: I'M HAPPY TO HAVE THIS, BUT IF YOU COULD SUMMARIZE WHY THIS WOULD BE PART OF THE BUDGET, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

>> YEAH, SO IT'S BASICALLY A MORE COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, SO IT'S NOT A SEPARATE BICYCLE PLAN, A SEPARATE PEDESTRIAN PLAN, A SEPARATE TRANSPORTATION PLAN. IT LOOKS AT NEEDS FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED TO DRIVE AS WELL AS LOOKING AT INNOVATIVE WAYS OF ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHICH REALLY BUILDS ON THAT DEEPER

ENGAGEMENT THAT WE DID IN THE PARKING STUDY AND MOST RECENTLY IN THE NET-ZERO TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

>> Councillor Zusy: YES. AGAIN, THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, IT CAN BUILD ON SO MANY GREAT STUDIES THAT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE.

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF INTEGRATING ANOTHER ASPECT. SO IF IT'S IN THE BUDGET FOR ORDINARY MAINTENANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 26, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING THE TIMELINE WILL BE FOR IT?

>> WE'RE ANTICIPATING -- THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, WE'RE ANTICIPATING THAT IT WOULD SPAN ABOUT 2.5 BUDGET CYCLES, SO FOR THIS YEAR AND NEXT YEAR.

IT WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 2027, AND WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT USING POTENTIALLY OTHER FUNDS IF POSSIBLE THROUGH OUR MITIGATION FUNDS.

>> Councillor Zusy: I THANK YOU. I THINK THE SOONER THE BETTER IF WE HAVE A BROADER APPROACH BECAUSE I THINK OUR RESIDENTS ARE REALLY FEELING THE SQUEEZE OF THE LOSS OF PARKING AND EVEN THE STAFF.

AGAIN, WE'VE GOT 1700 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT STAFF, 2,000 CITY STAFF.

THEY DON'T ALL DRIVE, THANK GOODNESS, BUT A LOT OF THEM ARE COMING INTO THE CITY AND PARKING HERE, SO WE'VE REALLY GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY'RE GOING TO PARK, YEAH.

THANK YOU, AND I YIELD.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK.

>> THANK YOU.

>> Councillor Nolan: ANY OTHER QUESTIONS FOR THIS VERY LARGE DEPARTMENT?

MAYOR SIMMONS AND THEN COUNCILOR  
WILSON AND COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI?

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU.  
[indiscernible] WHAT HE SAID WAS  
THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN ON  
SO MUCH WORK THAT THIS ITEM FELL  
THROUGH THE CRACKS.

IF THAT IS THE CASE, IT RAISES  
SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT WHETHER  
THE DEPARTMENT IS ADEQUATELY  
STAFF TO CARRY OUT -- STAFFED TO  
CARRY OUT ITS CORE  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

WHAT FUNDING AND INCREASE IN  
STAFF WOULD BE NEEDED TO ENSURE  
THAT C.D.D. CAN MEET ITS  
OBLIGATIONS PARTICULARLY WHEN IT  
COMES TO THE REGULAR STUDIES  
LIKE THIS ONE, AND DO THEY NEED  
TO -- I MEAN, THESE STUDIES HAVE  
TO BE LAUNCHED AT SPECIFIC  
INTERVALS, AND IS THERE A --  
EXCUSE ME -- STAFFING DEFICIENCY  
THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS THROUGH  
FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT MORE  
ADEQUATELY?

>> THANK YOU, MAYOR SIMMONS.  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, I WILL DEFER  
TO MY COLLEAGUE, THE DIRECTOR OF  
THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.  
AGAIN, YOU KNOW, THAT BUDGET IS  
NOT REFLECTED IN THIS BUDGET BUT  
HAPPY TO HAVE CHRIS ADDRESS THAT  
COMMENT TODAY.

>> THANK YOU, MELISSA.  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, TO THE  
MAYOR'S QUESTION.

THE INCLUSIONARY HOUSING STUDY  
IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE  
HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN C.D.D. AND  
WAS NOT COMPLETED IN THE TIME  
FRAME THAT WAS CALLED FOR BY THE  
ORDINANCE.

WE'VE HAD A FAIR AMOUNT OF  
TURNOVER IN THE HOUSING  
DEPARTMENT THE LAST COUPLE OF  
YEARS AND HAVE BEEN STRETCHED IN

THE ABILITY TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE WORK THAT'S COMING OUR WAY. I THINK SOME OF THE IMPACT OF THE A.H.O. CANNOT BE OVERSTATED AS FAR AS THE ACTIVITY IN THE WORK THAT'S REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES, TO LOOK AT REQUESTS FOR FUNDING, TO DO SOME OF THE LONGER RANGE WORK THAT'S REQUIRED FOR THE ALL AFFORDABLE DEVELOPMENTS, AND WE'VE HAD, AS I NOTED, SOME VACANCIES THAT WE HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

THE GOOD NEWS IS WE ARE FULLY STAFFED NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A COUPLE OF YEARS SO WE ARE AT CAPACITY THERE.

WE'VE HIRED TWO NEW POSITIONS THIS FISCAL YEAR.

I THINK THAT MAKES SIX FOLKS THAT WE'VE HIRED IN THE LAST TWO FISCAL YEARS, AND IN THE F.Y. 25-26 BUDGET WE'VE GOT ROOM FOR HOUSING PLANS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, SO WE'LL TRY TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS THAT ON THE AREAS OF NEED BUT I'D ALSO NOTE THAT WE'RE RESPONDING TO AREAS THAT ARE DYNAMIC.

WHEN THE A.H.O. WAS PASSED, WE SAW A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT CAME WITH, BOTH FROM LOCAL DEVELOPERS WHO WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE EXPANDED FUNDING THAT WENT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST THAT STARTED A FEW YEARS AGO SO WE'VE HAD MORE STAFF NEEDED TO MOVE THOSE FUNDS OUT THE DOOR IN ADDITION TO LOOKING AT THOSE NEW SITES.

WE'VE ALSO SEEN AN INCREASE IN ALL AFFORDABLE PROVIDERS COMING FROM OUTSIDE OF CAMBRIDGE TO DO WORK IN CAMBRIDGE.

WE'RE SPENDING TIME WORKING WITH  
A BROADER RANGE OF ALL  
AFFORDABLE DEVELOPERS AND THAT'S  
UNFORTUNATELY TAKEN SOME OF OUR  
TIME AWAY TO DO SOME OF THE  
OTHER THINGS, INCLUDING THE  
INCLUSIONARY STUDY.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,  
CHAIR.

THROUGH YOU TO MR. CARTER, THIS  
IS NOT A CRITICISM, THIS IS A  
CONCERN.

THE CONVERSATION WOULD PROBABLY  
HAVE BEEN BETTER, MORE ROBUST,  
FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, HAD  
THE NEXUS STUDY BEEN DONE.

I BELIEVE WE'RE STILL WAITING  
FOR AN UPDATE ON THE ELIGIBILITY  
REQUIREMENTS, AND I DO NOTE THAT  
CITY COUNCIL DOES ASK FOR A LOT,  
SO THAT'S WHY IT'S A CONCERN OF  
MINE BECAUSE IF THE HOUSING  
DIVISION OF C.D.D., IN MY  
OPINION, IS ONE OF THE MORE  
ACTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

IF IT'S NOT ADEQUATELY STAFFED,  
WE NEED TO KNOW SO WE CAN GIVE  
YOU THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES  
BECAUSE SO MUCH OF YOUR WORK HAS  
BEEN -- TIME HAS BEEN ABSORBED  
IN A PARTICULAR AREA OF WORK.

I'M [indiscernible] PEOPLE OF  
COLOR AND PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING  
ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC MARGINS,  
AND SO I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THAT  
CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT WORK  
BECAUSE TIME IS BEING ABSORBED  
IN AND FOR IMPORTANT WORK.

IF YOU SAY TO ME WE'VE GOT  
ENOUGH STAFF, OKAY.

IT'S INCUMBENT ON YOUR  
DEPARTMENT TO TELL US THAT.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN,  
THANK YOU FOR THE CONCERN, MAYOR  
SIMMONS, AND SOME OF THIS IS  
REFLECTED --

>> Mayor Simmons: I'M SORRY.

IF YOU COULD YELL INTO YOUR MIC  
BECAUSE IT'S COMING IN NOT FOR  
ME.

>> I APOLOGIZE.

>> PULL IT CLOSER.

>> I APOLOGIZE FOR THOSE IN THE  
ROOM, THEN, IF THIS WAS  
EXTREMELY LOUD.

I WOULD ECHO DIRECTOR COTTER THE  
STATEMENT REFLECTED IN THE  
VACANCIES.

ALSO REFLECTED IN THE SUBMITTED  
26 BUDGET ARE TWO FULL-TIME  
POSITIONED IN THE HOUSING  
DEPARTMENT.

SO OUTSIDE OF POSITIONS FOR  
BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND THE  
EXPANSION OF UNIVERSAL PRE-K, WE  
REALLY ONLY ADDED FOUR  
POSITIONS, TWO OF WHICH ARE IN  
THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, AND THAT  
IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO  
ADDRESS SOME OF THE AREAS OF  
GROWTH THAT HAVE REALLY HAPPENED  
ACROSS THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT  
OVER THE PAST YEARS.

THERE'S BEEN A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT  
OF WORK AND THE CITY HAS  
ACQUIRED A LARGE NUMBER OF  
PROPERTIES, AND IT'S THIS TEAM  
THAT HAS BEEN PUTTING ALL OF  
THIS TOGETHER.

IT'S PART OF WHY WE'RE ASKING  
FOR A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNER.

I THINK WE REALLY HAVE  
RECOGNIZED THAT A LOT OF YOUR  
CONCERN IS VERY ACCURATE.  
WE'VE BEEN WORKING HARD TO BOTH  
HIRE AND ALSO ARE PROPOSING A  
SMALL EXPANSION OF STAFFING.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,  
ACTING CITY MANAGER.

AGAIN, THIS IS NOT A CRITICISM,  
THIS IS A CONCERN.

AS WE KNOW, FROM OUR  
COMMUNITY-BASED STUDIES, HOUSING

IS A BIG CONCERN ON OUR VOTERS,  
ON OUR CONSTITUENTS' AGENDA.  
IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE'RE  
WORKING ON.

SIMS --

>> Mayor Simmons: IT'S NOT A  
CRITICISM, IT'S A CONCERN.  
IF THERE'S A NEED, WE STAFF IT  
ACCORDINGLY AND AT A MINIMUM  
ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO KNOW THAT  
WE'RE WORKING TO GET THIS  
FINISHED.

THE COUNCIL COULD HAVE PIVOTED  
AND SAID THIS IS IMPORTANT TO  
US.

SO I'M GOING TO -- THAT'S THE  
EXTENT OF MY QUESTIONING AGAIN.  
SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I DON'T  
KNOW IF MY COLLEAGUES FEEL  
LIKEWISE.

WE JUST HAVE TO BE MORE  
INTENTIONAL ABOUT NOT LETTING  
THINGS FAR BEHIND WHEN THE WORK  
GETS TO GREAT, AND THEN YOU SAY,  
THE WORK'S TOO GREAT, WE NEED  
HELP.

MADAM CHAIR, I YIELD THE FLOOR.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU,  
MAYOR.

COUNCILOR WILSON AND THEN  
COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI?

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.  
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL OF  
THE WORK THAT YOU DO, ACROSS  
HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION AND  
SO MUCH MORE SO I'M HAPPY THAT  
SOME OF THE WORK IS GOING TO  
COME OFF OF C.D.D. AND BE  
SHIFTED, BUT RECOGNIZING  
REGARDLESS THAT OUR CITY IS  
REALLY DOING A LOT OF GREAT  
WORK.

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE  
FOLLOWS UP ON COUNCILOR ZUSY'S  
QUESTION ABOUT THE SHADE WORK.

>> THANK YOU.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, ONE OF THE BIG FOCUS OF THE PUBLIC SPACE LAB IS TO ENGAGE WITH TEENS NOT ONLY IN DESIGNING THE SPACE BUT A PLACE TO GATHER. SOCIAL SPACES FOR THAT AGE GROUP ARE LACKING.

IT HAS BEEN A PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

I THINK YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE SHADE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM AND SOME OF THE TEAM LED DESIGN AND INSTALLS IN SOME OF THE PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES. WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THEM. OUR TEAM OF DESIGNERS AND PLANNERS, WE REALLY SEE THIS AS A MULTIDEPARTMENT COLLABORATIVE BECAUSE IT ADDRESSES ISSUES AROUND RESILIENCY, WORKING WITH OUR PARKS DEPARTMENT OUT OF D.P.W.

IT'S BEEN A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT AND WE'RE EXCITED TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THAT AND THAT AGE GROUP.

>> >> Councillor Wilson: GREAT, AND I KNOW THEY WERE MOVING FROM DONNELLY PARK LAST YEAR AND THEY HAVE SOME EXPENDITURES, THINGS THAT THEY NEED FOR MARCH STRUCTURE.

WOULD THAT BE COMING IN THROUGH THIS DEPARTMENT -- THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

>> YEAH, I THINK IT WOULD BE PART OF OUR OPERATING BUDGET. I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME PARTICIPATORY BUDGET FUNDING, AS WELL AS SOME OTHER DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL.

>> Councillor Wilson: MY NEXT QUESTION DOES GO BACK TO THE PARKING AND BEING REMOVED ACROSS OUR CITY AND JUST BEING REALLY MINDFUL OF KIND OF HOW THIS IS GOING TO PLAY OUT.



THERE ARE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE REALLY GOING TO FEEL STRETCHED WE CAN'T MAKE A LOT OF BIGGER DECISIONS BECAUSE OF THE DOLLARS WE'RE SPENDING.

I AM CURIOUS IF THERE'S WAYS THAT WE CAN BE THINKING A LITTLE MORE CREATIVELY AROUND HOW WE ARE ACTUALLY ABLE TO MAKE STRETCH OUT SO THAT WE'RE NOT INVESTING THE DOLLARS ON BIKE LANES OR REMOVING A LOT OF PARKING AT THIS TIME SO THAT WE'RE KIND OF ABLE TO DO WORK ACROSS OUR CITY.

COULD WE TRY TO THINK ABOUT SOME OTHER THINGS SO THAT WE HAVE SOME PRIORITIES ACROSS OUR CITY?

>> Councillor Nolan: AND THAT'S A BUDGET QUESTION THAT SPANS SEVERAL DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS. IT DOES RELATE TO IT.

IT'S PARTLY WHAT WE HAVE ON TAP FOR TOMORROW BUT THIS IS A DEPARTMENT THAT COORDINATES THAT.

I THINK WE HAVE A FEW PEOPLE READY TO ANSWER THAT.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION.

I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT ONE AND A CHALLENGING ONE BECAUSE WE'RE FACING SO MANY COMPETING USES ON OUR STREETS AND IN OUR WALLETS AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

I DO THINK WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE C.S.O. WE ARE FOLLOWING THE TIMELINE AND THE ORDINANCE SO WE DON'T HAVE A LOT AT THE STAFF LEVEL, WE DON'T HAVE THE DISCRETION TO CHANGE THOSE TIMELINES.

SO FROM SPECIFICALLY THE REMAINING C.S.O. PROJECTS WE CAN'T CHANGE THE TIMELINE ON THAT AT THE STAFF LEVEL, SO...

>> Councillor Wilson: OKAY.  
I UNDERSTAND -- NOT  
SATISFACTORY, BUT I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR RESPONSE.  
I JUST THINK THAT WHILE WE ARE  
HAVING THESE CONVERSATIONS AND I  
THINK THE USE OF OUR STREETS AND  
THE ELIMINATION OF PARKING, THE  
DOLLARS THAT ARE BEING SPENT TO  
ACTUALLY DO THAT, WHILE THERE'S  
A NEED FOR DOLLARS TO BE SPENT  
IN OTHER AREAS, IT WOULD BE GOOD  
FOR US TO BE THINKING ABOUT THE  
ORDINANCE, WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WE  
MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL AND  
THROUGH THE C.S.O. ORDINANCE TO  
MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE BEING WISE  
AT THIS TIME JUST BECAUSE  
FINANCIALLY WE'RE TAPPED.  
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BROADWAY,  
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT OTHER  
STREETS, AS WELL, BUT CONCERNING  
BROADWAY, I THINK IT'S A TAXING  
SITUATION AND WE'RE NOT  
PRIORITIZING THE COMMUNITY'S  
NEEDS VERSUS WHAT WE HAVE IN AN  
ORDINANCE, AND AGAIN, BECAUSE  
THERE ARE DOLLARS BEING SPENT ON  
THIS, I WANT US TO BE REALLY  
WISE OR REALLY THOUGHTFUL ABOUT  
HOW WE'RE DIVING INTO THESE  
DECISIONS THAT WE'RE MAKING  
WHERE WE COULD OBVIOUSLY BE  
DOING -- WE COULD BE SMARTER  
ABOUT HOW WE'RE INDUSTRIAL DOING  
THIS WORK IN THE PARTNERSHIP, SO  
IF WE NEED TO DO THAT, IT WOULD  
BE GREAT IF WE COULD HAVE THOSE  
KINDS OF CONVERSATIONS IN A  
REALLY MEANINGFUL WAY.  
I'LL YIELD FOR NOW.  
>> Councillor Nolan: YEAH, THAT  
RESPONSE IS DONE?  
THANK YOU.  
COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI?  
>> Councillor Siddiqui: THANK

YOU.

I HAD A QUESTION ABOUT THE  
AMOUNT OF PLAY STREETS.

I DON'T THINK THE AMOUNT IS  
INCREASING THIS YEAR AND JUST  
WANTED TO -- I WANTED TO JUST  
KNOW IF IT'S KIND OF INTENTIONAL  
OR DID YOU ALL HAVE THAT  
CONVERSATION?

YEAH, THANK YOU FOR THAT  
QUESTION.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, \$300  
IS PROVIDE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS  
TO DO A PLAY STREET OR A BLOCK  
PARTY.

WE NOTICED WHEN WE OFFERED \$200  
IN PAST YEARS THAT THAT WOULD BE  
THE MAJORITY OF WHAT THEY  
PROVIDED IN SOME EVENTS.

WE ALSO NOTICED THERE WAS PLAY  
EQUIPMENT, YARD GAMES, AND A LOT  
OF STAFF IN THE TRANSPORTATION  
DEPARTMENT HELPS TO SUPPORT THAT  
EVENT, SO WE DIDN'T THINK THE  
FUNDING WAS A LIMITATION OR A  
BARRIER AT THIS POINT AND WE  
FELT THAT THE NUMBER WAS A GOOD  
NUMBER TO KEEP IT AT.

>> Councillor Siddiqui: YEAH, I  
THINK THAT SOMEONE SAID OH,  
BOSTON INCREASED IT.

WHY DIDN'T WE INCREASE IT.

I THINK TO MAYOR SIMMONS' POINT  
THIS IS AN AREA AROUND THE  
INCLUSIONARY HOUSING, THERE WAS  
THAT REPORT -- JUST A REFRESHER,  
THERE WAS THAT REPORT, AND WE  
DID GET THAT RESPONSE BACK, AND  
I AM THANKFUL FOR THAT RESPONSE,  
THAT ALL OF THESE  
RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY  
STAFFED, SO I'M GLAD THAT'S  
HAPPENING.

THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS, THERE  
WERE A LOT OF THAT WERE VERY,  
VERY IMPORTANT, THOSE  
RECOMMENDATIONS, AND I DO WANT

THE COUNCIL TO PARTNER WITH YOU  
ALL AS WE THINK ABOUT THE  
IMPLEMENTATION AND THERE'S  
CONVERSATIONS THAT ARE ALREADY  
GOING TO BE HAPPENING AROUND THE  
DIFFERENT PROPERTIES AND SO  
FORTH.

JUST KEEP US INFORMED ON THAT,  
YOU KNOW, AS -- IN THE NEXT  
YEAR, SO THAT WAS JUST MORE OF A  
COMMENT, BUT THANK YOU.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU.  
I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, IF  
WE'RE THROUGH WITH OTHERS.  
THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE BREADTH  
OF WORK ON THIS DEPARTMENT.  
ON THE OPEN SPACE PROJECTS,  
THERE'S -- F.Y. -- THERE'S A  
TARGET OF TEN FOR CONSTRUCTION  
DESIGN.

JUST IN GENERAL, HOW IS THAT  
DECIDED ON IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE COMMUNITY AND THE PRIORITIES  
OF ALL THOSE DIFFERENT OPEN  
SPACE PROJECTS?

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.  
SO THAT TYPICALLY AT ANY GIVEN  
TIME WE HAVE ABOUT EIGHT TO TEN  
PROJECTS AT VARIOUS STAGES OF  
DEVELOPMENT.

THAT COULD BE SCOPING, COMMUNITY  
PLANNING AND DESIGN, ENGAGEMENT,  
BIDDING, AND THEN CONSTRUCTION.  
SO THAT TENDS TO HAVE BEEN THE  
NUMBER THAT WE'VE BEEN DOING  
OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

IT ALSO MEETS OUR NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT AND CAPITAL PLAN TO  
KEEP OUR PARKS IN GOOD  
CONDITION, DO DEFERRED  
MAINTENANCE BECAUSE WE DO HAVE  
OVER 100 SPACES IN THE CITY THAT  
WE MANAGE.

>> Councillor Nolan: AND I KNOW  
THE SPECIFICS WE'LL GET TO  
TOMORROW.

AS WE'VE TALKED THE BUDGET HAS

BEEN CHANGED IN REACTION TO THE CURRENT FISCAL CHALLENGE, LIKE RAYMOND PARK, THE BUDGET WAS CUT ALMOST IN HALF BECAUSE WE NEED TO ADDRESS SAFETY.

I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE MORE OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS TOMORROW BUT I WANTED TO FIND OUT HOW THAT FIT INTO THIS PART OF THE BUDGET.

SINCE THE -- THIS WAS BROUGHT UP, I KNOW WE HAVE MANY WAY TO SEE HELP THEM, FROM THE BIPOC ADVISORY COUNCIL.

A LOT OF SMALL BUSINESSES AROUND THE COUNTRY, LARGE BUSINESSES, AS WELL, BUT MY QUESTION IS ARRANGED THE NUMBER OF SMALL COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS.

HOW IS IT THAT WE'RE MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF ALL OF THIS SMALL BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT WORK? AS WE CONTINUE TO DO THIS, IS THERE INCREASED EMPLOYMENT, IS THERE INCREASED SALES BY THE SMALL BUSINESSES IN THESE CATEGORIES?

I WANT TO KNOW HOW WE CAN DEVELOP GOALS THAT GET INTO THAT BECAUSE HOLDING 12 MEMBERS SHOWING UP, THAT'S GREAT, BUT IT -- IF IT DOESN'T LEAD TO SUCCESS OF THAT SMALL BUSINESS THEN WE NEED TO LOOK AT WHAT WE'RE DOING IN REGARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH.

IF THAT'S A QUESTION, I'M FINE TO LOOK INTO IT BUT I'M GLAD THAT WE'RE REALLY CHANGING THE WEALTH CREATION AND THE PICTURE FOR SO MANY EMPLOYERS ACROSS THE CITY.

I KNOW THERE'S A COUPLE OF THEM IN CAMBRIDGE.

I WENT TO ONE OF THEM.

I SEE THAT MISS [indiscernible]

IS HERE IF SHE WANTS TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

>> HI, CHAIR.

SO IF YOU LOOK AT THE GRANTS, YOU SEE HOW MANY HAVE RECEIVED GRANTS OR MAYBE ATTENDED WORKSHOPS.

WE DO SURVEYS AFTERWARDS, WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF THIS, WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS, AND WE TRY TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT, ARE THE WORKSHOPS THAT WE ARE PROVIDING ACTUALLY HELPFUL TO SMALL BASIS OWNERS, AND IF -- BUSINESS OWNERS, AND IF NOT, WHAT ARE ISSUES THAT WE CAN ADDRESS WITH WORKSHOPS IN THE COMING FISCAL YEARS?

ALSO, OUR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM, AND WE'VE BROUGHT BACK OUR COACHING PROGRAM AND OUR FINANCIAL COACHING HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AS WELL AS ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE.

WE DO ASK PEOPLE TO POST OUR WORKSHOPS BECAUSE THAT'S HELPFUL TO THEM.

AS BUSINESS OWNERS PARTICIPATE IN GRANTS, STAFF ARE DOING SURVEYS AFTER THE GRANTS. YOU KNOW, DOES THIS HELP YOUR OPERATIONS?

ARE YOU LOOKING TO HIRE?

WE KNOW THAT THOSE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WE DO ASK AND WE'RE HAPPY IN TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO SHARE MORE OF THAT INFORMATION WITH THE COUNCILOR AND WITH THE PUBLIC.

>> Councillor Nolan: YES.

I THINK FOR ALL OUR BUDGETS THERE'S OFTEN AN INTERNAL EVALUATION BUT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO BE PUBLIC ABOUT IT. WE'VE SPENT AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION CREATING OUTDOOR PATIOS.

DOES IT CORRELATE WITH THE  
AMOUNT OF MONEY BEING SPENT.  
I THINK IT ALL RELATES TO WHAT  
IS THE ACTUALLY MONEY BEING  
SPENT ON THE BUSINESS?  
SO I WOULD LOOK AT THIS AND  
ENCOURAGE A VERY FOCUSED  
ATTENTION TO THAT AND HOW LONG  
BUSINESSES LAST?  
BECAUSE WE'VE ALL SEEN TURNOVER.  
ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CITY IS  
INVOLVED IN THE WIDE RANGE OF  
EMPTY STOREFRONTS ACROSS THE  
CITY, THAT WE KNOW THAT THEY  
HAVE CONTINUED TO GO UP.  
WHAT WAS IT, 104 THE LAST TIME,  
WHICH IS A HUGE NUMBER ACROSS  
THE CITY, AND THOSE ARE OFTEN  
SMALL BUSINESSES THAT HAVE LEFT  
US AND THAT WE WANT TO SUPPORT.  
THEN THE OTHER -- DID YOU WANT  
TO RESPOND?  
>> OH, I JUST WANTED TO ADD ONE  
THING.  
YOU ASKED ABOUT EMPLOYEE-OWNED  
WORKSHOPS.  
WE HAVE A WORKSHOP AROUND THAT  
ON APRIL 28 IF YOU WANT TO  
ATTEND THAT.  
>> Councillor Nolan: WE WANT TO  
IMPROVE THE MOBILITY  
PARTICULARLY OF SOME OF OUR  
SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES  
WOULD BE GREAT.  
ONE OTHER QUESTION OVERALL FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT, IT WAS MENTIONED  
THAT THE LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE  
MAINTENANCE WAS FOR OUTDOOR  
CONSULTING CONTRACTS.  
DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE DATA OF  
ALL THE CONTRACTS ACROSS THE  
VARIOUS DEPARTMENT IN DIFFERENT  
WAYS?  
IF WE CAN HAVE EXPERTISE, IT'S  
OFTEN COST EFFECTIVE IN THE  
BUDGET AND PROVIDING BETTER  
HELP.

HAS THE DEPARTMENT ACTUALLY  
LOOKED AT A REVIEW OF CONSULTING  
CONTRACTS ACROSS THE ENTIRE  
DEPARTMENT ABOUT WHAT IS BEING  
SAID AND WHEN AN EXPERT TRULY  
HAS TO HAPPEN AS OPPOSED TO  
OTHER PORTIONS BEING  
CONSOLIDATED?

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.

WE ARE AWARE OF ALL THE  
DIFFERENT CONTRACTS THAT TOTAL  
UP TO THAT AMOUNT.

WE DO HAVE -- OUR STAFF IS ONE  
OF THE BEST PLANNING STAFF IN  
THE COUNTRY.

TREMENDOUS INTERNAL EXPERTISE,  
AND WE DO A LOT OF WORK  
IN-HOUSE, BOTH DESIGN AND  
PLANNING, AND OBVIOUSLY WORKING  
ON OUR PROGRAMS.

I WILL SAY THERE ARE OFTEN TIMES  
JUST THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT WE  
HAVE, WE DO NEED TO HIRE.

[indiscernible] WHEN WE DID THE  
ALEWIFE REZONING, WE DID THAT  
IN-HOUSE.

WE TRY TO BE AS FISCALLY  
RESPONSIBLE AS POSSIBLE AND ONLY  
DO IT WHERE NECESSARY BUT THERE  
ARE ITEMS THAT WE NEED THAT  
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE THAT WE  
DON'T HAVE IN-HOUSE.

FOR INSTANCE, IF WE DO ECONOMIC  
ANALYSIS OF OUR ZONING PETITIONS  
TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE THAT'S  
BEING EXTRACTED FROM NEW ZONING,  
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE GO TO  
OUTSIDE CONSULTANT SUPPORT FOR.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU,  
YES, AND JUST AS MAYOR SIMMONS  
ASKS SOMETIMES, DO YOU HAVE  
ENOUGH STAFF?

IF YOU HAVE FIVE DIFFERENT  
ECONOMIC STUDIES, AND YOU HIRE  
IT IN-HOUSE, THAT WOULD HELP, AS  
WELL.

THOSE ARE THE MAIN QUESTIONS.



ONE MORE.

DO WE HAVE A STATUS UPDATE ON THE GRAND JUNCTION PARK THAT'S LISTED UNDER ONE OF THE PROJECTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON OR IS THAT NOT ONE OF THESE -- I SAW THAT AS ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES FOR F.Y. 26, ADVANCE THE GRAND JUNCTION USE PATH AND ALSO ADVANCE THE PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE BRIDGE?

>> YEAH, I WILL TURN IT OVER TO BROOK MCKENNA TO ANSWER THAT.

>> Councillor Nolan: GOOD TO SEE YOU, COMMISSIONER MCKENNA.

WE GET TO SEE YOU TODAY AND TOMORROW.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR.

WE'RE PLANNING ON PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON THE GRAND JUNCTION AND THE STATUS OF THE GRAND JUNCTION AND THE PROGRESS THAT WE'VE MADE AT THE END OF THE MONTH AS PART OF THE SECOND SAFETY ORDINANCE UPDATE.

IF YOU'LL RECALL ONE OF THE CHANGES OF THE UPDATE WAS TO PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT, SO WE'LL BE PROVIDING THAT TO YOU AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

>> Councillor Nolan: GREAT, AND THE OTHER ONE WAS THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE DENEHEY.

IS THAT ONE OF THE ONES THAT MIGHT BE UNDER THREAT BECAUSE OF FEDERAL FUNDING?

>> YEAH, THAT'S ON PAUSE BECAUSE WE'RE WAITING TO SEE THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL DECISIONS ON FUNDING THAT'S CHANNELLED THROUGH THE STATE.

>> Councillor Nolan: OKAY.

I JUST WANTED TO NOTE THAT WE'RE SEEING AN IMPACT ON OUR ACTUAL BUDGET AND WORK BECAUSE OF OUR DECISIONS.

IF ANYONE HAS A MAGIC WAND OR  
FINGERS OR TOES THAT WOULD WORK,  
DO THAT.

THAT'S ALL OF MY QUESTIONS.

COUNCILOR WILSON?

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.  
THIS IS A LARGE DEPARTMENT SO  
JUST IN REGARDS TO DIVERSITY, IF  
YOU HAVE IT -- I KNOW I ONLY  
ASKED THIS QUESTION TODAY, SO  
YOU MAY NOT, BUT JUST IN TERMS  
OF WOMEN, WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP  
POSITIONS, AND FOLKS WHO  
IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOR?

>> YEAH, THANK YOU, COUNCILOR  
WILSON.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, SO  
ABSOLUTELY AGREE THE NEED TO  
MAKE SURE OUR DEPARTMENT IS  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY  
THAT WE SERVE AND THAT OUR  
DECISIONS WE REFLECT THE NEEDS.  
WE ARE IN ADVANCE ANTICIPATING  
THESE QUESTIONS FROM YOUR  
PREVIOUS DEPARTMENTS THAT HAVE  
GONE BEFORE US.

SANDRA DID PULL TOGETHER AT THE  
DEPARTMENT LEVEL.

WE DON'T HAVE SPECIFICS AT THE  
LEADERSHIP LEVEL BUT I WILL PUSH  
IT -- TURN IT OVER TO SANDRA  
CLARK TO ANSWER THAT.

[CAPTIONER SWITCH]

>> THANK YOU.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR.

SO AS WE LOOK AT OUR FULL TIME  
STAFF AND THIS DOESN'T CONSIDER  
OUR PART-TIME STAFF AT THIS  
POINT BUT OUT OF OUR EXISTING  
STAFF IT'S PRETTY SPLIT A NEARLY  
50/50 SPLIT FROM FEMALE AND  
FEMALE ACROSS THE DEPARTMENT.  
AND OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEAR  
TO INTEGRATE A WIDE RANGE OF  
HIRING THOUGHT PROCESSES TO MAKE  
SURE THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING ALL  
EMPLOYEES, POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES

AND CANDIDATES THAT CAN DO THE  
JOB MAKING SURE WE ARE ALSO  
POSTING IN PLACES TO ATTRACT  
NON-WHITE INDIVIDUALS AS WELL SO  
WE'VE BEEN VERY INVENTIONAL IN  
THE WAY WE HIRE NEW CANDIDATES  
AND STAFF AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I YIELD.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU  
ALL.

NO OTHER QUESTIONS ON LINE FROM  
THIS LARGE AND MULTI-PRONGED  
DEPARTMENT.

WE'VE COME TO THE POINT OF  
ENTERTAINING A MOTION TO PASS  
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT BUDGET OF \$9,034,030  
AND DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED.  
ROLL CALL.

COUNCILLOR AZEEM.

ABSENT.

COUNCILLOR NOLAN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

YES.

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

YES.

COUNCILLOR TONER.

YES.

COUNCILLOR WILSON.

YES.

COUNCILLOR ZUSY.

YES.

MAYOR SIMMONS.

YES.

YOU HAVE EIGHT MEMBERS RECORDED  
IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND ONE  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU  
ALL, THANK YOU, CDD STAFF.

AND I GUESS FORMER STAFF SINCE  
SOME OF THE FOLKS HERE  
TRANSITIONED OVER THIS TIME.

SOME OF YOU WE'LL SEE TOMORROW.  
WE ARE GOING NOW ON TO DEBT  
SERVICE.

I'M NOT SURE THERE'S SPECIFIC  
QUESTIONS ON THIS BUT IT'S ON  
THE AGENDA IT'S -- I DON'T THINK  
WE PASSED ANY -- WE PASSED THIS  
TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL?  
THE DEBT SERVICE?

OKAY.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: MADAME  
CHAIR, JUST A QUESTION, I KNOW I  
WAS LATE BUT THERE'S BEEN A  
COUPLE WE CALLED UP THAT WE  
HAVEN'T HAD ANY QUESTION -- I  
DON'T WANT PEOPLE WAITING AROUND  
ALL DAY IF THERE'S NO QUESTIONS.  
ARE THERE ONES -- HAVE WE PULLED  
EVERYTHING THAT'S ON THE --

>> Councillor Nolan: I THINK THE  
ONLY ONE WE DIDN'T GET QUESTIONS  
ON MAYBE WERE REITS BUT THAT  
PERSON IS FILLING IN ON PEACE  
COMMISSION AND THEY CAN ANSWER  
QUESTIONS THEN.

OKAY.

THE DEBT SERVICE IS ONE OF THE  
LARGEST ITEMS \$109 MILLION BUT  
ALL ABOUT DEBT SERVICE.

IT'S BONDS OF \$29 MILLION IN  
BOND SALES OR \$500,000.

I THINK AND THE ONLY QUESTION I  
WOULD SAY ARE WE SEEING CHANGE  
IN THE RATE WE HAVE TO PAY.

THE REASON THAT MATTERS A LOT IS  
WE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT OUR BOND  
RATING AND INTEREST RATE IS KEY  
AND CENTRAL TO US BEING ABLE TO  
DO SO MUCH OF WHAT WE DO.

THE BUDGET BOOK NOTES THE TRUE  
INTEREST COST OF THESE BONDS IS  
2.16%.

I THINK THAT IS PRETTY FAVORABLE  
HOWEVER WE ALSO KNOW INTEREST  
RATES HAVE NOT COME DOWN  
NATIONALLY.

THE QUESTION IS DO WE HAVE A  
SENSE OF OUR IMMEDIATE FUTURE  
AND IMPACT ON OUR DEBT SERVICE  
IF THAT MAKES SENSE AS A

QUESTION.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN AS IT STATES ON PAGE 5-112 THE MOST RECENT BOND ISSUE, SO THE RECENT BOND ISSUES THE BASIC RATES STAY WITH THOSE LOANS.

SO OUR MOST RECENT BOND ISSUE MARCH 5, 2025 WAS 2.96%.

WE WON'T ISSUE DEBT AGAIN IN THE ABOUT THAT TIME NEXT YEAR.

IN EARLY MARCH OF FEBRUARY 2026. I DON'T THINK ANY OF US HAVE THE CRYSTAL BALL TO KNOW WHAT THE INTEREST RATE WILL BE AT THAT POINT.

AT THAT POINT WE'LL HOPE TO GET FAVORABLE INTEREST RATES BECAUSE IT CERTAINLY DOES HELP OUR DEBT SERVICE COST.

>> Councillor Nolan: A YEAR AGO WAS IT ABOUT THE SAME?

>> VERY CLOSE TO THE SAME.

>> Councillor Nolan: THE MOTION TO MOVE \$109,100,360 WITH THE ROLL CALL.

>> COUNCILLOR AZEEM.  
ABSENT.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.  
YES.

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
YES.

COUNCILLOR TONER.  
YES.

COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
YES.

COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
YES.

MAYOR SIMMONS.  
MAYOR SIMMONS.

ABSENT.

YOU HAVE SEVEN MEMBERS RECORDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND ONE RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Councillor Nolan: GREAT, NOW WHAT WE'RE DOING IS SKIPPING OVER HISTORICAL COMMISSION SINCE MR. SULLIVAN IS NOT AVAILABLE

UNTIL AFTER 3:15 AND GO TO  
BUDGET BOOK V ROMAN NUMERAL V,  
117.

IT HAD BEEN PART OF THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
AND WAS ADDED INTO A NEW  
DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR.

IT HAS A TOTAL BUDGETED  
EXPENDITURES OF \$27 MILLION WITH  
AN FTE OF 19 PEOPLE.

IT OVERSEES AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
IN THE CITY, PRESERVATION,  
DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING.

I BELIEVE MR. CARTER IS ON HIS  
WAY.

ANYONE HAVE QUESTIONS, PREPARE  
THEM NOW TO RAPID FIRE AND GET  
THROUGH.

>> CHAIR, I'M SORRY, I KIND OF  
ASKED ABOUT THE QUESTION.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

IT WAS MEANT TO BE FOR THIS BUT  
I'M GOO GOOD.

>> I STILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT  
QUESTION THOUGH.

>> Councillor Nolan: SORRY THIS  
IS PAGE V, ROMAN NUMERAL V, 117  
UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY  
MAINTENANCE.

>> I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE THE  
TEAM.

ME, CHRIS CARTER AND DIRECTOR OF  
HOUSING AND WANT TO INTRODUCE  
THE SENIOR HOUSING TEAM FROM  
LEFT TO RIGHT HERE OUR SENIOR  
MANAGER FOR HOME OWNERSHIP  
PROGRAMS, ALEXIS BUCKLEY OF OUR  
SENIOR MANAGER FOR HOUSING AND  
CASEY FOR HOUSING PRESERVATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT.

THANK YOU.

>> Councillor Nolan: THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH.

VERY GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.

THIS IS THE REASON WE HAVE THESE  
MEETINGS TO MEET THE STAFF WE

HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT AND  
UNDERSTAND YOU'RE DOING ALL THE  
WORK THE CITY AND CITY COUNCIL  
JOINTLY DO.

YOU CAN START WITH QUESTIONS.  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI ALREADY  
ASKED ONE OF OUR QUESTIONS.  
I KNOW MAYOR SIMMONS HAD A  
QUESTION.

DO YOU WANT TO START US OFF,  
MAYOR SIMMONS?

>> Mayor Simmons: THROUGH YOU  
AND CHRIS CARTER AND THE MEMBERS  
OF THE HOUSING DIVISION, MY  
QUESTION IS AROUND AND IT'S NOT  
IN THE BUSINESS TO DIRECTLY  
MANAGING HOUSING.

AND THERE'S UNITS OF OTHERWISE.  
WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE, THEY OFTEN  
REQUIRE SOME INTERVENTION BY  
CHRIS CARTER OR ALEXIS BUCKLEY  
AND LEFT TO THEM TO MEDIATE AND  
RESOLVE THOSE ISSUES.

SO THIS SMI QUESTION, SHOULD WE  
BE CONSIDERING DEDICATING STAFF  
TO MANAGE TENANT ISSUES RELATED  
TO IZ HOUSING AND WHAT WOULD  
THAT MODEL LOOK LIKE AND WHAT  
LEVEL OF FUNDING WOULD IT  
REQUIRE TO SUPPORT IT?

MY QUESTION IS GIVEN THE  
AMOUNT -- IZ IS A WONDERFUL  
PROGRAM AND GIVEN US A LOT OF  
HOUSING.

MR. CARTER SAID THAT EARLIER.  
THE HOUSING DIVISION ARE TENANT  
ISSUES PARTICULAR TO THE IZ  
TENANT?

SO WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW AND I  
KNOW YOU HAVE MORE STAFF BUT IT  
SEEMS IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA WE  
ARE DEFICIENT.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING STAFF TO  
ADDRESS THE ISSUES RELATED TO  
INCLUSIONARY ZONING?

IF SO, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT  
THE MODEL WOULD LOOK LIKE.

OF COURSE, BECAUSE IT'S A BUDGET HEARING AND WHAT KIND OF MONETARY SUPPORT WOULD BE NEEDED TO EFFECTIVELY DO THIS WORK?

>> WE HAVE PROVIDED A COUNCIL REPORT A MONTH OR TWO AGO AND INCLUDED AN UPDATE ON WHAT WE'RE DOING IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THAT REPORT AND HEAR FROM RESIDENTS WITH CONCERNS.

WE HEAR SPECIFIC SITUATIONS AND HEAR FROM SOME RESIDENTS THAT WITH COMMON CONCERNS THAT WE MAY SEE IN MORE THAN ONE HOME AND A BUILDING.

SO, WHAT WE HAVE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET IS A NEW POSITION TO HELP US BUILD OUT THAT ASPECT OF OUR WORK AND TO SUPPORT AND ENGAGE WITH RESIDENTS.

WE HAVE A NEW FTE RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT MANAGER POSITION THAT WILL BEGIN TO ALLOW US TO ADD CAPACITY.

WE HAVE STAFF IN THE PROGRAM OR ALEXIS OR OTHER FOLKS ON THE TEAM.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS HAVE MORE CONSISTENT, MORE PROACTIVE WAY TO COMMUNITY WITH RESIDENTS. THESE ARE RESIDENTS IN OUR INCLUSIONARY HOUSING AND HOME OWNERSHIP.

WE HAVE DONE ENGAGEMENT WITH HOME OWNERS AND HEARD AN INTEREST AND DESIRE TO BE MORE CONNECTED WITH US AND WITHIN THAT COMMUNITY.

SO THE POSITION WE HAVE INCLUDED AGAIN WILL ALLOW US TO BUILD CAPACITY WITH A PRIME FOCUS ON BEING THERE TO ENGAGE WITH RESIDENTS WHO ARE LIVING IN AFFORDABLE UNITS THAT ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.



THIS WILL NOT BE A POSITION THAT IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND AND ADDRESS EVERY ISSUE THAT WE HEAR ABOUT BUT WILL BE A WAY TO CENTRALIZE THE INTAKE AND TO RESPOND TO ISSUES THAT COME UP, LOOK FOR COMMON THEMES, LOOK FOR HIGHER LEVEL AREAS WHERE WE NEED TO INTERVENE TO TRY TO MAKE SOME CHANGE.

THIS IS AN AREA WHERE AS YOU KNOW, WE DON'T MANAGE THESE BUILDINGS.

WE DON'T OWN THESE BUILDINGS BUT ARE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM AND HAVE INFLUENCE AND WANT TO LOOK FOR AREAS TO BRING THE INFLUENCE IN RECOGNIZING WE CAN'T CONTROL THE OUTCOMES.

ON THE BACK END, WE DO NOW AND CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH A NUMBER OF PARTNERS BOTH NON-PROFIT AND OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS.

WE HAVE FOLKS TO SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE THEY CAN GET BETTER SUPPORT FOR WHATEVER ISSUE THEY MAY BE BRINGING UP.

WE WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS AND THE HOUSING LIAISON AND CENTER AND SUPPORT PROVIDERS INCLUDING LEGAL SERVICES.

SO THAT NETWORK OF SUPPORT WOULD EXCEED OUR EXPECTATIONS WE WOULD BE PASSING ON SPECIFIC CONCERNS AND ISSUES MORE ADAPT AT DEALING WITH THEM BUT TO HAVE A CENTRALIZED WAY TO ENGAGE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT FOLKS ARE DEALING WITH AND TO LOOK FOR WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN PUSH BACK AND INFLUENCE WHAT WE'RE SEEING AS PATTERNS WILL HELP US AS WELL AS ALLOW US TO BUILD THE CAPACITY TO ENGAGE AND SUPPORT RESIDENTS WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE

TO AT THIS POINT.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,  
MR. CARTER.

THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR I'M  
LEAD TO HERE ONE POINT FTE.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> Mayor Simmons: THE POSITION  
IS RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT THAT IS  
GOING TO CENTRALIZE THE INTAKE.  
I'M CURIOUS.

IS THAT GOING TO TRANSLATE TO  
ADVOCACY?

THE PERSON IN THIS POSITION GETS  
THE COMPLAINT FROM THE RESIDENT  
AND ADVOCATES FOR A REMEDY OR IT  
SOUNDS LIKE TO ME YOUR  
COLLECTING DATA TO SEE IF THERE  
ARE TRENDS.

WHAT I DIDN'T QUITE HEAR, MAYBE  
I MISSED IT, THE HAND HOLDING  
PART THAT SAYS I WENT TO USE THE  
POOL, I WAS TOLD I WASN'T  
BECAUSE OF MY RENTAL  
CIRCUMSTANCE.

IS THIS INTAKE WORKER GOING TO  
CALL THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY AND  
REMIND THEM EVERY IZ TENANT IS  
EQUAL TO THE SAME SERVICES OF A  
MARKET RATE PERSON.

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THE 1.0  
RESIDENT BUT WANT THEM TO DO  
MORE TO ENGAGE SO.

DOES IT STOP SHORT OF ADVOCACY  
AND PROBLEM SOLVING?

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, IT  
WOULDN'T INCLUDE THAT TYPE OF  
OUTREACH AND RESPONSE IF THAT  
WAS THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.  
TO UNDERSTAND AND LOOK FOR THOSE  
PATTERNS AND TO SUPPORT  
RESIDENTS AND TO STEP IN I CAN  
SAY WE IDENTIFIED BUILDINGS  
WHERE THERE SEEMED TO BE  
PERVASIVE EXPERIENCE, ISSUES.  
WE TRIED TO ENGAGE RESIDENTS AND  
WERE CHALLENGED ENGAGING WITH  
DOZENS OF RESIDENTS HAVING A

SIMILAR EXPERIENCE AND TRYING TO  
KEEP THINGS MOVING WAS A BIT  
CHALLENGING FOR US AND  
RESIDENTS.

THE POSITION WILL ALLOW US TO  
BETTER DO THAT AND THEN  
CHANNELLING AND FUNNELING THE  
CONCERNS TO WHERE THE BEST  
INTERVENTION IS.

TO THE SITUATION IT MAY BE  
OUTSIDE HOUSING ADVOCATE OR AN  
ATTORNEY THAT MAY BE BROUGHT IN  
TO SUPPORT A CONCERN ABOUT  
TENANCY.

OR IT COULD BE A HOUSING TEAM  
RESPONDING AND TRYING TO MAKE  
THAT CLEAR.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE DO NOW, WE  
DO DO THIS NOW HOWEVER IT'S KIND  
OF DONE THROUGH VARIOUS STAFF  
MEMBERS WORKING WITH HUNDREDS OF  
RESIDENTS AND ON OUR RENTAL TEAM  
WE HAVE FOLKS WITH A PORTFOLIO  
OF RESIDENTS THEY'RE WORKING  
WITH ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, AS WE  
GET CONCERNS NOW FOLKS ARE  
RESPONDING TRYING TO STEP IN AND  
BRING CONCERNS TO MANAGEMENT  
COMPANY AND THE I'D IS IDEA IS  
WE'LL BE ABLE TO CENTRALIZE  
THOSE AND STEP IN AND RESPOND  
AND ADVOCATE AND BRING FOLKS WHO  
CAN BEST ADVOCATE FOR THEM.

>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,  
MR. CARTER.

THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR AND  
PEOPLE IN THE HOUSING DIVISION  
THAT'S GOOD BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH  
AND WHAT I MEAN BY THAT AND YOU  
SAID IN YOUR OWN TESTIMONY, IT'S  
DECENTRALIZED.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IS ONE-STOP  
SHOPPING.

I CALL THE RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT  
PERSON.

I DON'T WANT TO BE REFERRED TO  
SOMEBODY ELSE AND I'LL TELL YOU

WHY, FIRST OF ALL, PEOPLE ARE  
SOMETIMES PRETTY UNTETHERED WHEN  
IT COMES TO COMPLAIN.  
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS  
AND MINUTE.  
IT'S BUILT UP OVER TIME.  
NOT ALWAYS MOST THE TIME.  
THAT'S NUMBER ONE.  
NUMBER TWO, THEY FIND YOU AND IF  
YOU'RE SENDING THEM TO SOMEBODY  
ELSE, AND I'M NOT SAYING YOU,  
MR. CARTER, BUT WHOEVER THIS  
PERSON IS, THE RESIDENT  
ENGAGEMENT PERSON AND THE  
RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT PERSON IS  
DOING MORE DATA COLLECTION AND  
LESS ADVOCACY WE HAVE A HOLE.  
FOR ME AND THIS IS FOR YOU AND  
MORE SO TO OUR CITY MANAGER,  
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.  
THE INCLUSIONARY ZONING IS  
EXTRAORDINARY AND GIVEN US MORE  
UNITS THAN WE ANTICIPATED.  
MAYBE NOT ENOUGH BUT MORE THAT  
BE WE HAD AND WHEN YOU GO TO  
BUILDINGS AND I'VE SEEN IT FIRST  
HAND, THEY FEEL LIKE THE CHILD  
OF A LESSER GOD.  
I WOULD RATHER OUR FOLKS COMING  
TO THE OFFICE BE ABLE TO GET  
FULL SERVICE OPPOSED TO PASSED  
TO SOMEBODY ELSE.  
IT'S TOO UNSETTLING.  
YOU'VE SEEN IT ON SOME LEVEL BUT  
I CAN TELL YOU IT'S VERY  
DIFFICULT TO SAY, I HEAR YOUR  
PROBLEM, IT'S WITH THE  
MANAGEMENT COMPANY, GO TALK TO  
JOE BLOW AND JANE BLOW FROM  
IDAHO.  
I KNOW WE CAN DO BETTER.  
THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR AND  
CITY MANAGER, ONE FTE THAT IS  
NOT GOING TO HAVE AS PART OF THE  
JOB ADVOCACY OR TOO MUCH TO DO,  
THEN WE'RE POSITIONED TOO SHORT.  
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WAY TO

FIND IT OR MODIFY SOMEONE ELSE'S  
JOB.

WE NEED MORE ADVOCACY AND HAND  
HOLDING WHEN IT COMES TO TENANT  
INTERACTIONS FOR OUR  
INCLUSIONARY ZONING TENANTS.

>> Councillor Nolan: I THINK  
THAT IS RELATED TO THE BUDGET IN  
THE SENSE OF FTE.

>> Mayor Simmons: I'M ASKING THE  
CITY MANAGER TO EITHER HIRE  
SOMEONE ELSE TO DO TENANT  
ADVOCACY DIRECTLY AND HAND OLD  
OR MODIFY, STILL BUDGET RELATED,  
SOMEONE ELSE'S POSITION SO WE'RE  
NOT SAYING, I CALL YOU, MS.  
NOLAN AND YOU'RE MY TENANT  
ADVOCATE AND YOU SAY GO TALK TO  
DENISE SIMMONS ACROSS THE STREET  
AND AROUND THE CORNER DOWN THE  
ALLEY IN THE BACK DOOR.  
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

>> Councillor Nolan: I THINK  
IT'S NOT RELATED TO THE BUDGET.

>> Mayor Simmons: THEN I STAND  
CORRECTED.

THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT.  
CERTAINLY IMPORTANT TO ME.  
HAVING HAD TO HOLD THE HAND OF  
AN INCLUSIONARY ZONING TENANTS  
TO MAKE SURE THEY GET THROUGH  
THE WHOLE PROCESS TO GET SOME  
RELIEF.  
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, THEN  
DO IT.  
IF YOU'RE NOT THEN JUST DON'T DO  
IT.  
PUT THE MONEY IN ANOTHER  
DEPARTMENT AND SEND THEM.  
HALF IS JUST THAT AND THAT'S NOT  
ENOUGH.

>> THROUGH YOU, MAYOR SIMMONS  
YOU'RE RAISING THE RIGHT  
CONCERNS AND RECOGNIZING THE  
LIMITATIONS OF THE POSITION  
WE'RE PUTTING FORWARD.  
WE HAVE 1200 PEOPLE IN

INCLUSIONARY ZONING HOUSING AND  
IT'S NOT A SILOED FUNCTION.  
THERE'S A LOT OF TEAM WORK  
ACROSS THE HOUSING TEAM AND  
LIAISON AND I KNOW YOUR OFFICE  
HAS BEEN INVOLVED.  
FROM THE TENANT ADVOCACY  
PERSPECTIVE, I THINK THEY'RE ALL  
DIFFERENT LEVERS WE WANT TO  
PULL.  
WE SAW THIS AS AN INCREMENTAL  
APPROACH.  
I RESPECT YOUR ADVOCACY TO SAY  
ONE FULL TIME POSITION IS NOT  
ENOUGH.  
I DON'T HAVE A PERFECT ANSWER IN  
TERMS OF HOW MANY POSITIONS WE  
COULD ALLOCATE IN ORDER TO BEST  
SERVE 1200 INCLUSIONARY  
RESIDENTS AND GROWING.  
I THINK WE FELT THIS WAS A GOOD  
PLACE TO START.  
PART IS ALSO ENSURING WE HAVE  
MORE DEDICATED STAFF THAT CAN DO  
THE OUTREACH AND A BIG PART OF  
THIS ALSO IS EDUCATION AND  
CONNECTION NOT JUST TO THE  
RESIDENTS, BUT BEING ABLE TO  
LEAN ON PRIVATE ENTITIES IN  
TERMS OF THE FOLKS IN MANAGEMENT  
AND ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS.  
THERE'S A ROLE THERE AS WELL  
WHERE WE ARE SEEKING TO DO MORE  
EDUCATION, DEVELOP MATERIALS AND  
TRYING TO NOT JUST BE REACTIVE  
BUT PROACTIVELY CHANGING THE  
CULTURE OF SOME OF THESE  
BUILDINGS.  
SO, I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE  
SAID.  
I THINK WE'RE VERY ALIGNED.  
MAYBE TO YOUR POINT, IT'S JUST A  
QUESTION OF HOW AGGRESSIVELY  
WE'RE STAFFING AGAINST THIS  
COMPARED TO ALL THE OTHER THINGS  
WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING.  
>> Mayor Simmons: THANK YOU,

MR. CITY MANAGER AND THROUGH  
YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, WHAT I HEARD  
IS THEY'LL DO TRAINING AND HAND  
HOLDING.

THAT'S MORE THAN ONE JOB.  
I BELIEVE YOUR SETTING WHOEVER  
THE INDIVIDUAL IS OR MAY BE,  
YOU'RE SETTING THEM TO BE  
OVERWHELMED OR FAIL OR BOTH.  
I HAVE SAID IN THE CONVERSATION,  
I THINK HOUSING SHOULD BE IN ONE  
PLACE.

MAYBE IT SHOULD BE A DIVISION  
THAT STANDS ALONE IN ALL THESE  
PIECES ARE UNDER ONE HUB BUT  
UNTIL YOU GET TO THAT, IF YOU  
EVER DO, WE HAVE TO DO BETTER IN  
TERMS OF THE INTERVENTIONS.  
THIS AS YOU SAID WAS A GOOD  
START AND I'M ARGUING IT'S NOT  
BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS BIGGER  
THAN ONE PERSON IN HAVING TO DO  
THREE THINGS.

ANALYZE THE DATA COMING FROM THE  
IZ TENANTS, TRAIN.

NOW TRAINING THE MANAGERS OR THE  
RESIDENTS?

BOTH WE COULD USE AND THEN I  
WANT MORE ADVOCACY.

THAT'S THREE DISTINCT JOBS  
YOU'RE ASKING ONE PERSON TO DO.  
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
PAYING THEM.

CLEARLY IT WON'T BE ENOUGH IF  
THEY'RE DOING THREE JOBS.

WHERE I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE WE  
SHOULD TURN THE CORNER TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE YOU NEED THAT KIND  
OF PERSON IN THE HOUSING  
DIVISION FOR THE INCLUSIONARY  
ZONING PROGRAM, YOU HAVEN'T GONE  
FAR ENOUGH AND YOU MAY NOT GET  
THE DESIRED OUTCOME BECAUSE YOU  
ARE HAVING PROBLEMS STAFFING.

I'LL LEAVE WITH THAT BUT I WOULD  
RESPECTFULLY ASK YOU LOOK AGAIN  
AT EITHER PUT A .50 FTE TO

ASSIST BECAUSE WE DESPERATELY  
NEED SOMEONE TO HAND HOLD.  
WE DO WONDERFUL WORK.  
IT'S NOT A CRITICISM OF THE  
HOUSING DIVISION.  
IT'S A CONCERN WE HAVE A GREAT,  
RICH RESOURCE PEOPLE CANNOT  
COMPLETELY ENJOY BECAUSE OF THE  
PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF WHEN IT  
COMES TO THE MANAGEMENT.  
THE INTERIM STAFF AT ALL  
BUILDINGS WHICH ARE ALL  
DIFFERENT.  
YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. CARTER, SOME  
AREN'T SO BAD AND SOME ARE  
HORRIBLE.

WE HAVE SUBPOENA POWER TO BRING  
THEM IN AND TELL THEM TO DO  
BETTER.

I'M SURE MY COLLEAGUES HAVE  
OTHER QUESTIONS TO ASK BUT I  
WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M LOOKING FOR  
MORE IN THIS DIVISION IN THIS  
PARTICULAR ASPECT OF THE WHAT  
THE DIVISION DOES.

I YIELD THE FLOOR.

>> Mayor Simmons: COUNCILLOR  
ZUSY.

> Councillor Zusy: WHEN I WAS  
READING THROUGH THE WORK OF THE  
HOUSING DEPARTMENT I FEEL LIKE  
YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED REMARKABLE  
THINGS.

I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR  
WORK.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT WORK.  
I REALIZE COUNCILLOR NOLAN  
MISUNDERSTOOD THE NUMBERS SO I  
GUESS THE \$25.1 MILLION IN  
ORDINARY MAINTENANCE IS ACTUALLY  
YOUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST  
EXPENDITURES OR ALLOCATION, IS  
THAT RIGHT?

AND THE OVER ALL COST OR  
INVESTMENT THAT WE'RE MAKING IN  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS LISTED --  
THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT NUMBERS



IN THE BUDGET BOOK.  
THIS IS THE ONLY TIME I'VE SEEN  
TWO NUMBERS STATED DIFFERENTLY  
IN THE BUDGET BOOK.  
ON I-12 THE BUDGET IS \$28.7  
MILLION AND THE OTHER SAID IT'S  
\$42.3 MILLION.  
WHICH ONE IS ACCURATE?  
>> THROUGH YOU --  
>> Councillor Nolan: SHE'S  
TALKING ABOUT A CONSOLIDATED  
NUMBER AND ANOTHER IN THE BOOK.  
>> TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION, THE  
\$25.1 MILLION, MOST IS FUNDING  
FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
TRUST.  
THE \$24.6 OR 7 IS THE ALLOCATION  
GOING DIRECTLY TO THE AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING TRUST AND OTHER FUNDS  
FUND OTHER CONTRACTS.  
THAT'S THE FIRST QUESTION.  
THE SECOND QUESTION IS ON THE IT  
\$48 MILLION LISTED IN THE  
CONSOLIDATED SPENDING SO THIS IS  
THE CONSOLIDATED SPENDING ON  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING WHICH  
INCLUDES ALL THE FUNDS IN THE  
BUDGET INCLUDING THE \$25 MILLION  
AND FUNDING FOR STAFF AND OTHER  
THINGS UNDER THE HOUSING  
DEPARTMENT UMBRELLA.  
IT ALSO INCLUDES OTHER  
ANTICIPATED FUNDING FOR THE  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST IN  
FY26.  
IT WOULD INCLUDE OUR ESTIMATE OF  
CPA FUNDING BASED ON UNEXPECTED  
ALLOCATION AND INCLUDES FUNDING  
THROUGH THE HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION THAT WOULD GO TO THE  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING.  
IT ALSO INCLUDES OUR ANTICIPATED  
FEDERAL GRANTS.  
WE GET CPDG AND HOME GRANT FROM  
HUD IN WHICH IS USED TO  
SUPPLEMENT OUR AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING CONTRACTS.

> Councillor Zusy: IS THE TOTAL  
NUMBER \$47.8 MILLION LISTED IN  
THE CONSOLIDATED BUDGET.  
>> IT'S IN THE HOUSING  
DEPARTMENT I THINK THE 27.488  
LISTED HERE.  
THAT'S WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET  
ITSELF.  
THE OTHER FUNDS WOULD BE IN  
OTHER PIECES OF THE BUDGET  
AGAIN.  
THERE MAY BE A SMALL PIECE IN  
THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND  
HUD GRANTS AND SAME WITH THE CPA  
THE PROCESS WOULD BEGIN SOME  
TIME IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO AND  
CARRY OUT THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER.  
> Councillor Zusy: SO WE'RE  
SPENDING MORE THAN \$48.7 MILLION  
ON HOUSING.  
WE'RE MORE GENEROUS.  
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?  
>> NO, THE \$48 MILLION IS THE  
EXPECTED TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS  
TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FY26  
BUT NOT ALL THIS IS IN THE  
BUDGET.  
SOME ARE APPROPRIATED  
SEPARATELY.  
THEY'RE ALL THE TOTAL FUNDING WE  
EXPECT TO BE AVAILABLE AND SPENT  
ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS  
FOR FY26.  
>> THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, SO  
CONSOLIDATED SPENDING IT'S  
IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE  
CONTEST.  
IT'S TO PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES ACROSS  
DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS IN KEY  
AREAS SO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND  
HOMELESSNESS IS A KEY AREA TO  
TRY TO GET A SENSE OF THE TOTAL  
TOURS GOING OUT THE DOOR  
TOWARDS THIS ISSUE AND WILL GO  
WHAT'S IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT  
BEFORE YOU INCLUDING SOME STAFF

TIME AND RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THAT WILL INCLUDE THINGS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

IT WILL INCLUDE GRANTS AND CPAs, CHRIS MENTIONED.

THAT'S JUST TO GIVE A SNAPSHOT OF THE OVER ALL EXPENDITURES BECAUSE IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT, YOU MIGHT THINK THAT THE ONLY THING WE'RE PUTTING TOWARDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT.

> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU. I WANTED TO ASK YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH LIMITED EQUITY CORPORATE IN CAMBRIDGE.

I MET WITH SOMEONE WITH THE COOPERATIVE AND THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST INVESTED IN THAT. ARE YOU AS HEAVILY INVESTED IN THE OTHER LIMITED EQUITY COOPERATIVES?

AND I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THEY EXIST IN CAMBRIDGE.

>> I THINK WHAT WE CARE IS A SIGNIFICANT RENOVATION WITH THEM THAT CAME TOGETHER OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEAR AND 12 UNIT CO-OP IN THE '80s AND NEEDED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF REHAB AND BEGAN TO WORK WITH THEM PROBABLY CLOSE TO 10 YEARS AND OVER THE COURSE OF SEVEN YEARS WE WORKED WITH THEM TO GET A COMMITMENT FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST AND WORK WITH THEM AS THEY PUT TOGETHER AND UNDERTOOK THAT REHAB WHICH WAS FINISHED I BELIEVE IN FY24.

THAT'S AN UNUSUAL LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WE HAD WITH THEM TO PLAN AND PREPARE AND TAKE THE REIT OUT AND OTHER CO-OPS IS TYPICALLY WORKING WITH THEM WHEN THERE ARE UNITS AVAILABLE AND

GET INFORMATION OUT TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE CO-OPS AND ULTIMATELY MOVE TO THE LIMITED EQUITY CO-OPS AND THE CITY HAS TO SIGN OFF ON THE TRANSFER OF SHARES AND COME BACK AND LOOK AT THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS A NEW MEMBER WOULD HAVE TO MEET TO BE APPROVED TO PURCHASE A SHARE.

THAT'S TYPICAL OF WHAT WE DO. I KNOW WE PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM TIME TO TIME. THERE'S SIX OR EIGHT OF THESE LIMITED EQUITY CO-OPS THAT DATE BACK TO THE '80s AND HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS IS OUR POINT PERSON AND KEY RESOURCE FOR THOSE FOLKS IF YOU ADD IN, I'LL ASK YOU TO COME ON.

>> THANK YOU.

IT WAS A WAY TO CREATE A PROCESS AND THE CITY'S ROLE IN THESE EARLY DOCUMENTS IS DIFFERENT EVEN AMONG THE SMALL NUMBER OF EQUITY CO-OPS.

AS THE BUILDINGS AGE WE ARE AWARE THERE MAY BE CAPITAL NEEDS WITHIN THIS HOUSING TIME THAT MAY BE BEYOND WHAT THESE CORPORATIONS, WHICH IS WHAT THE CONSORTIUM OF OWNERS IS CALLED IN A COOPERATIVE CAN DO.

AND THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROCESS THE TRUST HAS DEVELOPED GUIDELINES FOR WHEN THEY ENGAGE WITH WHAT WE CALL RESIDENT CONTROLLED HOUSING.

SO THERE IS SOME GROUND WORK WITHIN THE TRUST TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO PRESERVE THESE BECAUSE IT'S PRESERVATION AT THIS POINT. THEY'RE 35 YEARS OLD.

MOST ARE NOT AS COMPLEX AN ACTUAL, PHYSICAL STRUCTURE WITH PARK VIEW WHICH IS ONE THE CITY WORKS WITH.

MOST FEEL LIKE A LARGE  
SINGLE-FAMILY HOME AND THERE'S  
AN AWARENESS AND WE'RE ALWAYS  
AVAILABLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THE  
NEEDS MIGHT BE.

> Councillor Zusy: I THINK  
THEY'RE AN AWFUL WAY OF FUNDING  
HOUSING.

I WAS LISTENING TO SUSAN  
SCHINDLER SPEAK ABOUT SOCIAL  
HOUSING IN ZURICH AND APPARENTLY  
MOST OF THOSE BUILDINGS ARE  
PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED.

I WONDER IF YOU COULD PROVIDE --  
I KNOW YOU NEED MORE TO DO BUT  
HELPING THE CO-OPS WITH THEIR  
FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL  
MANAGEMENT.

SO PARK VIEW DIDN'T NEED TO  
BORROW SO MUCH MONEY FROM THE  
CITY.

THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD LONG-TERM  
INVESTMENT.

THEN IF WE EVER GET OUR  
CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AND LAND TRUST  
UP AND GOING, WHICH IS SOMETHING  
I HOPE WILL REALLY HAPPEN, MAYBE  
THE CO-OP MODEL WOULD BE A  
REALLY NICE THING FOR SOME OF  
THOSE HOUSES.

ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK.

>> Chair Nolan: NEXT.

>> THE WORK YOU DO FOCUSES ON  
AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP,  
HOUSING, RENTALS, DO YOU ALL  
HAVE MARKET RATE UNITS AT ALL?

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN  
WE'RE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH  
ANY OVERSIGHT OR ADMINISTRATION  
OF MARKET UNITS.

THERE'S CERTAIN SOME BUILDINGS  
THAT RECEIVED FUNDING FROM A  
TRUST.

THEY TEND TO BE VERY FEW THERE  
ARE MODELS WHERE WE HAVE  
AFFORDABLE UNITS IN BUILDING

THAT HAVE MARKET UNITS THAT  
RECEIVE PUBLIC FUNDING AS A  
COMPONENT ACROSS SUBSIDIZED AND  
WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN A LONG  
TIME BUT THE OVER DEVELOPMENTS  
MAY HAVE A MARKET COMPONENT.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
I KNOW WHILE WE HAVE THE HOUSING  
LIAISON DOES YOUR HOUSING STOCK  
SUPPORT THOSE UNHOUSED OR  
FORMERLY UNHOUSED?

>> THANK YOU, IT'S A GOOD  
QUESTION.

I SHOULD NOTE ONE OF THE  
HIGHLIGHTS WE COMPLETED THIS  
YEAR IS THE COMPLETION OF THE 96  
UNITS OF HOUSING FOR FOLKS  
MOVING OUT OF HOMELESSNESS.

THOSE WERE FUNDED BY THE  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST.

THEY CAME TOGETHER AND SOME OVER  
A NUMBER OF YEARS IN WHICH WE  
WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE CHP AND  
THE HOMELESS STAFF AND CHA TO  
CREATE THE SERVICE AND THEN  
OTHERS IT HAPPENED MORE QUICKLY  
IF YOU LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE OF  
THE BUILDING ON WENDELL STREET,  
CHA PURCHASED IT LAST SUMMER AND  
RESIDENTS WERE LIVING THERE BY  
EARLIER THIS YEAR.

WE ARE INVOLVED WITH THAT.

AS WE LOOK AT OPPORTUNITIES, WE  
WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CHA, HRI  
AND OTHER AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
PROVIDERS TO LOOK AT OPTIONS, TO  
LOOK AT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE  
MARKET AS WELL AS EXISTING  
BUILDINGS THAT CAN BE PURCHASED  
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

AS WE DO THAT WE ARE ASSESSING  
WHAT THE BEST USE MIGHT BE AND  
THAT INCLUDES LOOKING WHETHER  
THERE'S OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER  
EXPAND THE STOCK OF SUPPORTIVE  
HOUSING.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU.

THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, WHILE I KNOW THE MAYOR TALKED ABOUT SOMEONE IN THE INCLUSIONARY ZONING TO HELP AND ASSIST THOSE RESIDENTS IN CASE MANAGING AND UNDERSTANDING NEEDS, BEING LIKE A LIAISON BETWEEN THE DIRECT PROPERTY MANAGERS AND YOUR DEPARTMENT, I AM CURIOUS ABOUT THE HOMELESS AND UNHOUSED POPULATION.

MIGHT THERE BE A NEED TO HAVE A POINT PERSON WHO IS KIND OF CARING FOR AND RECEIVING INFORMATION, UNDERSTANDING HOW WE CAN DO BETTER TO MAKE SURE FOLKS ARE ABLE TO TRANSITION TO STABLE, PERMANENT HOUSING SUCCESSFULLY?

I KNOW WE DO HAVE PLACES BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S HAPPENING AT EVERY ONE OF THESE SPACES. AND IF NOT, DO WE HAVE A CENTRAL PERSON THAT'S HELPING MONITOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS WORK?

>> AS WE PLAN TO CREATE AND FUND NEW PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING WE'VE HAD REPRESENTATIVES FROM DSHP AND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DELIVER THE SERVICES INVOLVED IN PUTTING THOSE PROGRAMS TOGETHER AND SCOPING THE PROCESS FOR FOLKS TO ACCESS THE HOUSING BECAUSE ESSENTIAL HOUSING HAS BEEN WITH HOMELESSNESS BUT THE SUPPORT AND SERVICE CRITICAL. WE SEE WHERE FOLKS GET HOUSING WITHOUT THE SERVICES THEY NEED, IT CAN BE PRETTY DIFFICULT FOR THEM.

IT DOES IMPROVE OUTCOMES.

>> Councillor Wilson: THROUGH YOU, CHAIR, I KNOW I ASKED MS. PETERS EARLIER BUT IF YOU CAN SPEAK TO THE DIVERSITY OF THIS DEPARTMENT AND HOW IT LOOKS LIKE THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

>> SURE.

THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU, CHAIR  
NOLAN THE ANSWER IS SOMEWHAT  
SIMILAR TO CDD.

IF YOU LOOK AT OUR STAFF AS A  
WHOLE, THE MAJORITY HAS BEEN --  
I THINK WE HAVE 80% PLUS AND AS  
FAR AS RACE AND ETHNICITY  
SIMILAR TO CDD IN ROUGHLY 40% OF  
THE STAFF ARE IDENTIFIED PERSONS  
OF COLOR.

THIS IS JUST A QUICK COUNT.  
60% OF THE FOLKS ARE WHITE.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.

I YIELD.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU.  
I HAVE TWO QUICK QUESTIONS BUT  
IF OTHERS HAVE QUESTIONS.  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councillor Siddiqui: I THINK  
I'M GOING TO JUST FRAME IT AS I  
THINK THIS IS AN AREA THAT WE  
NEED TO MAYBE TALK ABOUT IN THE  
FUTURE AS IT RELATES TO CAPITAL  
NEEDS FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
HOME OWNERSHIP UNITS.

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ALONG AND  
FOLLOWING VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS.  
THERE'S SOME POLICY DISCUSSIONS  
THAT COULD BE HAD I THINK THIS  
IS AN AREA IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS  
THE COUNCIL SHOULD WEIGH IN AS  
WE INCREASE -- I THINK SOME OF  
THE STUFF WE'RE DOING OBVIOUSLY  
I 100% SUPPORT AND HAVE BEEN  
INVOLVED IN.

I THINK THE OTHER PARTS OF  
MAINTAINING SOME OF THE  
AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP AND  
THE ISSUES THAT HAVE COME UP,  
IT'S MORE IS HOW DO WE TALK  
ABOUT IT.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF  
PRESENTATIONS BUT SOMETHING TO  
CONSIDER IN THE FUTURE AND HOW  
IT WILL IMPACT THE MONEY IN THE



TRUST AND SO FORTH.

THAT'S ALL I HAD.

>> Chair Nolan: WE ALSO HAVE TO  
HELP TRAIN PEOPLE HOW TO  
MAINTAIN OTHER WISE MAY NOT  
UNDERSTAND.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH THE HOME  
OWNERSHIP THERE'S A CAMBRIDGE  
TRUST STARTED.

IS THE DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN  
THOSE KINDS OF DISCUSSIONS?

>> YES, WE MET WITH THEM A  
COUPLE TIMES.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE BUT WE  
EXPRESSED WE'RE HAPPY TO  
UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING  
TO DO, HAPPY TO SUPPORT AND GIVE  
THEM ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT  
AND AGREE THE MORE OPTIONS THAT  
EXIST THE BETTER.

>> Chair Nolan: I KNOW THERE'S A  
COMPARISON WITH THE CO-OPS WITH  
THE COMMUNITY TRUST.

IS SOMEONE WORKING ON THE  
REGIONAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE  
IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS BECAUSE WE  
SAY WE CAN'T SOLVE IT OURSELVES  
AND SOME HELP PROVIDE HOUSING  
FOR COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOME  
STATE LAW I DON'T UNDERSTAND BUT  
I HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT.

THERE ARE STATE LEVEL TALKS  
RIGHT HERE IN THE HALL ABOUT THE  
PRE-FAB FACILITY UP CHELSEA AND  
HOW ARE THOSE CONVERSATIONS  
GOING SO WE ARE COORDINATING  
REGIONALLY TO BRING THE COST OF  
HOUSING DOWN WITH THE IDEA EVERY  
TIME WE DO, THE DOLLARS SAVED  
MEANS WE CAN HOUSE MORE PEOPLE.

>> WE'RE INVOLVED WITH THAT AND  
WORKING WITH THE PLANNING  
COUNCIL AND LOOKING AT REGIONAL  
HOUSING CHALLENGES AND SHARING  
STRATEGIES AND IDEAS AND  
SUCSESSES OF WHAT HAS WORKED.  
ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE INVOLVED

WITH IS THEIR PROGRAM TO LOOK AT  
MANUFACTURED HOUSING AND TO SEE  
IF WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT  
WOULD TAKE TO CREATE ENOUGH  
DEMAND AND LOOKING AT POTENTIAL  
FACILITY IN THE GREATER BOSTON  
REGION IN A WAY THAT WOULD  
REDUCE THE TRANSPORT COSTS AND  
ALLOW US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND  
HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE  
COST EFFICIENCIES THAT WOULD  
COME WITH MANUFACTURED HOUSING.  
THIS IS A COALITION OF SEVERAL  
COMMUNITIES, BOSTON, CAMBRIDGE,  
CHIEF AMONG THEM AND WE ARE  
GETTING INTO LOOKING AT THE  
SPECIFIC CHALLENGES THAT COME  
UP.

THEREFORE WE'LL HAVE SOME STAFF  
INVOLVED WITH THE WORKING  
GROUPS.

WE'RE ENCOURAGING THEM TO  
INVOLVE CAMBRIDGE HOUSING  
PROVIDERS TO GET THE PERSPECTIVE  
OF FOLKS MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT  
MANUFACTURED HOUSING OR WEIGH  
SOME OF THOSE CONSIDERATIONS.  
IT'S AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY.  
WE TOOK A TOUR AND THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR INTEREST IN THAT.

WE HAVE THINKING ABOUT A START  
UP AT SCALE AND GIVES US  
EXCITING IDEAS ON HOW COSTS  
COULD BE CHANGED OVER TIME AND  
THE COST OF HOUSING IN CAMBRIDGE  
IF WE CAN SAVE SOME DOLLARS  
THERE AND HERE, IT DOES ADD UP  
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

>> Chair Nolan: SO 20% MORE  
PEOPLE COULD BE USED FOR OTHERS.  
I WANT TO ALSO HIGHLIGHT AND  
THANK YOU FOR THE CLARITY.  
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT SOMETIMES TO  
GET NUMBERS TOGETHER.

WE SAW THAT WITH THE  
INCLUSIONARY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM  
IS INCLUSIONARY BUT DOESN'T MEAN

IT'S AN INCLUSIONARY BUILT ONE.  
IT'S IN THE BUDGET BOOK AND WAS  
DEVELOPED THROUGH OTHER THINGS  
BUT UNDER INCLUSIONARY AND  
RECOGNIZING THE MORE  
TRANSPARENCY AND CLARITY BETTER  
SO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW OUR  
BUDGET IS BEST BEING USED.  
I'M NOT SURE IF THERE'S ANY  
OTHER QUESTIONS.  
SO WITH THAT, COUNCILLOR WILSON  
MOVES WE FORWARD THE HOUSING  
COMMITTEE BUDGET OF \$27,488,000  
TO COUNCIL WITH A FAVORABLE  
RECOMMENDATION.  
DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED, ROLL  
CALL.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM.  
ABSENT.  
VICE MAYOR McGOVERN.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR TONER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
YES.  
MAYOR SIMMONS.  
MAYOR SIMMONS, ABSENT.  
YOU HAVE SEVEN IN THE  
AFFIRMATIVE AND TWO RECORDED AS  
ABSENT.  
>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU AND  
THANK YOU DIRECTOR CARTER.  
AND NOW WE ARE ON TO THE OFFICE  
OF SUSTAINABILITY, WHICH IS THE  
BUDGET BOOK V SO PANEL 121.  
V-121.  
A \$2.8 MILLION BUDGET RELATIVELY  
NEW.  
I CAN ASK OUR CHIEF

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER TO  
INTRODUCE YOURSELVES AND HER  
TEAM.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILS FOR  
HAVING US HERE TODAY.

MY NAME IS JULIE WIMSER AND YOU  
KNOW SUZANNE THE DEPUTY CHIEF  
FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY.

WE HAVE A THREE-PART MISSION TO  
WORK ON FOSSIL FUELS WITHOUT  
INCREASING ECONOMIC  
DISPLACEMENT.

THE SECOND IS WORKING TO ENSURE  
EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF RACE,  
WEALTH AND PRIMARY LANGUAGE OR  
HEALTH IS SAFE THERE EXTREME  
WEATHER.

AND LOWER THE BAR FOR OTHER  
COMMUNITIES TO DO THE SAME.  
WE HAVE TEN STAFF AND SEVEN  
FOCUS ON ENERGY WORK.

WE REQUIRE NON-RESIDENTIAL  
BUILDINGS TO GET OFF FOSSIL  
FUELS UNDER THE CAMBRIDGE  
ORDINANCE.

MOST NEW BUILDINGS ARE TO BE  
FOSSIL-FUEL FREE AND HIGHLY  
ENERGY EFFICIENT.

WE HAVE A NUMBER TO LOWER THE  
COST AND TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS  
TO SAVE ENERGY, MONEY AND TO  
ELECTRIFY AND PURSUING RENEWABLE  
THERMAL ENERGY AND PROMOTING  
SOLAR WITHIN CITY LIMITS.

BESIDES CAMBRIDGE'S EFFORT TO BE  
NET CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050 OR  
BEFORE, WE ALSO HELP DEPARTMENTS  
MANAGE HARM FROM INCREASINGLY  
EXTREME WEATHER ESPECIALLY  
FLOODING AND HEAT WAVES.

TRADITIONAL REGULATIONS AND  
OPERATIONS AND INVESTMENTS  
ASSUME A CONSTANT PREDICTABLE  
CLIMATE.

THAT IS NO LONGER TRUE.

AS A CITY WE INTO TO LOOK AT OUR  
EMERGENCY PLANNING, CAPITAL  
INVESTMENTS AND ULTIMATELY OUR  
LONG-TERM PLANNING TO MAINTAIN A  
THRIVING CITY IN THE FACE OF  
WORSENING WEATHER.

FINALLY, CAMBRIDGE IS ONE OF THE  
WORLD'S GREAT CITIES AND HAVE  
THE RESOURCES AND CONFIDENCE TO  
TRY WHAT MAY NOT WORK AND THAT'S  
ALSO TRUE IN OUR CLIMATE WORK.  
WE WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE  
AS ONE OF ONLY 19 CLIMATE LEADER  
COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE FOR  
OUR WORK TO DATE AND FUTURE  
COMMITMENTS.

ONE OF OUR STATED GOALS IS TO  
SHARE WHAT WE'RE LEARNING TO  
LOWER THE BAR FOR OTHER  
COMMUNITIES TO ALSO BE CLIMATE  
READY.

WE'RE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY  
QUESTIONS.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU.  
WE CAN START OFF WITH COUNCILLOR  
ZUSY.

> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU,  
MADAME CHAIR, THROUGH YOU.  
YOU'RE DOING VERY IMPORTANT  
WORK.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I JUST WANTED TO ASK -- YOU  
MENTIONED ON V-121 THAT COST  
EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR DE  
CARBONIZING HOUSING IN SMALL  
BUSINESSES ARE STILL TO BE  
DETERMINED.

THIS IS ALL PART OF YOUR CARBON  
NEUTRAL CAMBRIDGE PROGRAM.

COULD YOU SPEAK A LITTLE BIT TO  
THAT.

>> IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COST  
EFFECTIVE PIECE.

WE UNDERSTAND THE TECHNOLOGY ARE  
INCOME STREAMS AND CASH STREAMS  
FOR PEOPLE WHO OWN THOSE AND  
RESIDENCES.

WE HAVE VERY GOOD DIFFICULT BUT  
REALISTIC PLANS FOR OUR LARGE  
NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS FOR  
TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE BUT  
ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE REMAINING  
EMISSIONS IN CAMBRIDGE ARE SMALL  
BUSINESSES AND THEY'RE PROPERTY  
RICH AND CASH POOR.

BEFORE WE REQUIRE THEM TO DO  
SOMETHING, WE'RE WORKING TO  
BRING THE COST DOWN.

SO THIS YEAR WE'RE LOOKING AT  
CAN WE LOOK AT DECARBONIZATION  
FINANCING FOR PEOPLE?

WE DON'T WANT TO PUSH ANYBODY  
OUT OF CAMBRIDGE AS WE'RE  
MEETING THESE GOALS.

> Councillor Zusy: THROUGH YOU,  
MADAME CHAIR, IT SOUNDS LIKE AN  
EXCELLENT APPROACH.

A GREAT IDEA.

I ALSO HEARD YOU SPEAK AT LAURIE  
LANDERS' BREAKFAST SHOW ABOUT  
THE THERMAL ENERGY NETWORK  
YOU'RE EXPLORING AND I JUST  
WANTED TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT.  
THANK YOU.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

IT'S BEEN COMMONLY CALLED  
NETWORK GEOTHERMAL.

THE REASON THEY'RE MOVING AWAY  
FROM THAT PHRASE IS BECAUSE YOU  
CAN ACTUALLY PICK UP HEAT AND  
COOLING FROM HUMAN MADE PLACES  
LIKE REFRIGERATION OR EXCESS  
HEAT, EXCESS COOLING.

THE THERMAL IS NOT JUST STORED  
IN BEDROCK BUT WHAT WE STORE AS  
WELL.

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY IN  
CAMBRIDGE TO SITE NETWORK  
GEOTHERMAL OR THERMAL ENERGY  
NETWORKS IN ORDER TO HAVE WHOLE  
NEIGHBORHOODS BE ABLE TO BENEFIT  
FROM THEM.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE TRYING  
TO DO IS MATCH BUILDING TYPES.

SO OFFICES USE HEATING AND  
COOLING IN THE DAYTIME HOUSING  
IS MORE AT NIGHT.  
IF WE CAN CREATE NETWORKS THAT  
BENEFIT FROM EACH HOUSING TYPE  
WILL BRING ENERGY COSTS DOWN FOR  
PEOPLE.

THERE ARE SOME BIG BLUE SKY  
IDEAS OF SAYING COULD WE  
ACTUALLY BULLY INTO THE BED ROCK  
UNDER MEMORIAL DRIVE, UNDER  
STURO DRIVE WHERE THERE'S NO  
UTILITIES IN THE WAY AND GET BIG  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THESE THERMAL  
ENERGY NETWORKS.

THAT'S YEARS OFF IN TERMS OF  
FINANCIAL MODELLING AND  
PERMITTING AND ALL THE REST.  
ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE FINDING  
IS THERE'S NOT A LOT OF OPEN  
SPACE IN CAMBRIDGE TO DO THIS.  
THERE'S OPPORTUNITIES BUT IT  
WON'T BE A WHOLESALE SOLUTION,  
UNLIKELY TO BE.

> Councillor Zusy: UNDERSTOOD.  
I WOULD START CONVERSATIONS WITH  
DCR ABOUT THIS BECAUSE I THINK  
THEY'RE TRYING TO BE MORE  
CLIMATE RESILIENT.  
THEY MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE  
IDEA.

I REALIZE YOU'RE THINKING PAR IN  
THE FUTURE, PROBABLY BUT DCR IS  
ABOUT TO INVEST A LOT OF MONEY  
IN THE NEAR TERM AT MEMORIAL  
DRIVE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING MORE  
AND I HOPE YOU KEEP DREAMING AND  
WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH  
OUR YOUNG SCIENTISTS AT HARVARD  
AND M.I.T. TO IMAGINE A BETTER  
MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.  
THANK YOU.

>> Chair Nolan: CAN YOU  
FOLLOW-UP?  
WE'RE LOOKING INTO A DISTRICT  
ENERGY PILOT FIRST APPLIED FOR

THREE YEARS AGO.  
IT'S MOVING FORWARD AND WE'LL  
COME BACK WITH ACTUAL  
FEASIBILITY AND IDENTIFY A PLACE  
TO MOVE FORWARD FOR THE NEXT  
STEPS.  
IS THAT STILL --  
>> TO BE CLEAR, THAT RFP, THAT'S  
MOVING FORWARD WITH THE FRAMING  
HOUSE PILOT AND THEY'RE NOT  
LOOKING AT MEMORIAL DRIVE.  
>> Chair Nolan: I WAS ASSUMING  
STRAWBERRY HILL AND SHORTER TERM  
AND DOING MEMORIAL DRIVE.  
>> WE'RE LOOKING AT WHAT'S  
FEASIBLE TODAY.  
>> Chair Nolan: WE CAN THINK  
ABOUT FEASIBLE FOR THE FUTURE  
AND LET M.I.T. DO THEIR WORK AND  
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT BUT IT'S A GOAL IN THE  
SUBJECT SHORT OF TIME TO DO A  
FRAMINGHAM PILOT.  
I WANTED TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE  
CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY.  
THE GOALS LIKE PERFORMANCE  
MEASURES AND SOME ARE VAGUE AND  
WE WERE AT 80% PARTICIPATING IN  
THE ELECTRICITY FOR '23.  
GOAL FOR NEXT YEAR IS 80%.  
I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT  
WOULDN'T BE HIGHER AND DO WE  
HAVE A GOAL FOR LOW INCOME  
BECAUSE LAST TIME IT WAS 62%  
THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE  
AGGREGATION AND THE STATE HAS  
TALKED ABOUT HOW LOW-INCOME  
HOUSEHOLDS END UP BEING MARKETED  
TO IN A WAY THAT ENDS UP THEY  
PAY MORE THAN THEY SHOULD AND  
FAR MORE THAN OUR COMMUNITY  
ELECTRICITY.  
IF WE HAVE GOALS TO ENSURE THIS  
IS AN EQUITABLE PROGRAM THAT WE  
ARE DOING, WE'RE DOING ALL WE  
CAN TO SAVE ALL HOUSEHOLDS.  
>> THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR,



WE'RE WORKING VERY HARD TO  
ENCOURAGE TO STAY IN THE  
AGGREGATION BECAUSE THEY GET  
SWEEPED BECAUSE IT'S AN OPT-OUT  
PROGRAM.

WE GET NEW ACCOUNTS.

OUR JOB TWOFOLD IS TO KEEP  
PEOPLE AGGREGATION AND WE HAVE  
THREE LEVELS IN THE CURRENT  
CONTRACT TO DEFAULT RATE WHICH  
GIVES 50% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY  
AND 100% AND A BASIC VERSION THE  
25% YOU GET AUTOMATICALLY  
THROUGH A RESOURCE.

AND WE HAVE BEEN -- WE JUST GOT  
THE NUMBERS IN.

WE MEASURE ONCE A YEAR BECAUSE  
IT'S HARD.

THERE'S FLUX IN AND OUT.

RIGHT NOW IS THE TIME OF YEAR WE  
MEASURE AND WE HAD A POSITIVE  
INCREASE.

WE HAD AN 18% INCREASE IN THE  
LOW INCOME NUMBERS THE RATES ARE  
HIGHER AND ALL THREE RATES ARE  
HIGHER THOUGH THE BASIC IS  
EXTREMELY CLOSE TO A RESOURCE  
AND EVER SOURCE WILL CHANGE  
AGAIN IN AUGUST SO WE CAN GO  
BACK TO BEING BETTER.

RIGHT NOW WE MAY BE LOSING  
CUSTOMERS BECAUSE OF PEOPLE ARE  
PRICE CONSCIOUS.

SO, THAT'S ON SORT OF THE STATUS  
OF WHAT WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW  
AND WE ARE LOOKING AT THE LONG  
TERM.

THIS HAS BEEN IN PLACE SIX YEARS  
NOW AND WE'RE DOING BETTER THAN  
WE DID IN THE BEGINNING SO WE  
KEEP CREEPING UP BUT WE'RE NOT  
REALLY SUCCEEDING IN THESE HUGE  
JUMPS.

ON THE CONCERN ABOUT THE  
PREDATORY EFFORTS BY PRIVATE  
SUPPLIERS TO SIGN UP FOR A GOOD  
DEAL THAT LATER TURNS OUT NOT TO

BE A GOOD DEAL, THERE WAS WORK  
LAST YEAR IN THE LEGISLATURE AND  
WE WERE ACTIVELY ADVOCATING FOR  
PRIVATE SUPPLIERS TO BE BANNED  
FROM APPROACHING OR SIGNING UP  
INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS.

THAT FAILED BUT WE JUST LEARNED  
THE GOVERNOR'S CURRENT PROPOSAL  
FOR DEALING WITH ENERGY COSTS  
JUST RELEASED, THERE'S A LOT OF  
LANGUAGE IN THERE TO REALLY  
LIMIT HOW MUCH PRIVATE SUPPLIERS  
CAN PICK OFF CUSTOMERS.

SO, OBVIOUSLY WE'LL BE VERY  
SUPPORTIVE OF THAT MOVING  
FORWARD AND IT HAS TO MAKE ITS  
WAY THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.  
HOPEFULLY WE CAN CONTINUE THIS  
POSITIVE TREND WE'VE SEEN  
RECENTLY THAT WE ARE GETTING  
BACK GETTING SOME LOW-INCOME  
CUSTOMERS IN THE AGGREGATION WE  
NEVER HAD.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU FOR  
THAT.

ON THE PERFORMANCE MEASURES  
RATHER THAN BUILDINGS AND  
COMPLIANCE THEY HAVE TO START  
REDUCING IS THERE A GOAL  
ASSOCIATED OR IS 95% THEY JUST  
REPORT OR PUT IN A PLAN TO  
REDUCE POLLUTION?

>> IT'S OUR GOAL EVERYONE WILL  
BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE  
REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE WE  
HAVEN'T SET A SPECIFIC GOAL  
BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE  
SITUATION BEFORE.

I'LL USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY  
WE'RE DOING EXTREMELY WELL IN  
TERMS OF REPORTING.  
WE JUST GOT THE REPORTING IN FOR  
CALENDAR '24.

AGAIN, WE HAVE SOME THAT HAVE  
REQUESTED AND BEEN GRANTED  
EXTENSIONS FOR THEY HAVE A GOOD  
REASON WHY THEY COULDN'T MEET

THE DEADLINE BUT WE'RE BASICALLY  
LOOKING AT LESS THAN 50 OUT OF  
850 THAT HAVE NOT REPORTED ON  
THE DEADLINE.

SO, 95% COMPLIANCE WHICH IS  
CERTAINLY BEST IN CLASS AND WE  
BELIEVE IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT  
FOUNDATION FOR ONCE WE HAVE TO  
MOVE INTO REDUCTIONS.

WE CALLED IT.

PEOPLE HAVE OTHER ALTERNATIVES  
IF THEY CAN'T REDUCE.

THERE'S ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE  
PAYMENTS IS ONE AVENUE.

WE MAY SEE SOME PROPERTIES  
REDUCE AND A PORTION PAYING FOR  
US TO INVEST IN GREENHOUSE GAS  
REDUCING ACTIVITIES.

AT THIS POINT IT'S DIFFICULT TO  
ASSESS BUT WE FEEL GOOD ABOUT  
THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND  
THERE SHOULD BE HIGH PROBABILITY  
OF PEOPLE MAKING THE REDUCTION  
ARE REQUIRED.

>> Chair Nolan: WITH ELECTRICITY  
AND WE APPRECIATE THE  
INTERACTIONS WITH THE HOT LINE  
AND EVERYTHING BUT IT DOESN'T DO  
ANYTHING.

IT'S NOT A SPECIFIC MEASURABLE  
GOAL OTHER THAN NUMBER OF CALLS.  
I HOPE YOU WORK THROUGH AND  
UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT SO IF  
SOMEONE CALLS THEY TAKE ACTION  
BECAUSE A CALL IS ONE THING AND  
IT'S GREAT BUT THERE HAS TO BE A  
FOLLOW-UP TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE  
IMPACT IS BECAUSE TO GET US TO  
OUR GOALS AND TO USE THIS  
BUDGET, I KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF  
PEOPLE WORKING ON IT BUT THERE'S  
A SPECIFIC GOALS FOR HOW MANY  
PEOPLE TAKE ACTION AND WHAT THE  
IMPACT IS.

I UNDERSTAND WHILE IT'S A SMALL  
RELATIVELY SMALL PERCENTAGE  
COMPARED TO THE LARGE COMMERCIAL

BUILDINGS, THE FACT IS RESIDENTS  
ACROSS THE BOARD UNDERSTAND IT  
AND SEE IT AND SHOULD BE PART OF  
THE TARGET BECAUSE THEY SPREAD  
THE WORD TO OTHER PLACES TO HOW  
IMPORTANT THIS IS.

THIS IS A HUGE PERCENT WITH THE  
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY.

I ENCOURAGE US TO DO THAT  
BECAUSE THE GOAL THERE'S  
RESIDENTIAL REDUCTIONS AND I  
THINK IT'S IMPORTANT REINSTATE  
THEM SO WE'RE SOLID IN THE  
UNDERSTANDING IT HAS TO BE DONE  
IN AN EQUITABLE FASHION, BUT IF  
WE DON'T SET A GOAL, IT'S NOT  
GOING TO HAPPEN AND BE A  
PRIORITY.

THE PLANS INCLUDE SOME OF THOSE  
AS WELL.

COUNCILLOR ZUSY AND THEN  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.

> Councillor Zusy: A QUICK  
QUESTION.

SO ORDINARY MAINTENANCE IS MORE  
THAN SALARIES.

WHAT ARE YOU SPENDING ON?

>> MOST IS CONSULTANTS AND  
SPECIALIZED CONSULTANTS WE WOULD  
NOT HIRE LONG TERM.

> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU.

AT SOME POINT CAN WE GET OF WHAT  
THE PROJECTS ARE?

>> I CAN TELL YOU AND ALSO  
E-MAIL YOU IF IT'S NOT THE RIGHT  
TIME.

SO TWO-THIRDS OF THE BUDGET IS  
FOR OUR ENERGY PROGRAMS.

THAT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND OUR  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND INCLUDES  
OUR WORK ON SOLAR HOSTING AND  
DECARBONIZATION FINANCING AND  
THAT'S ABOUT \$700,000.

WE SPEND \$250,000 ON OUR  
PLANNING AND MONITORING AND  
EDUCATION.

WE SPEND ABOUT \$250,000 OR ABOUT

17% ON RESILIENCE WORK.  
>> Chair Nolan: THAT'S  
CONSULTING BUDGET?  
>> ALL CONSULTING.  
THEY'RE SPECIALIZED CONSULTANTS.  
OUR STAFF ARE PROJECT MANAGERS  
FOR ALL OF THAT.  
I'D BE INTERESTED.  
>> HAPPY TO E-MAIL IT.  
NOLAN ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR AND THANK YOU  
FOR THE WORK YOU ARE DOING.  
IF YOU CAN SPEAK TO HOW  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK IS  
PLAYING OUT IN THE BUDGET, I  
WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING THAT.  
>> I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR  
QUESTION.  
IT REALLY PLAYS OUT IN OUR  
MISSION.  
THIS IS WHY, FOR EXAMPLE WE  
DON'T HAVE A PLAN YET FOR  
RESIDENCES.  
THIS IS WHERE MOST THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORDINANCES  
ARE AFFECTED.  
OUR GOAL FOR GETTING OFF FOSSIL  
FUELS IS TO NOT COST ED ECONOMIC  
DISPLACEMENT AS WE DO THAT.  
OUR GOAL FOR HELPING PEOPLE NOT  
BE HARMED BY EXTREME WEATHER IS  
TO FOCUS OUR PUBLIC RESOURCES ON  
THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE FEWEST  
PRIVATE RESOURCES.  
AND FOLKS THAT WE ARE REALLY  
FOCUSES ON THE MOST ARE PEOPLE  
OF COLOR, PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF  
INCOME AND PEOPLE WHO SPEAK  
ANOTHER LANGUAGE BESIDES ENGLISH  
AS THEY'RE PRIMARY LANGUAGE.  
WHERE OTHER PEOPLE  
DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BUT  
THOSE ARE THE THREE BIG  
CATEGORIES WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE  
ON.

WE ALSO WORK REGIONALLY WITH  
OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS TO  
UNDERSTAND BEST PRACTICES FOR  
THINGS LIKE SOCIAL RESILIENCE.  
MAKING PEOPLE GET THE  
INFORMATION IN THEIR PRIMARY  
LANGUAGE TO STAY OUT OF HARM'S  
WAY AND PREPARE FOR EXTREME  
WEATHER.

SO IT'S REALLY NOT SEPARATE.

>> Councillor Wilson: AND FOR  
THE DIVERSITY OF YOUR STAFF AND  
TALK ABOUT A REPRESENTATION AND  
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE ACROSS OUR  
CITY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

WE HAVE 10 STAFF AND  
THREE-QUARTERS OF THEM ARE  
WOMEN.

SORRY, SEVEN ARE WOMEN AND  
PEOPLE OF COLOR.

>> Councillor Wilson: AND ARE  
ANY PEOPLE OF COLOR IN  
LEADERSHIP ROLES?

>> YES.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU,  
I YIELD.

>> Chair Nolan: WE HAVE MORE  
QUESTIONS BUT I THINK WE'RE  
TRYING TO BE JUDICIOUS WITH TIME  
AND HAPPY TO TALK ANOTHER TIME  
AS WELL.

WITH THAT ANY QUESTIONS ONLINE?  
COUNCILLOR WILSON MAKES A MOTION  
TO MOVE THE OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY BUDGET OF \$2.8  
MILLION TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL  
WITH FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION.  
DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED, ROLL  
CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM.  
ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR McGOVERN.

ABSENT.

COUNCILLOR NOLAN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

YES.

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

YES.

COUNCILLOR TONER.

YES.

COUNCILLOR WILSON.

YES.

COUNCILLOR ZUSY.

YES.

MAYOR SIMMONS.

ABSENT.

THAT'S SIX MEMBERS VOTING YES

AND THREE RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU FOR  
THE WORK AND HAVING SKIPPED OVER  
THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION,  
MR. SULLIVAN IS HERE AND WE'LL  
HEAR FROM THE HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION NEXT.

HOLD ON.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION IS ON PAGE  
V-114.

THIS IS A TOTAL BUDGET OF  
\$759,850 WITH SEVEN FTEs.

MR. SULLIVAN IF YOU WANT TO  
INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND ANY  
OPENING REMARKS OTHERWISE WE'LL  
GO TO QUESTIONS.

>> I'M CHARLES SULLIVAN, OF THE  
KENNEDY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
AND I APPRECIATE THE INDULGENCE  
IN TAKING ME OUT OF TURN.

>> Chair Nolan: I THINK WE'VE  
SEEN YOU A FEW TIMES AND OF  
APPRECIATE YOUR WORK AND LOOK  
FORWARD TO YOU CONTINUING.  
THE NAMING OF OUR BUILDING WHICH  
HAS GENDER AND INAPPROPRIATE  
LANGUAGE IN IT FOR A HISTORICAL  
BUILDING.

COUNCILLOR ZUSY DID YOU HAVE A  
QUESTION?

> Councillor Zusy: I DID.  
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD SHARE  
YOUR CPA WORK INCLUDING  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

OF 35 HARVEY AND 95 FAIRWEATHER  
AND 1020 CORPORAL McTURNIN AND  
THE ADAPTIVE USE PROJECTS.

>> THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR.  
THE CITY RECEIVED APPROPRIATIONS  
A LITTLE OVER \$2 MILLION A YEAR  
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVING FUNDS  
FOR 10% OF THE DIRECTOR'S TIME  
ADMINISTERING THE FUNDS AND  
ROUGHLY \$2 MILLION, GENERALLY  
ABOUT \$700,000 IS APPROPRIATED  
DIRECTLY TO THE HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS AND  
ALSO FOR NON-PROFIT OWNERS OF  
SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS IN THE  
CITY.

SO ON THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
SIDE, WE HAD THIS PROJECT,  
PROGRAM SINCE 1976 WHEN IT WAS  
FUNDED WITH COMMUNITY GRANTS  
WITHOUT INTERRUPTION WHEN CPA  
WAS ADOPTED IN 2003 SINCE THAT  
TIME WE HAVE JUSTICE CAP AND THE  
CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND  
MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE LAST FIVE  
YEARS HAVE BEEN ONLY 1,000 IT'S  
TO THE CO-OP, PARK VIEW CO-OP  
AND \$85,000 IT'S FOR A WILL  
BUILDING ON GREEN STREET.

THERE'S THREE PROJECTS, \$90,000,  
\$160,000 ON COLUMBIA STREET AND  
35 HARVEY STREET AND PUTTING IT  
RESTORATION INTO 1627 MASS AVE  
OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
PROJECT ON MELON STREET.

AND THEN WITH JUSTICE START A  
THREE-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOME  
OWNERSHIP ON 95 FAIRWEATHER  
STREET AND MOST THE 114 GRANTS  
IN THE PAST 20 YEARS HAVE BEEN  
THROUGH THE HOME OWNERSHIP  
PROGRAM.

I THEN ME HOME IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM WITH OWNER OCCUPIED  
HOUSES AND INCOME ELIGIBLE  
OWNERS.



AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, OUR  
INSTITUTIONAL GRANT PROGRAM 165  
GRANTS SINCE 2005 ALMOST \$10  
MILLION TO 78 NONPROFIT OWNERS.  
MAINLY CHURCHES.

WE DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MANY  
SIGNIFICANT CHURCHES WE HAD IN  
CAMBRIDGE BUT HAD DIFFERENT  
CHURCHES INCLUDING  
ST. AUGUSTINE'S AND PENTECOSTAL  
TABERNACLE AND THE CENTER FOR  
ADULT EDUCATION AND A SCHOOL ON  
A VARIETY OF PROJECTS.

AND THEN WE ALSO ADMINISTERED  
THE GRANTS THAT ARE APPROPRIATED  
FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS LIKE CITY  
HALL AND THE FIRE STATION AND  
STONY BROOK HEAD HOUSE AND WATER  
DEPARTMENT, GOLF COURSE,  
CLUBHOUSE AND FOUNDRY.

ALL THOSE PROJECTS BENEFITTED  
FROM CPA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
FUNDS AS WELL THE RESTORATION OF  
MAGAZINE BEACH AS COUNCILLOR  
ZUSY WELL KNOWS AND THE  
RESTORATION OF LOWELL PARK.

AND GRANTS ALSO TO THE CAMBRIDGE  
RESTORATION PROJECTS ON BISHOP  
ALLEN DRIVE AND FULLER HOUSE.

> Councillor Zusy: IT'S AMAZING  
YOU PROVIDED SEED MONEY FOR  
PROJECTS ALLOWING REMARKABLE  
THINGS TO HAPPEN.

I'M INCREDIBLY APPRECIATIVE FOR  
YOUR WORK AND A NATIONAL LEADER  
AND WITH SQUIRREL BRAND AND THE  
116 NORFOLK STREET CONVERSION OF  
A CONVENT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
AND THERE'S OTHERS THOSE WERE  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

THOSE ARE THE TWO BIG ONES.

>> THE MOST PROMINENT ONES.

> Councillor Zusy: I'M GRATEFUL  
FOR YOUR WORK AND I WANTED TO  
MAKE SURE THAT MY COLLEAGUES  
HERD THE HISTORIC COMMISSION ALL  
OVER THE CITY I THANK YOU FOR

PRESENTING TO US TODAY AND THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND THE JAMES  
WALK OVER THE WEEKEND IN THE  
RAIN AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY  
PEOPLE WERE THERE, MAYBE 80  
PEOPLE THERE IN THE RAIN ANYWAY,  
IT WAS SPECTACULAR AND THE FOCUS  
WAS ON LOOKING AT AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING HISTORICALLY WITHIN THE  
CITY AND YOUR DISCUSSION WAS  
MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THE HISTORIC  
COMMISSION HAS BLOCKED YOU BUT  
CURATED CONSTRUCTION IN A WAY  
THAT MAKES OUR CITY THE  
WONDERFUL PLACE IT IS.

I THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR  
WORK AND THANKS FOR SHARING  
TODAY.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,  
MADAME CHAIR, THANK YOU,  
COUNCILLOR.

>> Chair Nolan: I'M SORRY I  
MISSED THAT WALK.

ANY QUESTIONS FROM OTHER  
COUNCILLORS?

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU  
MADAME CHAIR AND THANK YOU FOR  
THE WORK YOU DO AND HAVE DONE  
FOR SO LONG.

IF YOU COULD JUST SPEAK TO AND  
THE QUESTION I'VE BEEN ASKING  
ALL DEPARTMENTS ABOUT DIVERSITY  
OF YOUR DEPARTMENT AGAIN  
RELATIVELY A SMALL DEPARTMENT  
WOULD LIKE TO HERE THE  
DIVERSITY.

>> WE HAVE SEVEN POSITIONS  
CURRENTLY.

FIVE ARE WOMEN.

OUR ARCHIVIST WHO A PERSON OF  
COLOR LEFT IN FEBRUARY AND SHE  
HAD BEEN WITH US THREE YEARS AND  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW ONE.

>> Councillor Wilson: HOW DOES  
IT PLAY OUT.

>> MYSELF AND THE ASSISTANT

DIRECTOR AND EVERYONE ELSE HAS A PROFESSIONAL ROLE.

THERE'S AN ARCHIVIST AND GENERAL ARCHIVIST AND IN THE DISTRICTS AND THEY ALL HAVE PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS.

>> Councillor Wilson: THE ONE POSITION YOU SPOKE YOU'RE TRYING TO FILL DO YOU SEE IT AS A DEFINITE NEED FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT?

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> Councillor Wilson: CAN YOU SPEAK AGAIN TO WHAT THE ROLE IS.

>> AN ARCHIVIST.

WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING COLLECTIONS AROUND MATERIAL AND OBJECTS PARTLY BECAUSE OTHER INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE NO LONGER COLLECTING THINGS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU, I YIELD.

>> Chair Nolan: THERE'S A LOT OF DIGITAL WORK GOING ON WHICH MEANS EVEN IF THERE'S HISTORICAL COMMISSION THERE'S TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IN IT.

SO IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THROUGH THE BOOK IT'S A GOOD SIGN OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

ANYONE ONLINE?

>> MOVING TO FULL COUNCIL.

>> Chair Nolan: MOVING TO FULL COUNCIL THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION BUDGET OF \$759,000. DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED, ROLL CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM. ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR McGOVERN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR NOLAN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.  
YES.  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR TONER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
YES.  
MAYOR SIMMONS.  
ABSENT.  
YOU HAVE SEVEN MEMBERS --  
>> Mayor Simmons: YES.  
>> MAYOR SIMMONS YES AND EIGHT  
PRESENT AND ONE RECORDED AS  
ABSENT.  
>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU,  
DIRECTOR SULLIVAN FOR COMING  
HERE AND FOR ALL YOUR WORK AND  
YOUR STAFF WHO IS NOT HERE BUT  
WE APPRECIATE IT.  
NEXT UP ON OUR LIST OF  
DEPARTMENT WE'LL BE DISCUSSING  
IS THE PEACE COMMISSION COMBINED  
WITH THE POLICE ADVISORY BOARD  
FOUND IN THE BUDGET BOOK ON  
V-124.  
>> Mayor Simmons: OKAY.  
DID YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE  
YOURSELF.  
YOU HAVE AN INTERIM DIRECTOR.  
OKAY.  
>> I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU,  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, RYAN  
WELSH WHO IS THE ADMIN PROJECT  
COORDINATOR FOR THE PEACE  
COMMISSION.  
>> HELLO.  
>> Chair Nolan: I THINK PART OF  
THE QUESTION -- WELL, WE CAN  
START -- WITH INDIVIDUALS THOUGH  
LISTED IN THE BUDGET BOOK --  
MAYOR SIMMONS YOU'RE NOT ON  
MUTE.  
>> WE HAVE THE COMMISSION AND  
HE'S BEEN DOING EXTRA HOURS FOR

US AND WE HAVE AN INTERIM EXECUTIVE WHO ALSO OVERSEES THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON RIGHTS AND THEN AS WELL AS THE LGBTQ PLUS COMMISSION AND THERE'S BEEN COMMUNICATION ABOUT THIS.

WE SHOULD HAVE COMMUNICATED THAT BUT THERE'S BEEN A LONG-TERM NEED AND I APPRECIATE CAROLINA FOR STEPPING IN.

SHE HAS THE BACKGROUND HELPFUL FOR PRAB AND HAS EXPERIENCE WITH COMMISSIONS.

WE'VE HAD THE BENEFIT OF CONTINUING THE WORK IN THE PEACE COMMISSION AND THERE'S BEEN EVENTS INCLUDING THE RECENT HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION AND THE WORK OF PRAB AND PEACE CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED BUT WE'RE WORKING THROUGH SOME OF THE TRANSITIONS. WE'VE HAD A COUPLE TRANSITIONS BUT WE HAVE A PLANNED LEAVE STARTING I THINK THIS WEEK. THERE'S BEEN A PLAN ACROSS STAFF JUST TO DISTRIBUTE SOME OF THE WORK.

WE FEEL REALLY GOOD ABOUT IT BUT A BIT OF A PERIOD OF INTERIM STAFFING FOR RIGHT NOW.

>> Chair Nolan: I UNDERSTAND IT WAS A SURPRISE TO SOME PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR US TO SEE IT IN THE BUDGET BOOK AND GIVEN IT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER IS NOT THE STANDARD WE SET FOR TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS.

I APPRECIATE IF IT'S UNEXPECTED WE HAVE COMMUNICATION AND GIVEN THE PEACE COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF 25 YEARS AGO, WHETHER MOVING FORWARD THIS PARTICULAR CONFIGURATION OF STAFFING AND DEPARTMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL OVERSIGHT CONTINUES TO MAKE

SENSE GIVEN THE TIME OF  
TRANSITION BY DEFINITION GIVEN  
THE AMOUNT OF TIME A STAFF  
MEMBER HAS LEFT.

I THINK AS WE TALKED CITY WIDE  
THIS IS ALWAYS AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
MOVE FORWARD WITH PERHAPS ASKING  
A QUESTION ABOUT HOW TO  
CONFIGURE IN A WAY MOST  
EFFECTIVE FOR THE CITY AND IN  
PARTICULAR THERE WERE SEVERAL  
POSITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
COUNCIL.

IT MEANS FOR THE COUNCIL TO BE  
INVOLVED IN UNDERSTANDING THE  
MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO MOVE  
FORWARD WITH WORK AND FIRST  
ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS NUCLEAR  
WAR ISSUES AND HAS EVOLVED OVER  
TIME AND BEFORE WE EVEN HAD THE  
OFFICES OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION  
AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

IN MY VIEW IT'S AN OPPORTUNE  
TIME TO CONSIDER WHAT MAKES  
SENSE TO MOVE FORWARD AND  
ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE  
COMMUNITY IN THE MOST THOUGHTFUL  
WAY COORDINATED ACROSS SEVERAL  
CITY INITIATIVES.

WE CAN GET TO QUESTIONS.

I BELIEVE COUNCILLOR COUNCILLOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER HAD QUESTIONS  
AND IS ONLINE.

SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

>> Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
A COUPLE QUESTIONS HERE AND  
FOLLOWING UP ON THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR.

WHEN AS THE A TRANSITION THE  
COUNCIL AND PUBLIC NEEDS UPDATES  
WHEN A TRANSITION IS AND WHAT  
THE TRANSITION PLAN WILL BE AND  
THAT WASN'T THE CASE HERE SO  
JUST WANTED TO ASK MORE DETAILS  
ON THE POSITION AND WHAT LED TO  
THAT?

>> WE'RE HAPPY TO NOTIFY THE

COUNCIL MORE TIMELY IN THE  
FUTURE.

THERE'S UNPLANNED LEAVE STARTING  
IN OCTOBER AND WE'RE STILL IN  
INTERIM SITUATION RIGHT NOW.

>> Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler:  
THANK YOU.

THE OTHER QUESTION WAS FOLLOWING  
UP ON THE QUESTION COUNCILLOR  
NOLAN RAISED ABOUT CONVERSATIONS  
ABOUT THE BUDGET BEING TIGHTER  
THAN USUAL THIS YEAR AND NOT GO  
OVER WHAT IS NOT THE HIGHEST  
PRIORITY.

I WANTED TO ASK IF THE COUNCIL  
WOULD ASK FOR A POLICY ORDER FOR  
THIS DEPARTMENT TO BE  
CONSOLIDATED WITHIN ANOTHER  
DEPARTMENT AND IF THAT'S  
SOMETHING WE COULD DO OR DO WE  
NEED A NEW DIRECTOR AND  
ALLOCATION FOR THE BUDGET OR CAN  
THE FUNCTIONS THE DEPARTMENT IS  
CARRYING OUT CAN BE  
CONSOLIDATED.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, I  
THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE  
[INDISCERNIBLE] FIRST AND WOULD  
BENEFIT THE COUNCIL IF IT WANTED  
TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT THE  
PEACE COMMISSION DOES.  
WE DO HAVE SHARED  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

AS THIS CONVERSATION SHOWS,  
WE'VE HAD ONE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WITH THE POLICE COMMISSION AND  
ADVISORY BOARD AND THERE'S SOME  
LEVEL OF STAFFING ACROSS  
COMMISSIONS.

THAT'S THE CASE AS WELL OVER  
THE THREE COMMISSIONS SO, I  
THINK IT WOULD BE FINE TO HAVE  
THE CONVERSATION THOUGH MY SENSE  
IS THE POLICE COMMISSION HAS  
APPRECIATE THE WORK BETWEEN THE  
MLK EVENT AND HOLOCAUST  
COMMEMORATION.

THERE'S BEEN WORK THE PEACE  
COMMISSION HAS DONE IN  
MAINTAINING TIES ACROSS SISTER  
CITIES AND AND INTERFAITH  
COMMUNITY AND THIS IS AN  
ORDINANCE THE COUNCIL PASSED  
MANY YEARS AGO.

IT'S PERHAPS UP TO THE COUNCIL  
IF THEY WANT TO HAVE MORE  
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE VARIOUS  
ORDINANCES AND COMMISSIONS THAT  
HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND I'D BE  
HAPPY TO FACILITATE THAT REQUEST  
AND HAPPY TO PICK UP THE  
CONVERSATION WITH THE COUNCIL  
AND FIGURE OUT A GOOD PATH.

>> WE'LL GO TO COUNCILLOR  
WILSON.

THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER.

> Councillor Zusy: I HAD SIMILAR  
THOUGHTS.

IF YOU LOOK AT THE HISTORIC  
COMMISSION BUDGET THEY GET SEVEN  
STAFF THAT GET \$100,000 AND AN  
IS THE PEACE COMMISSION IS  
GETTING \$183,000.

I'M GLAD THAT WAGES ARE BEING  
REVIEWED ACROSS THE CITY BECAUSE  
I THINK THAT SEEMS A LITTLE  
IMBALANCED.

I'M GLAD WE'RE DOING A STUDY OF  
WAGES.

I HOPE WE CONTINUE THE  
CONVERSATION.

THANK YOU.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR ON THE  
SALARY PIECE --

>> SORRY, THAT'S NOT THE  
COMMISSION THAT'S THE TOTAL  
SALARY BUDGET.

THAT INCLUDES PART-TIME STAFF AS  
WELL AS OTHER COSTS.

SALARIES ARE MORE OF \$126,000 A  
YEAR.

> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU.  
THROUGH, MADAME CHAIR IT ONLY



SAYS ONE STAFF SO WE SEE THERE'S ONE AND A HALF RIGHT, OR AT LEAST.

AGAIN, I DO THINK THE SALARY REVIEW IS IMPORTANT TO DO BECAUSE I KNOW THE WORK THAT THEY'RE DOING AT THE HISTORIC COMMISSION AND THEY'RE WORKING VERY HARD SO IT SEEMS LIKE THEY SHOULD HAVE COMPARABLE SALARIES. THANK YOU FOR THE CLARIFICATION. I THINK WE ALSO HAVE TO REMEMBER IT'S NOT ACTUALLY THE COST BECAUSE THE COST IS 25% TO 30% MORE WITH BENEFITS. IT ALL ADDS UP.

THANK YOU.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR ZUSY. COUNCILLOR WILSON.

>> Councillor Wilson: THROUGH YOU, MADAME CHAIR, I WANT TO AGREE TIMING IS EVERYTHING HERE. I WASN'T REALLY AWARE UNTIL OPENING THE BOOK THERE WAS A NEW PERSON IN TERMS OF IDENTIFIED AS BEING INTERIM.

SO JUST HAVING THAT HEADS UP SOONER WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. NOW THAT WE'RE IN THIS CRITICAL TIME, LIKE I THINK AS WE TALK ABOUT ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, CONSOLIDATIONS, HOW CAN WE WORK A LITTLE BIT SMARTER AROUND OUR DEPARTMENTS AND RECOGNIZING THIS COMMISSION WAS CREATED OUT OF AN ORDINANCE, I THINK THIS IS A PIVOTAL TIME WE COULD HAVE A CONVERSATION OF WHAT TO DO HERE. HOW HAS THIS COMMISSION REALLY SERVICED THE COMMUNITY AND I RECOGNIZE IT HAS SERVICE THE COMMUNITY AND NOW WE HAVE A DEI DEPARTMENT UNDER THE GREATER LEADERSHIP OF CHIEF BROWN.

I BELIEVE THERE'S SOME GOOD WORK WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO OUT OF

THAT DEPARTMENT BY PERHAPS  
DISSOLVING THIS ROLE AND HAVING  
IT BE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT, AND  
I DON'T KNOW WHOSE WILL THAT IS.  
I DON'T KNOW IT IF IT'S THE WILL  
OF THE COUNCIL AS MY COLLEAGUE,  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER MENTIONED, DO  
WE NEED TO PUT IN A POLICY ORDER  
OR HAVE THIS KIND OF  
CONVERSATION AND MAYBE IN A  
COMMITTEE MEETING TO MAYBE FLUSH  
IT OUT SOME MORE.

WHAT SHOULD THE NEXT STEPS  
ACTUALLY BE HERE SO WE ARE ABLE  
TO CONTINUE TO DO THE GOOD WORK,  
MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE  
REPRESENTATION THAT IT NEEDS.  
AND TO MAKE SURE THE COMMUNITY  
KNOWS WHO TO CONTACT, WHOSE  
ACTUALLY MANAGING THIS WORK  
HERE.

ESPECIALLY SINCE IT'S BEEN  
VACANT SINCE OCTOBER.

WITH THAT BEING SAID, IS THERE  
CURRENTLY A POSTING?

WE HAVE AN INTERIM, IS THERE A  
POSITION POSTED CURRENTLY AS WE  
SPEAK FOR THIS ROLE?

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIRWOMAN,  
WE'RE IN AN INTERIM STATE.  
THE LONG TERM DISTRICT IS ON A  
LONG-TERM LEAVE.

>> Councillor Wilson: ON A LEAVE  
MEANS WHAT?

AN UNANTICIPATED RETURN?

>> IT'S A POSSIBILITY.

WHEN SOMEBODY'S ON LEAVE, WE  
HAVE AN INTERIM AND WHEN THE  
LEAVE IS RESOLVED IT DEPENDS ON  
WHAT HAPPENS.

>> Councillor Wilson: OKAY.  
THAT FIELD A LITTLE UNSETTLING.  
I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT  
HAVING A PERSON ON LEAVE AND NOT  
UNDERSTANDING THE TIME LINE  
HERE.

MOST THE TIME WHEN THERE'S A

PERSON ON LEAVE THERE'S 30 DAYS,  
90 DAYS.

IF THIS IS AN UNCERTAIN TIME  
LINE CAN YOU SPEAK TO THAT?  
ARE WE JUST NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE  
TIME LINE IS ON THE LEAVE?

WE HAVE TO KEEP IT OPEN?

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN I  
WOULD SAY IT'S NOT FREQUENT WE  
HAVE THESE WHERE THE TIMING IS  
UNCERTAIN BUT IT DOES HAPPEN.  
SO THIS IS ONE OF THOSE CASES  
WHERE WE HAVE A LEAVE AND DON'T  
HAVE A TIME LINE.

>> Councillor Wilson: OKAY.  
CURRENTLY THIS ROLE WOULD REPORT  
TO WHOM?

>> CURRENTLY THE PEACE  
COMMISSION DOES REPORT TO ME BUT  
IN THIS INTERIM STATE BECAUSE  
WE'VE HAD CAROLINA STEP IN WE  
APPRECIATED CHIEF BROWN HELPING  
OUT AND I THINK THERE HAS BEEN A  
BIT OF A TEAM EFFORT JUST TO  
MAKE SURE THAT BOTH COMMISSIONS  
ARE BEING SUPPORTED BUT NONE OF  
THE WORK IS LOST.

>>

>> Councillor Wilson: I  
APPRECIATE THAT AND WITH ALL DUE  
REPRESENT TO HIM AND HOPE  
EVERYTHING IS OKAY, I DO  
RECOGNIZE THAT WORK NEEDS TO  
CONTINUE AND NEEDS TO CONTINUE  
IN A PERMANENT CAPACITY IN ORDER  
FOR EFFICIENCY TO ACTUALLY BE  
MAINTAINED AND SUSTAINED ACROSS  
OUR CITY.

SO, AGAIN I WANT TO APPRECIATE  
THE WORK BUT RECOGNIZING WE'RE  
IN SOME CRITICAL TIMES AND IF  
THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO  
BEING MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE  
INTENTIONAL, NOW IS THE TIME TO  
DO SO.

WITH THAT I YIELD.  
THANK YOU.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU,  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
OTHER QUESTIONS?  
GIVEN THE SITUATION THERE'S A  
POSSIBILITY OF FORWARDING A  
RECOMMENDATION WITH NO  
RECOMMENDATION.  
AGAIN JUST MAKING SURE WE CAN DO  
IT WITH NO RECOMMENDATION OR  
NEGATIVE OR NOT FORWARD IT.  
> Councillor Zusy: THANK YOU.  
I THINK I WOULD RECOMMEND NOT  
HAVING A RECOMMENDATION.  
I FEEL AS THOUGH -- I SEE A NEED  
FOR CONSOLIDATION HERE BUT MAYBE  
I SHOULD RECUSE MYSELF BECAUSE I  
KNOW THE PEACE COMMISSIONER BUT  
I HATE TO ELIMINATE HIS JOB  
WHILE HE'S ON LEAVE AND MAYBE  
NEEDS HEALTH INSURANCE.  
I RECOMMEND WE DON'T HAVE A  
RECOMMENDATION AND WOULD HOPE WE  
CONSOLIDATE IN THE FUTURE.  
>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU.  
ANY OTHER COMMENTS?  
>> Councilor Toner: MADAME  
CHAIR, I RECOMMEND WE APPROVE IT  
AND MOVE IT FORWARD AND THE  
CONVERSATION ABOUT PERSONNEL  
PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAPPEN IN A  
PUBLIC WAY AND HAVE A  
COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE  
COMMISSION AND HOW IT'S STAFFED  
BUT FOR NOW I RECOMMEND MOVING  
FORWARD WITH IT AS PLANNED AND  
THE CITY MANAGER HAS NOW HEARD A  
NUMBER OF PEOPLE'S CONCERNS AND  
WE CAN HAVE FURTHER  
CONVERSATION.  
I YIELD.  
>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU, I  
APPRECIATE THAT.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY MOVED IT FORWARD  
WITH NO RECOMMENDATION.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
> Councillor Zusy: I'LL JUST ADD  
MY TWO CENTS.

THE QUESTIONS OF SOME COUNSELORS  
ARE ASKING AROUND THIS  
COMMISSION WORK.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF WORK  
TOWARDS THE COMMISSIONS IN THE  
LAST FEW YEARS.

I THINK THIS IS THE NEXT  
ITERATION AS WE THINK ABOUT  
EFFICIENCIES AND REDUNDANCIES  
AND SOME LARGER QUESTIONS SO I  
THINK IN THE PAST WE'VE USED  
IMMUNITY AS A WAY TO DO THIS.  
WE HAD CONVERSATIONS.

I DO THINK -- I AGREE WITH A LOT  
OF WHAT'S BEING SAID.

I HOPE WE CAN WORK WITH THE  
MANAGER TO COME TO SOME  
RECOMMENDATIONS AND WORKING  
TOGETHER ON WHAT TO DO BECAUSE I  
THINK THERE'S A WILL TO DO  
SOMETHING.

I AGREE WITH IT.

THANK YOU.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIRWOMAN, I  
WOULD NOTE THE AGENDA ITEM IS  
PEACE COMMISSION/PRAB.

I BELIEVE THEY ARE SEPARATE  
BUDGETS AND WE SHOULD JUST  
CLARIFY.

CERTAINLY IN THIS DISCUSSION  
IT'S BEEN FOCUSSED ON PEACE  
COMMISSION BUT I WOULD ASK THE  
COMMITTEE TO BE MORE CLEAR ABOUT  
ANY MOTION WHETHER WE'RE  
DISCUSSING PEACE COMMISSION,  
PRAB OR BOTH.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU IT'S A  
\$9,900 BUDGET ON PAGE V-91.  
THE TOTAL BUDGET IS \$9,900.  
IT'S \$8,000 OF TRAVEL AND  
TRAINING AND 1800 OR MORE  
MAINTENANCE WITH NO FULL TIME  
BUDGET EMPLOYEES AND WE CAN DO  
THOSE SEPARATELY.

> Councillor Zusy: WHICH NUMBER?

>> Chair Nolan: V-91 IS POLICE  
REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD AND

WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING THE PEACE COMMISSION WHICH STARTS ON PAGE V-124.

THAT BUDGET IS \$195,000.

WITH ONE FTE BUDGETED.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN IT GETS TO A RECOMMENDATION THE COUNCIL IS INTERESTED IN INFORMATION AND REVIEWING MORE COMPREHENSIVELY THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WE HAVE. BEEN, I'D BE HAPPY TO FACILITATE THE CONVERSATION.

I WOULD NOTE TO THE DESIRE WE WERE TO CONSOLIDATE, THIS IS ALREADY A CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR MULTIPLE COMMISSIONS.

MY UNDERSTANDING AND I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM THAT THE BULK OF THE WORK IS WITH THE POLICE REVIEW AND BUDGET BOARD NOT NECESSARILY THE PEACE COMMISSION.

I THINK JUST BECAUSE OF THE WAY THIS IS SHOWING IN THE BUDGET, THE FULL TIME POSITION IS SHOWING AS PART OF THE PEACE COMMISSION I DON'T THINK HAS EVER COME UP BEFORE AND I THINK IF WE WERE TO PROBABLY MORE ACCURATELY ALLOCATE THAT SALARY AND WAGES, BUDGET TO THE DIFFERENT ADVISORY BOARDS.

I WANT TO NOTE IF THE COUNCIL WERE TO, FOR INSTANCE, NOT FUND THE PEACE COMMISSION, WE WOULD STILL ULTIMATELY NEED TO -- WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO GO BACK AND RESET SOME OF THE BUDGETS TO ENSURE THAT WE DO HAVE STAFFING FOR THE PRICE -- POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD.

WE'VE BEEN SHARING SOME OF THE WORK ACROSS THE TWO COMMISSIONS BUT I WANT TO CALL THAT OUT.

>> MADAME CHAIR, TO BE CLEAR, BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THERE'S BEEN A

LOT OF QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT  
THE PEACE COMMISSION AND MOVING  
FORWARD WITH NO RECOMMENDATION  
DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE NOT VOTING IT  
DOWN.

WE'RE JUST MOVING IT FORWARD  
WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.

THERE'S A DISCUSSION IF WE'RE  
GOING TO LOOK AT THE BOARDS AND  
COMMISSIONS AND SEE WHERE WE CAN  
CONSOLIDATE AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS I'M NOT SURE THE  
LAST LINE ON THE BUDGET IS THE  
RIGHT PLACE TO HAVE THAT LINE OF  
CONVERSATION.

JUST A QUESTION, MR. MANAGER AND  
MR. JENNINGS, REMIND ME AT THE  
END OF THE DAY WE HAVE TO VOTE  
THE TOTAL BUDGET TO DECIDE AND  
DON'T WANT TO FUND DEPARTMENT X.  
WE IF IT'S IN THE BUDGET.

WE HAVE TO VOTE THE WHOLE THING?  
WE CAN GO TO HERE.

IN THIS, PEOPLE CAN VOTE HOW  
THEY WANT BUT AT THE END OF THE  
DAY WE HAVE TO VOTE THE FINAL  
BUDGET, RIGHT?

>> WELL, I WOULD SAY WHAT  
COUNCIL IS VOTING ON IS SECTION  
IS 7 AND DEPARTMENT BY  
DEPARTMENT BY STATUTORY  
CATEGORY.

YOU CAN VOTE TO NOT ADOPT A  
CERTAIN DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET.  
WHAT YOU CAN'T DECIDE IS I WANT  
THE LINE ITEMS WITHIN THAT  
DEPARTMENT TO BE FOR THIS OR  
THIS PERSON OR THAT OR THIS  
BUT --

>> SO AT THE END OF THE DAY IF  
WE DIDN'T WANT TO FUND THE PEACE  
COMMISSION BUDGET, WE COULD DO  
THAT?

AND AGAIN THE QUESTION IS THAT  
THE WAY WE WANT TO DO AWAY WITH  
A COMMISSION THAT'S BEEN AROUND  
FOR A LONG TIME WHICH IS NOT TO

FUND THE BUDGET WITHOUT FURTHER CONVERSATION.

I DON'T KNOW.

WE'RE NOT GETTING THROUGH THIS AGAIN AND THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WAITING A GOOD CHUNK OF THE DAY WHO ONCE AGAIN WE'LL SEND HOME.

LET'S MOVE THIS FORWARD AND HAVE A DISCUSSION ON WHAT TO DO WITH IT BUT MADAME CHAIR, I THINK WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THIS WE HAVE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHO WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET TO FOR THE REST OF THE DAY AND WE HAVE TO DECIDE.

ARE OUR BUDGET QUESTIONS OR QUESTIONS JUST BECAUSE WE'RE CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD RATHER DO OTHER THINGS.

>> Chair Nolan: AS THE AN UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENT AND WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE IT AND WE WERE SURPRISED TO RIGHT THE CHANGES IN THE BUDGET BOOK WHICH IS NOT SOMETHING WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAPPEN.

WE'RE MOVING FORWARD AND YET IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME AS SAID TO THINK OF MOVING FORWARD BUT THAT BEING SAID IT'S A SMALL BUDGET ITEM AND NO RECOMMENDATION DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING OTHER THAN NO RECOMMENDATION.

THAT'S ON THE FLOOR.

VICE MAYOR McGOVERN WAS DOING THE EQUIVALENT OF CALLING THE QUESTION.

ROLL CALL.

>> COUNCILLOR AZEEM.

ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR McGOVERN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR NOLAN.

YES.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.



YES.  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR TONER.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON.  
YES.  
COUNCILLOR ZUSY.  
YES.  
MAYOR SIMMONS.  
ABSENT.  
YOU HAVE SEVEN MEMBERS RECORDED  
IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND TWO  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.  
>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU, THAT  
WAS BOTH THOUGH WE DIDN'T TALK  
ABOUT IT.  
>> WAS I RECORDED?  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR TONER YOU  
WERE VOTED AS YES.  
>> Councilor Toner: I WANTED IT  
TO BE RECORDED AS NO VOTE.  
>> Chair Nolan: THE PRAB  
UNDERSTANDING THE ALLOCATION IN  
THE BUDGET BOOK FOR STAFFING  
WILL LOOK DIFFERENT IN THE  
FUTURE.  
NEXT UP WE HAVE PUBLIC WORKS.  
I THINK WE CAN GET THROUGH  
PUBLIC WORKS.  
>> Councilor Toner: MAKE TAKE  
THE PULSE OF THE COMMITTEE TO  
SEE HOW MANY QUESTIONS AND I'D  
LIKE TO GET THROUGH THE NEXT  
FOUR BUT GIVEN THE WAY WE'RE  
GOING WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET  
THROUGH HUMAN SERVICES.  
>> Chair Nolan: PUBLIC WORKS --  
A SMALL DEPARTMENT, RIGHT.  
I'M ASKING, EVEN IF WE'RE  
EFFICIENT WE HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS.  
KEEP GOING.  
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE THINK  
JUST TO ADD ONE DEPARTMENT TO  
TOMORROW FOR NOW TO TELL HUMAN  
SERVICES WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET  
TO THEM, DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

>> Clerk: MADAME CHAIR, HAVE YOU SOMEONE FROM PUBLIC COMMENT.

>> Chair Nolan: SORRY, WE HAVE SOMEONE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT WHO SIGNED UP AND SAID HE'D BE HERE AT 4:00.

LET'S DO THAT NOW AND THEN GO TO PUBLIC WORKS WHICH IS I BELIEVE THE SECOND LARGEST DEPARTMENT IN THE MEMBER OF FTEs.

>> I'M HERE TO COMMENT ON THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY TV. I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THIS EXPENDITURE AND WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT OVERSIGHT OF HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED.

I'VE HAD DIFFICULTIES VOLUNTEERING AND I THINK WHO IS ABLE TO USE AND NOT USE THE FACILITY LACKS TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC FUNDS ARE BEING SENT TO AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT CLEAR OVERSIGHT OF HOW IT TREATS OR MISTREATS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. I HAVE BEEN PRODUCING PROGRAMS AS A VOLUNTEER FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS TV STUDIOS FOR OVER 40 YEARS.

IT'S CALLED THE SHOW.

I REPORTED FOR A TV PRODUCTION CLASS I REGISTERED FOR, I STATED I WAS THERE FOR THE PRODUCTION CLASS AND A MAN ASKED IF I WAS ERIC COLTON AND I SAID YES AND HE ESCORTED ME OUT THE CLASS SAYING I DIDN'T REGISTER AND I TOLD HIM I HAD AND SHOWED HIM THE REGISTRATION.

HE SAID I WAS NOT A MEMBER AND TOLD HIM I CAN SHOW MY REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS AND HE SAID I DIDN'T MATTER. HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THEM. AND I ASKED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MATT LANDRY.

I TOLD HIM I WAS TRYING TO CALL

THE STUDIO AND SAID THE PHONE WAS DISCONNECTED AND HE SAID THE PHONE WAS FINE AND I ASKED WHY IT DOESN'T ANSWER AND ASKED IF THE BLOCKED ME AND HE YESTERDAY SAYS AND ASKED WHY AND HE DIDN'T ANSWER.

I TOLD HIM I'D JUST BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE AND HEART DISEASE IN MAY HAVE SIX MONTHS LEFT TO LIVE AND NEEDED TO FOCUS MY REMAINING TIME ON VOLUNTEERING MY EFFORTS AND HE SAID HE'D LOOK TO THE BOARD AND I ASKED FOR A NUMBER SINCE I WAS BLOCKED AND GAVE ME WHAT HE SAID WAS HIS NUMBER AND AFTER TWO WEEKS OF NOT HEARING FROM HIM I CALLED AND IT WAS NOT A WORKING NUMBERS AND REVIEWED THE BY-LAWS BUT MY HAD BEEN BLOCKED FROM ACCESSING THE SITE AND MR. LANDRY SAID HE'D NOT FORGOTTEN AND WOULD BE HEARING FROM THE BOARD SOON.

I NEVER HEARD FROM THE BOARD IN NOVEMBER AND I GOT A LETTER SENT TO ME 22 YEARS AGO WITHOUT THE GLAD LETTER HEAD SAYING I HAD QUOTE, THREATENED STAFF AND MEMBERS AND AN ORIENTATION MEETING AND IF I EVER ENTERED INTO THE PREMISES I WOULD BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH TRESPASSING.

A CLAIM IS TOTALLY NUTS AND I HAVE WITNESSES TO ATTEST TO THAT.

22 YEARS AND COUNTING OF BEING BLOCKED OF MY SERVICE TO CCTV FOR A TOTALLY FICTITIOUS REASON. I WILL END WITH HOW MANY OTHER EXPERIENCED THE SAME THING SUSPENDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR AND NO RIGHT OF APPEAL AND AN ORGANIZATION THE CITY DEDICATES FUNDS TO EACH

YEAR AND \$100,000 OF WHICH GOES TO THE POCKETS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BAR PERSONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH NO VIOLATION CITED.

THANK YOU.

>> Chair Nolan: THANK YOU, IF YOU HAVE MORE IN WRITING FEEL FREE TO SEND THEM TO THE COUNCIL OR HAND IT TO MS. STEFAN AND SHE'LL MAKE SURE WE GET IT IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> Chair Nolan: I'LL HAVE COMMISSIONER WATKINS INTRODUCE HERSELF.

>> THANK YOU, ALL.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, KATHY WATKINS COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WITH ME I HAVE A NUMBER OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JIM WILCOX AND JENNIFER MATHEWS, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND ALLAN KATZ OUR DIRECTOR OF FISCAL AFFAIRS AND OUR SENIOR FISCAL PROJECT MANAGE AND MIKE ORH A RECYCLING DIRECTOR AND ANDREW PUTNER AND OUR SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND CHRISTEN WHO LEADS OUR COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM AND WE HAVE A SUPERVISING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. THAT'S THE TEAM HERE TODAY AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU CAN HAVE.

>> Chair Nolan: STAND UP AND SAY HI.

WE'RE ON TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

A SLIGHT CHANGE IN SCHEDULE. AFTER PUBLIC WORKS WE'LL GO TO HUMAN SERVICES SO PREPARE YOUR QUESTIONS NOW AND THEY CAN'T COME BACK TOMORROW AND WE'LL GET

THROUGH DPW AND HUMAN SERVICES  
TODAY.

>> WE REPRESENT 13 DIVISIONS AND  
THERE'S DETAILS ABOUT EACH IN  
THE BUDGET.

IT'S FOCUSSED ON DELIVERING HIGH  
QUALITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTING  
RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES  
THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

WITH HAVE ABOUT 270 STAFF AND  
THE OPERATING BUDGET IS \$61.5  
MILLION AND HALF IS SALARY AND  
THE PEOPLE DOING THE WORK AND  
THE OTHER HALF IS THE OOM  
CATEGORY AND WE TALKED ABOUT  
THAT WITH THE VARIOUS  
DEPARTMENTS AND FOR PUBLIC WORKS  
IT'S BROKEN DOWN TO DIVISIONS  
AND STREET SWEEPING AND TREE  
PLANTING CONTRACTS THOSE  
SERVICES AND MATERIALS AND THE  
BULK OF THE OOM AND WE WERE  
JUDICIOUS ABOUT A REQUEST.  
THE OVER ALL INCREASE IS UNDER A  
MILLION AND THE BULK ARE  
ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASES IN  
CONTRACTS.

RECYCLING CONTRACT GOES UP OR  
SOLID WASTE MATERIAL CONTRACT  
GOES UP AND

[CAPTIONER SWITCH]

REALLY LOOKING AT HOW CAN WE  
ABSORB AS MUCH AS THOSE  
POSITIONS AND COSTS AND REALLY  
THINKING ABOUT WHERE THOSE  
POSITIONS ARE NEEDED.

SO I THINK WE'RE LOOKING AT --  
WE'VE TALKED A LOT WITH THE  
COUNCIL ABOUT THE CUSTODY WASTE  
MASTER PLAN AND WE KNOW THERE'S  
GOING TO BE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT  
NEEDED THERE AND SO WHILE WE  
WERE LOOKING TO HAVE ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES FOR THAT, WE'RE  
LOOKING TO DO THAT WITHIN THE  
EXISTING BUDGET.

SO JUST OVERALL CONTEXT BUT

HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

>> Chair: THANK YOU SO MUCH. THIS IS ONE OF THE DEPARTMENTS THAT ALL THE REST OF THE CITY ARE TOUCHED EVERY WEEK WHETHER IT'S RECYCLING, TRASH OR THEY SEE A TREE ON THEIR STREET. SO IT'S ONE OF THOSE DEPARTMENTS.

WE CERTAINLY HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS I'M SURE FROM THE COUNCIL ON THIS. POINT IN TIME.

>> Councilor Zusy: I'LL TRY TO GIVE THE ABRIDGED QUESTIONS. MANY PEOPLE SAY THIS CITY IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. I TIPPED YOU OFF THAT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU THIS QUESTION. I WONDER IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO THAT AND I ALSO HAD ASKED COMMISSIONER WATKINS EARLIER AND AN ENGINEER WILCOX WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO BE DONE AND IF WE HAD MORE OF A MASTER PLAN FOR IMPROVING STREETS AND OUR UTILITIES, COULD WE DO IT IN A WAY THAT'S LESS DISRUPTIVE? IS THERE A GRAND PLAN? THANK YOU.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, AND MAYBE IF JIM HAS ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS.

YOU KNOW, AS WE DISCUSSED, I WOULD SAY THAT INVESTMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IS NEVER DONE AND SO I DO -- I KNOW CONSTRUCTION CAN BE FRUSTRATING BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, WE HAVE UTILITIES WHICH WATER MAINS, SEWER MAINS, GAS MAINS, OTHER UTILITIES THAT OVER 100 YEARS OLD.

SO WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK AT INVESTING AND UPGRADING THOSE

FACILITIES ONE TO BRING THEM UP TO A MODERN AGE AND ALSO WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME LOOKING AT CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHANGING CONDITIONS.

SO WE'RE LOOKING AT IT BOTH IN TERMS OF THE BASIC TERMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS BUT AS WE'RE LOOKING AT HOW DO WE REDUCE FUTURE FLOODING, HOW DO WE MAKE SURE WE'RE SUPPORTING THE ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WE NEED.

IN TERMS OF PLANNING, I WOULD SAY WE HAVE BOTH FIVE YEAR STREET AND SIDEWALK PLAN AND A 10 YEAR SEWER AND DRAIN PLAN THAT REALLY THE EMPHASIS BEHIND THOSE WAS TO MAKE SURE AS WE'RE DOING PROJECTS, WE ARE COORDINATING WITH THE VARIOUS UTILITY COMPANIES SUCH THAT IF WE'RE DOING A SIGNIFICANT PROJECT, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE GAS COMPANY AND OTHER UTILITIES AND WE DO A LOT OF COORDINATION WITH THE WATER DEPARTMENT HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO UPGRADE THOSE INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE SAME TIME.

AND SO THAT'S NEVER A PERFECT SYSTEM BUT BY HAVING A PLAN THAT SAYS, OKAY, IN THREE YEARS WE'RE GOING TO BE DOING THIS STREET AND IN FOUR YEARS WE'RE GOING TO BE DOING THAT STREET, IT GIVES UTILITIES TIME WHERE THEY HAVE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS THEY ALSO NEED TO DO.

THE OTHER THING I WOULD SAY JUST IN TERMS OF WHY IS THE CITY ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND ONE OF THE CHALLENGES IS THAT WE HAVE A VERY DENSE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND SO WHILE YOU'RE THINKING, OH, WE MAY BE REPLACING A WATER MAIN, YOU MAY

HAVE TO REPLACE OTHER UTILITIES  
TO GET TO THAT WATER MAIN.  
AND THIS ONE PIECE OF INFRAAND  
SO I WOULD SAY IT'S A LAYERING  
OF ALL OF THOSE THINGS THAT  
WOULD LEAD TO THE COMPLEXITY OF  
THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING.

>> Councilor Zusy: THANK YOU  
AND TWO OTHER MORE SPECIFIC  
QUESTIONS WHEN RELATING TO  
SOLID WASTE, WILL WE BE  
INCREASING SCHOOL AND  
COMMERCIAL BUSINESS EFFORTS?  
AND THEN I JUST WANTED MORE OF  
A BUDGET BREAKDOWN FOR THE  
URBAN FOREST PROGRAM.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN, IN  
TERMS OF, YOU KNOW, THE  
SCHOOLING COMMERCIAL BUSINESS  
EFFORTS, I THINK THERE'S A BIG  
PICTURE AS WE'RE LOOKING AT THE  
UPDATE TO THE SDOOER WASTE  
MASTER PLAN WHICH WE'RE LOOKING  
TO BRING TO THE CITY COUNCIL  
WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO FOR  
SORT OF FORMAL ADOPTION IN THAT  
PLAN AND WE'VE TALKED ABOUT  
THIS AT A NUMBER OF THE COUNCIL  
HEARINGS ABOUT IT.

THERE'S A RECOGNITION THAT  
THERE'S A LOT OF WORK ON THE  
COMMERCIAL SIDE AND SO THERE'S  
A LOT OF INITIATIVES THERE SORT  
OF MOVING FORWARD AND SO THAT  
IS A BIG AREA.

SO THAT IS SORT OF MOVING  
FORWARD.

I DO ALSO JUST WANT TO  
HIGHLIGHT THAT WE WORK VERY  
CLOSELY WITH ALL OF THE PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS AND EACH HAVE RECYCLING  
COMPOST DURING THEIR LUNCH  
PERIODS AND WE'RE WORKING  
CLOSELY WITH THOSE FOLKS.  
ONE OF OUR PROGRAM MANAGERS  
INTERFACES WITH THE SCHOOL AND  
CUTODIANS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT



IT IS THAT SORT OF CONSTANT  
LEVEL OF SUPPORT.  
PARTICULARLY WITH THOSE  
SCHOOL-AGED KIDS WHERE THEY  
REALLY GET COMMITTED TO THE  
LONG TERM WHICH IS GREAT.  
AND THEN ON THE BUSINESS  
EFFORTS, WE CONTINUE TO OFFER  
RECYCLING AND COMPOST TO SMALL  
BUSINESSES.

AS OF THIS SPRING, WE PROVIDE  
268 SMALL BUSINESSES RECYCLING  
AND 87 SMALL BUSINESS FOR  
COMPOST AND WE HEAR FROM  
BUSINESSES THAT EACH OF THOSE  
SERVICES SAVES THEM ABOUT \$200  
A MONTH OR \$400 PER MONTH FOR  
BOTH PROGRAMS AND SO WE  
CONTINUE TO EXPAND THOSE  
EFFORTS AND, AGAIN, AS WE LOOK  
TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND THOSE  
EFFORTS, WE'LL BE CONTINUING  
THOSE.

>> Councilor Zusy: EXCELLENT.  
THANK YOU.

AND CAN YOU GIVE ME A BREAKDOWN  
FOR THE URBAN FOREST PROGRAM?  
SO THERE'S A MILLION DOLLARS  
BUDGETED FOR ORDINARY  
MAINTENANCE AND LATER IN  
CAPITAL EXPENSES, YOU LIST  
\$1.5 MILLION FOR EACH OF THE  
NEXT FIVE YEARS FOR TREES.

>> SORRY.

I MISSED THE SECOND PART OF  
YOUR QUESTION.

YOU WERE TRYING TO BE EFFICIENT  
WITH TWO FOR ONE.

SO THIS SPEAKS TO A LOT OF  
AREAS AND SOME OF THAT'S IN THE  
O.O.M. OPERATING AND SOME OF  
THAT'S IN CAPITAL.

IT CAN BE A LITTLE CHALLENGING,  
BUT JUST TO SORT OF BREAK DOWN  
THE O.O.M. PIECE SO THAT  
INCLUDES TREE PRUNING FOR  
STREET TREES.

THAT'S IN OUR OPERATING BUDGET.  
THERE'S ALSO ABOUT HALF OF OUR  
TREES WE PLANT WITH IN-HOUSE  
STAFF AND HALF OF THE TREES WE  
PLANT THROUGH A CONTRACTOR AND  
SO THAT'S THE WAY THAT WE  
MANAGE SORT OF THE FULL LOAD OF  
THAT PLANTING CONTRACT.  
AND SO THE ORDINARY -- THE  
O.O.M. BUCKET INCLUDES BOTH THE  
CONTRACT FOR THE TREE PLANTING  
AS WELL AS US BUYING THE TREES  
AND BUYING THE MULCH THAT WE'RE  
PLANTING WITH IN-HOUSE STAFF.  
SO ALL OF THAT'S SHOWING UP IN  
THAT MILLION DOLLARS FOR O.O.M.  
AND THEN SIMILARLY ON THE  
CAPITAL SIDE, THAT INCLUDES  
BOTH \$800,000 FOR TREE PLANTING  
AS WELL AS MONEY FOR ADDITIONAL  
PLANTINGS FUNDING ABOUT  
\$350,000 FOR INVASIVE PEST  
MANAGEMENT WHICH WE HAVE A VERY  
PROACTIVE PROGRAM OF AS WELL AS  
FUNDING FOR PARKS AND CEMETERY  
PRUNING WE ALSO HAVE A YOUNG  
TREE TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH IS  
PROACTIVELY PRUNING NEW TREES  
AND THEY CAN GROW BETTER.  
IT IS A NEWER PROGRAM THAT  
WE'VE DONE THAT'S REALLY BEEN  
SUCCESSFUL.  
AND THEN THERE'S ALSO SOME  
FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
THAT REALLY GETS THEM TO THE  
UPDATING SO THE ORIGINAL URBAN  
FORESTRY MASTER PLAN WAS ABOUT  
5 YEARS OLD SO WE'RE JUST NOW  
KICKING OFF DOING AN UPDATE OF  
THAT PLAN.  
THAT GETS A LITTLE BIT TO THE  
QUESTION YOU ASKED IN ADVANCE  
WHICH WAS ARE WE RUNNING OUT OF  
PLACES TO PLANT 1250 TREES A  
YEAR.  
SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE

MASTER PLAN UPDATE WILL BE DOING IS EVALUATING HOW EFFECTIVE OUR STRATEGIES OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND ONE OF THE STRATEGIES AND WE'RE STARTING TO SEE SOME INITIAL RESPONSES TO THAT.

SO INITIAL DATA FROM THAT THAT'S REALLY SHOWING SOME FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE INNER CANOPY IN THE CITY FROM 2018 TO 2024 WHICH IS REALLY GREAT TO SEE AND SO WE'RE LOOKING TO HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO SHARE THAT DATA SOON. WE'RE REALLY DOING THE QAQC OF THAT BUT IT'S REALLY SHOWING SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE CANOPY COVERAGE WHICH I THINK YOU EXPERIENCE IT WHEN YOU DRIVE AND REALLY SEE HOW MUCH GROETDZ THEY'VE PUT ON.

>> THROUGH YOU, THAT'S EXCELLENT NEWS.

I THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR WORK.

I WILL YIELD SO MY COLLEAGUES CAN ASK THEIR QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> Chair: THANK YOU, COUNCILOR ZUSY.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

COUNCILOR WILSON.

>> Councilor Wilson: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

AND THROUGH YOU, THANK YOU, MADAM COMMISSIONER.

GOOD TO SEE YOU AND THE TEAM.

MY QUESTION THAT I'VE BEEN ASKING ACROSS THE BOARD IS REALLY AROUND THE DIVERSITY OF THE STAFF AND YOU HAVE QUITE A STAFF, SO IF YOU COULD JUST SPEAK TO THE DIVERSITY OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN TERMS OF THE MAKE-UP OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

>> SURE.

THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.  
WHEN WE LOOK AT THE DATA.  
THERE'S 60% ARE WHITE AND A  
LITTLE BIT THAT IDENTIFY COLOR  
AND THERE'S ABOUT 80% THAT ARE  
MEN AND 20% THAT ARE WOMEN AND  
I THINK AS EXPECTED, THAT IS  
NOT CONSISTENT ACROSS  
DIVISIONS.

SO IF YOU LOOK AT OUR  
SANITATION DIVISION, THAT TENDS  
TO BE MORE MEN.

I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE ANY  
WOMEN WORKING WHEN THE PACKERS  
THAT MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY TRUE  
BUT IT IS VERY UNDERREPRESENTED  
IN TERMS OF WOMEN.

I WOULD SAY OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM  
AND OUR ENGINEERING TEAM HAS  
MORE WOMEN THAN YOU WOULD  
ANTICIPATE AND EXPECT IN SORT  
OF TRADITIONAL PUBLIC WORKS AND  
SO I THINK WE'VE MADE GREAT  
SUCCESS THERE.

THE I WOULD SAY PEOPLE OF COLOR  
AT THE HIGHER LEVEL, WE HAVE  
NOT MADE AS MUCH SUCCESS ON.  
IF I COULD HAVE JENNIFER TALK A  
LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE EFFORTS  
WE'VE LOOKED AT AT THE  
DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS  
INCREASING AND IMPROVING THOSE  
NUMBERS.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,  
CHAIR NOLAN.

I THINK THERE'S A NUMBER OF  
SUPPORTS BOTH TO CREATE  
PIPELINE AND EMPLOYMENT AND  
ONCE FOLKS ARE WITH US TO  
CREATE ADVANCEMENT.  
PARTICULARLY ON OUR UNION AND  
LABOR SIDE.  
WE HAVE A GREAT PARTNERSHIP  
WITH WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT IN  
THE CAMBRIDGE WORKS PROGRAM  
WITH OUR APPRENTICE PROGRAM.

SO WE HAVE FOUR APPRENTICE POSITIONS WHERE WE WORK WITH DHSP TO IDENTIFY FOLKS WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE WORK PROGRAM AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND ARE INTERESTED IN THE WORK THAT WE DO AT DPW. THEY'RE ABLE TO COME INTO A ROUGHLY TWO-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP WITH US WHERE THEY CAN GAIN BOTH SPECIFIC JOB RELATED SKILLS THAT QUALIFY THEM FOR A FULL-TIME JOB AND GO THROUGH A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE CDL TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THEM TO GET THEM THE CDL LICENSE WHICH IS ONE OF THOSE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT THAT IS CAN BE HARD TO GET OUTSIDE BUT WHICH WE REQUIRE FOR A LOT OF OUR POSITIONS.

AND SO WHEN FOLKS GO THROUGH THAT APPRENTICE PROGRAM, THEY'RE ABLE TO GET THOSE LICENSES, GET THAT TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND HOMEFULLY IF WE HAVE THE VACANCIES IT ALLOWS US TO JOIN THEM FULL TIME.

FOLKS WHO MIGHT BE IN A LATER POSITION AS IS TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR.

>> Tim Houston: ING WHICH, AGAIN, LET PEOPLE MOVE UP IN ADVANCE.

ON THE NONUNION SIDE WHICH I THINK IS THE COMMISSIONER RECOGNIZED WE WANT TO EXPAND. WE'VE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR ADVANCED PARTNERSHIP AND I THINK A DEEPER PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT LOOKING AT WHEN THOSE POSITIONS DO BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE WE HAVE LOWER TURN OVER THERE. ARE WE RECRUITING EFFECTIVELY. THE ARE WE REALLY GETTING THE APPLICANT POLLS THAT WE WANT TO

INCREASE OUR DIVERSITY THERE.  
WE'RE CONTINUING WORKING WITH  
H.R. ON THAT.  
>> THANK YOU.  
PLEASE LET US KNOW BECAUSE THAT  
IS DEFINITELY AN AREA OF  
IMPORTANCE FOR ME.  
AND I'M SURE MANY OTHERS.  
THANK YOU, I YIELD.  
>> Chair: THANK YOU, COUNCILOR  
WILSON.  
COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.  
>> Councilor Siddiqui: THANK  
YOU.  
MENT THROUGH YOU, I THINK YOU  
KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK  
ABOUT WHICH IS NOT JUST  
RECYCLING AND, YOU KNOW, THERE  
WAS AN OCTOBER P.O. THAT WAS  
PUT IN.  
THERE WAS A LOT OF WORK AROUND  
COMMUNICATIONS.  
I GUESS MY QUESTION WOULD BE IF  
WE ARE GOING TO EXPAND TO MORE  
BUILDINGS, IS THAT GOING TO  
JUST BE ABSORBED IN THE BUDGET  
FOR THOSE CONTRACTS?  
I CAN'T REMEMBER IF SOME WAS  
GRANT FUNDED OR NOT.  
>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.  
THE MATTRESS FUND IS NOT FUNDED  
AT THIS POINT.  
THERE'S THE PILOT MOVE-OUT  
PROGRAM THAT WE HAVE, THAT IS  
GRANT FUNDING I WOULD SAY.  
MICHAEL LAUREN AND HIS STAFF DO  
AN AMAZING JOB AND SOMETIMES  
SMALL, SOMETIMES LARGE, ARE BUT  
THEY DO ALLOW US TO DO NEW AND  
CREATIVE THINGS AND SEE HOW  
THOSE WORK.  
WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ABSORB  
INCREASES IN THOSE CONTRACTS SO  
FAR AND, AGAIN, I WOULD SAY  
THIS YEAR IN PARTICULAR WE  
WORKED HARD TO BE ABLE TO  
ABSORB INCREASED CONTRACTS

WITHIN OUR OPERATING BUDGET.

>> Councilor Siddiqui: GREAT.  
AND I HOPE THAT WE'LL GET SOME  
UPDATE ON THE MATTRESS  
RECYCLING AND HOW WE'VE  
EXPANDED IT OR NOT.

THANK YOU.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

WAS YOU TECH PART OF -- WERE  
THEY GOING OUT OF BUSINESS?

>> I MAY HAVE MICHAEL COME AND  
SPEAK MORE TO THE MATTRESSES.

>> Chair: WE'VE RELIED ON IT  
IN HER POLICY ORDER.

I THINK WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT  
LATER BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE  
NEWS THERE WAS GOING TO BE A  
CHANGE AND JUST YOU TECH IN  
GENERAL WHICH IS GOING TO BE  
OUR PROVIDER.

I, IF OTHERS ARE DONE, I WANT  
TO FIRST START BY SAYING I'M  
IMPRESSED WITH THE BREATH OF  
OPERATIONS AND I APPRECIATE  
YOUR WORK.

I ALSO SAW AND APPRECIATE THE  
PERFORMANCE MEASURE FOR  
EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS.  
I THINK IT WAS NEW FROM LAST  
YEAR.

IT SHOWS REALLY GREAT  
LEADERSHIP.

I HOPE OTHER DEPARTMENT LEADERS  
ENCOURAGE THEM TO INCLUDE THAT.  
IT WAS EXPECTED 88% FOR FOLKS  
TO GET THEIR REVIEWS AND IT'S A  
PERFORMANCE REVIEW IT HELPS  
THEM AND FORCES ALL OF US TO  
SIT DOWN.

SO I WANT TO APPRECIATE BOTH  
THE EXPECTED PROJECTED AND ALSO  
THE GOAL FOR NEXT YEAR BEING  
HIGH.

AND THE ENGINEERING SECTION,  
WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE  
C.S.O. CONTROL PLANS?

I KNOW THIS IS PROBABLY A

100-YEAR ISSUE SINCE THE WAY WE  
CONSTRUCTED OUR SEWERS.

UNFORTUNATELY MEANT THAT IT HAS  
BECOME A CHALLENGE TO FIX AND  
IT'S A BIG PART OF OUR BUDGET.  
IT'S A BIG PART OF OUR WORK AND  
EVERY TIME THERE'S RAIN, WE  
CONTINUE TO GET LITERALLY POOP  
AND PEE FLOWING OVER INTO YARDS  
AND RIVERS AND PEOPLE NOT  
FEELING SAFE.

THE SO THE QUESTION IS HOW MANY  
YEARS WILL IT BE TO FULL  
COMPLIANCE AND I KNOW WE'VE  
BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR A LONG  
TIME BUT IN THE BUDGET, WHAT  
ARE WE BUDGETS FOR IN THE TIME  
LINES FOR FULL COMPLIANCE?

>> SO, COUNCILOR NOLAN, WE ARE  
WORKING ON A NEW COMBINED SEWER  
FLOEFR FLOW PLAN IN THE CITY OF  
SOMERVILLE.

IN REGARDS TO COMPLIANCE, WE DO  
HAVE A PERMIT FROM THE EPA FOR  
CFO DISCHARGES THAT WE ARE IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH.

THIS CONTROL PLAN IS TO FURTHER  
WORK TO REDUCE C.S.O.

ACTIVATIONS.

WE ARE WORKING THROUGH THE PLAN  
NOW.

WE HAVE A DRAFT PLAN THAT WILL  
BE SUBMITTED TO E.P.A. AND  
D.E.P. IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR  
AND A FINAL PLAN THAT WILL BE  
SUBMITTED IN JANUARY OF 2027.

AND IT WILL BE A SCHEDULE  
SUBMITTED AS PART OF THAT PLAN.

>> AND IF I COULD JUST ADD.

>> Chair: WHAT I MEANT BY  
COMPLIANCE IS WILL IT BE 100%  
MORE AND NO MORE ACTIVATIONS.

>> I THINK SORT OF HIGH LEVEL,  
WE'RE JUST FLOODING AND WE LOOK  
AT REDUCING C.S.O.s, WE LOOK AT  
CONTINUING TO IMPROVE WATER  
QUALITY.



ONE OF THE OPTIONS BEING  
EVALUATED IS WHAT DOES FULL  
STEER LOOK LIKE AND WHAT IS THE  
COST OF THAT AND WHAT ARE THE  
WATER QUALITY BENEFITS OF THAT  
SO DO WE HAVE ON A TYPICAL YEAR  
THAT THERE ARE IF THERE'S A  
SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER EVENT.  
I THINK PART OF THIS PROCESS IS  
WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS COSTS AND  
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS IN TERMS  
OF WATER QUALITY AND THIS IS A  
COMBINED PROGRAM BETWEEN  
CAMBRIDGE NWA AND SOMERVILLE.  
AT THIS POINT PEOPLE ARE  
GENERATING CONCEPT PLANS AND  
WHAT ARE THE COSTS, WHAT ARE  
THE OTHER BENEFITS AND WHAT ARE  
THE OTHER CO-BENEFITS.  
I'D SAY WE DON'T HAVE THAT  
ANSWER AT THIS POINT WHAT IT  
COSTS AND WHAT THE SORT OF  
COMMITMENTS WILL BE IN TERMS OF  
THAT PERMIT PROCESS WITH EPA  
AND D.E.P., YOU DO SEE AND  
AGAIN THIS IS CAPITAL WHICH IS  
TOMORROW BUT YOU ARE STARTING  
TO SEE SOME INVESTMENT ON THE  
CAPITAL SIDE IN TERMS OF, OKAY,  
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL THE  
PROJECTS ARE GOING TO BE, BUT  
WE DO KNOW THERE ARE GOING TO  
BE COMMITMENTS IN TERMS OF  
CONTINUED INVESTMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE TO CONTINUE  
REDUCING THOSE C.S.O.s.  
>> Chair: THANK YOU.  
AND I APPRECIATE PART OF IT IS  
TOMORROW.  
SO IT'S A CHALLENGE.  
CAN YOU AND I DON'T KNOW IF  
THIS MIGHT BE ALSO FOR THE  
PUBLIC, CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE  
PLANS FOR THE D.P.W. FACILITIES  
AND THE CONSOLIDATED EXPANSIONS  
WE NOW HAVE SPREAD AROUND THE  
CITY.

ARE WE THINKING ABOUT A BUDGET FOR THAT TO GET THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS INTO A PLACE JUST LIKE WE'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MOVING THROUGH, UPGRADING THEIR FACILITIES.

I KNOW D.P.W. IS KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT.

IF THIS IS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR TOMORROW, JUST LET ME KNOW.

>> THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN.

I CAN DO A HIGH-LEVEL AND IT DOES AFFECT THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT TOMORROW BUT JUST AT A HIGH LEVEL, FOLKS KNOW FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS WE'VE REALLY BEEN STRUGGLING FOR SPACE FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND I WOULD SAY WE'VE MADE SOME SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON THAT.

WE'VE RECENTLY COMPLETED A PROJECT AT 147 IN THE SMART BUILDING WHICH IS NOT THE MAIN BUILDING BUT ANOTHER BUILDING ON SITE AND WE'RE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THAT SPACE.

SO WE'VE RECENTLY COMPLETED REVIEW OF THAT PROJECT WHICH IS GREAT AND ALLOWED US TO MOVE PEOPLE AROUND IN THE MAIN BUILDING AND SO THAT IS WORKING.

THE WEBSTER AVENUE SITE, WE'VE TALKED ABOUT.

WE'RE IN THE PROCESS.

WE WILL BE PUTTING ON A MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT BY DOING A TRAILER AND SUPPORTING ONE OF OUR OPERATING DIVISIONS THERE. WE TALKED A LITTLE BIT IT CAME UP IN ONE OF THE BUDGET HEARINGS LAST WEEK AND THIS GOES A LITTLE BIT TO THE C.S.O. CONTROL PLAN.

SHERMAN STREET BENEFITS THE

C.S.O. PLAN.

THIS IS THE CONSUMER PLAN NOT  
THE BIKE LANE C.S.O. AND SO  
THAT WOULD BENEFIT THAT AND SO  
THAT AND THEN THE OTHER PIECE  
THAT'S OUT THERE IS AND THAT  
AREA OUT THERE, THERE WAS  
INCENTIVES IN THERE FOR LAND TO  
COME TO THE CITY THAT COULD  
ALSO HELP SUPPORT D.P.W..  
AND SO WITH THOSE VARIOUS  
PIECES, WE THINK WE ARE MAKING  
GOOD PROGRESS IN TERMS OF  
HAVING SPACE FOR THE VARIOUS  
OPERATING DIVISIONS.

>> JUST A FOLLOW UP ON THAT I  
DO THINK MAYBE WE NEED TO,  
MAYBE THERE'S A COMMITTEE  
MEETING OR SOMETHING TO BE HELD  
TO LOOK AT ALL THIS BECAUSE I  
KNOW WE AND NEURO IT'S MAYBE  
AND AND SO I GET AND THAT'S  
WHERE WE LAND THAT'S WHERE WE  
LAND AND THAT'S OKAY.

BUT I THINK THE COUNCIL, WHEN  
WE BOUGHT THOSE PROPERTY, SO  
ONCE WE CAN OCCUPY AND VERY  
LITTLE THEN WE WOULD NOT HAVE  
WEBSTER.

THAT'S WHY I WAS SAYING WE DO  
KNOW AND APPRECIATE AND AGREE  
THAT THAT IS NOT THE BEST  
LONG-TERM PLAN FOR WEBSTER.  
WEBSTER IS VERY MUCH AN  
INTERIM.

BUT WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME  
AGREEMENT ABOUT THAT IS VERY  
MUCH A TRANSITIONAL SPACE AT  
WEBSTER AND ONCE WE WERE ABLE  
TO RELOCATE TO OTHER SPACES,  
THEN WE CAN HAVE THAT  
CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT IS THE  
BEST LONG TERM USE OF WEBSTER.  
>> Chair: I'LL JUST PUT THE  
QUESTION ON THE TABLE HAS THE  
DEPARTMENT GONE THROUGH  
INCREDIBLY WELL-MANAGED AND

UNDERSTANDING AS THINGS COME  
ONLINE TO HELP TO UNDERSTAND IF  
THERE'S A WAY TO TO HAVE THE  
FLOW OF WORK BEING DONE AND  
STAFF CAN BE DEPLOYED AND THE  
BEST WAY POSSIBLE MAKING USE OF  
THE STAFF IF THAT MAKES SENSE.

>> YEAHMENT I WOULD SAY THERE'S  
TWO GOOD EXAMPLES AND THERE'S  
ALWAYS SOMETHING WE'RE TRYING  
TO DO REALLY HAVING MORE SPACE  
WITH MOONEY STREET AND NOT HAVE  
EVERYONE AT 147 HAMPSHIRE  
STREET AND IT'S MUCH MORE  
EFFICIENT WHEN PEOPLE HAVE  
SPACE TO WORK AND SAFER FOR  
PEOPLE TO WORK.

IT'S NOT THAT TRAFFIC JAM KIND  
OF GAME WHERE IT'S LIKE FIVE  
PEOPLE HAVE TO MOVE BEFORE YOU  
CAN GET TO THE RUBBAGE PACKER.

I THINK HAVING ACTUAL  
FUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR PEOPLE IS  
A BIG PART OF THAT.

THE OTHER THING INCLUDED IN THE  
BUDGET THIS YEAR IS LAST YEAR  
WE GOT FUNDING FOR EXPANDING  
BIG BELLIES AND WE'RE IN THE  
PROCESS OF CONTRACTING THAT AND  
THEY WILL BE ROLLING OUT  
SHORTLY AND ONE OF THE THINGS  
THAT'S GOING TO ALLOW US TO DO  
IS BE MORE EFFICIENT ABOUT HOW  
WE PICK UP THOSE AREA RECYCLING  
BINS AND WE'RE GOING TO TAKE  
THAT WORK THAT HAS BEEN AND  
THEY'D USE THE TECHNOLOGY.  
SO I'D GIVE THOSE AS A COUPLE  
EXAMPLES.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

I DON'T HAVE TO TEXT YOU A  
PICTURE OF OVERFLOWING TRASH  
BINS.

YES.

I DID DO THAT.

I KNOW THERE'S MANY OTHER  
QUESTIONS I COULD ASK, OTHERS

COULD ASK, BUT I THINK IT LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE DONE WITH QUESTIONS.  
SO BEFORE I MOVE THIS, I WANT  
TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR  
COMMISSIONER, THIS IS OUR LAST  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF  
PUBLIC WORKS AND WE'RE HAPPY TO  
CELEBRATE HER.

I DID WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR  
LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN STELLAR IN  
THIS DEPARTMENT AND I L REALLY  
APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING US  
THROUGH A RANGE OVER TIME.  
WITH THAT, I'LL ENTERTAIN A  
MOTION BY COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI TO  
MOVE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
WORKS' BUDGET TO THE FULL CITY  
COUNCIL.

THE \$61 MILLION BUDGET WITH A  
FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION.  
DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED,  
ROLE CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR AZEEM  
ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councilor Siddiqui: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR

SOBRINHO-WHEELER, ABSENT.

COUNCILOR TONER.

>> Councilor Toner: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR WILSON.

>> Councilor Wilson: YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILOR ZUSY.

>> Councilor Zusy: YES.

>> Clerk: MAYOR SIMMONS,

ABSENT.

YOU HAVE SIX MEMBERS RECORDED  
IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND THREE  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Chair: THANK YOU ALL AND  
THANK YOU DPW TEAM.

ARE YOU STILL DPW OR JUST PW?  
DPW.

OKAY.

THE NEXT UP SINCE WE WANT TO

MAKE SURE WE HEAR FROM THEM IS  
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT THIS  
IS ANOTHER DEPARTMENT WITH MANY  
DIFFERENT DIVISIONS, THREE  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS, FIVE  
ADULT SERVICES DIVISIONS.  
SEVEN COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS  
AND THREE CHILD, YOUTH, AND  
FAMILY SERVICES.

THIS IS DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET OF  
\$65 MILLION WITH FULL-TIME  
BUDGETED EMPLOYEES OF 252.  
AND WHILE THEY'RE COMING IN,  
GET YOUR E QUESTIONS READY BY  
THE COUNCIL.

IT STARTS ON PAGEV..

SO ROMAN NUMERAL FIVE AND IT'S  
PRETTY LOCK.

THERE'S THREE ADMINISTRATION  
BUT SEPARATE SERVICES.

FIVE ADULT SERVICES.

EIGHT COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS  
AND THREE CHILD.

IF YOU LOOK AT THAT, THAT  
SUMMARY'S ON V-157 AND THEN  
EACH INDIVIDUAL DIVISION HAS  
ITS OWN SEPARATE BUDGET WITH A  
RANGE OF OBJECTIVES AND  
MEASURES AND STAFFING.

SO I WANT TO TURN IT OVER TO  
A.C.M. SEMINOFF.

I HOPE YOU'RE ALL WATCHING US  
IN WHATEVER ROOM YOU'RE AT AND  
JUST FEEL TOTALLY JAZZED TO BE  
HERE.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND  
WE'RE GRATEFUL TO BE HERE AND  
TO BE TAKEN AT THIS POINT IN  
THE DAY.

I'M GOING TO QUICKLY INTRODUCE  
EVERYBODY SO YOU KNOW WHO'S  
HERE.

>> Chair: AND WHEN YOU DO,  
JUST WAVE.

>> SO MELISSA BOLDWIN.  
MICHELLE GODFRY WHO DIRECTS OUR  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DWRIGS.

MARIA CONFOLANO.  
MARIA MELLOW WHO LEADS THE  
MULTISERVICE CENTER.  
LIZ MENGERS WHO LEADS OUR  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WORK  
AND HAVE BEEN AROUND  
HOMELESSNESS.  
CHERYL OLSEN WHO DIRECTS THE  
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.  
MENT SUSAN PACHECO.  
RACHEL TANNENHOUSE WHO LEADS  
THE COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES.  
MEGAN WHITE WHO LEADS OUR CHILD  
CARE PROGRAMS.  
SHAR LEAN YANK WHO LEADS THE  
STEAM INITIATIVE AND SITTING  
BACK THERE IS JANICE ALGER WHO  
YOU ALL DID A RESOLUTION FOR ON  
MONDAY.  
SHE RECENTLY RETIRED BUT SHE  
HAS BEEN DOING A LOT OF WORK  
HELPING US AT THE MOMENT.  
AND SEATED WITH ME AT THE TABLE  
ARE SUE WALSH, THE ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR OF ADULT AND FAMILY  
SERVICES.  
MICHELLE FARNHAM.  
AND NEARBY IS GIO ALVAREZ WHO  
YOU'VE ALL SEEN BEFORE AS THE  
PERSON WHO HELPS ACTUALLY PUTS  
TOGETHER THE BUDGET AND PHIL  
GUGLIAMO AND AS IF THIS ISN'T  
ENOUGH PEOPLE, JUST WANT TO SAY  
TWO PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T BE HERE  
TODAY WHO HEADS UP OUR OFFICE  
OF COLLEGE SUCCESS AND BRIDGET  
MARTIN WHO'S OUR COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR.  
I WOULD JUST SAY A COUPLE OF  
THINGS AND THEN GO TO YOUR  
QUESTIONS WE PRIORITIZE LOW  
INCOME RESIDENTS FOR MOST OF  
THE SERVICES.  
THE REPRESENTATIVES WE SERVE.  
I USUALLY BEGUN MY STATEMENT  
EACH YEAR WITH THIS INFORMATION

AND I KNOW THAT 50% OF OUR  
PROGRESSIONAL STAFF 68% OF OUR  
FULL-TIME STAFF ARE WOMEN.  
AND THE OTHER THING I WOULD SAY  
IS WE HAVE A LOT OF PART-TIME  
STAFF AS YOU KNOW.

IF WE LOOKED AT THOSE  
DEMOGRAPHICS.

THEY SKEW MORE -- WE HAVE MORE  
MEN WHO WORK FOR US PART-TIME.  
AND WE HAVE EVEN MORE PEOPLE OF  
AND WITH THAT I WOULD HAND IT  
BACK TO YOU FOR QUESTIONS.

>> Chair: THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
YES, THERE'S A LOT TO DIGEST  
HERE AND WE CERTAINLY HEARD  
FROM A NUMBER OF ALL OF YOU IN  
THE BACK OVER THE COURSE OF THE  
YEAR WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD TO  
COLLEGE SUCCESS TO PARKS AND  
RECREATION TO ELDER SERVICES TO  
HOMELESS SERVICES.

ANY QUESTIONS TO START US OFF?  
COUNCILOR ZUSY.

>> Councilor Zusy: HAPPY TO.  
YEAH.

THANK YOU.  
THROUGH YOU, CHAIR NOLAN I'M  
JUST AMAZED AT ALL YOU  
ACCOMPLISHED RACE AND EQUITY  
INITIATIVE FOR STARTERS.

.  
>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
WE STARTED BACK IN ABOUT NOT TO  
GO TOO FAR INTO THE DARK  
HISTORY.

WE STARTED SERIOUSLY PROBABLY  
IN ABOUT 2016 IN DEVELOPING A  
PROGRAM.

WE HAD A BUNCH OF STAFF MOSTLY  
OUR MANAGERS.

MANY OF THEM ARE NOW LEADERS  
WITHIN OUR DEPARTMENT WHO  
HELPED US PUT TOGETHER A  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

WE BROUGHT IN THROUGH THAT  
PROCESS SOMEONE WHO WAS



PREPARED TO HELP GUIDE US AS WE DEVELOPED PROGRAMMING.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE DONE TWO DAYS TRAINING ON IDENTITY AND STRUCTURAL RACISM FOR ALL OF THE BENEFITED STAFF OF OUR DEPARTMENT.

IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE HAVE DONE AS WELL WE HAVE DONE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE SENIOR AND MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP OF OUR DEPARTMENT IN PART BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO BECOME PART OF YOUR DEPARTMENT, IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO JUST WORK WITH YOUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP THAT PEOPLE WHO MANAGE THE STAFF WHO DELIVER ALL OUR PROGRAMS ARE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO THAT EFFORT AND SO WE HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH I WOULD SAY IT'S ABOUT 50 PEOPLE WHO ARE THE SENIOR AND MID MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP OF OUR DEVELOP AND WE HAVE TWO ADDITIONAL PIECES. SOMETHING THAT WE STARTED A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO CALLED DEAL WHICH STANDS FOR DROP EVERYTHING AND LEARN AND WE HAVE MONTHLY ACTIVITIES WHICH WE SEND OUT TO ALL THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ASK THEM TO ENGAGE WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES OR SMALL GROUPS, LARGE GROUPS IN DISCUSSING IT MIGHT BE AN ARTICLE.

IT MIGHT BE A VIDEO.

IT MIGHT BE A POEM, IT MIGHT BE ANOTHER ACTIVITY IN ORDER FOR US TO ENGAGE WITH EACH OTHER, TALKING ABOUT RACE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND WE ALSO HAVE QUARTERLY EVENTS IN WHICH WE BRING TOGETHER MORE OF OUR STAFF COMING TOGETHER TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THOSE

OPPORTUNITIES IN A LARGER GROUP  
OF PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT WORK WITH  
ON A REGULAR BASIS.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE HAVE  
SIX AFFINITY GROUPS THAT WE  
HAVE BEEN OPERATING FOR SEVERAL  
YEARS AND IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY  
FOR OUR STAFF TO ADDRESS ISSUES  
OF RACE I WOULD SAY I THINK  
BOTH THE REFLECTION OF WHO  
WORKS FOR OUR STAFF BECAUSE  
OVER THE LAST -- WHO WORKS FOR  
OUR DEPARTMENT.

IF I SHARED WITH YOU WHAT WE  
LOOKED LIKE 15 YEARS AGO, I  
WOULD SAY WE STILL WERE A MUCH  
MORE SIGNIFICANTLY DIVERSE  
PARTICULARLY IN OUR  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF NOW THEN WE  
WERE THEN AND THIS HAS BEEN A  
CONCERTED EFFORT BECAUSE IT  
SEEMS VERY IMPORTANT TO US TO  
BOTH SERVE HAVE OUR STAFF  
REFLECT THE COMMUNITY THAT WE  
SERVE AND.

>> Councilor Zusy: THROUGH  
YOU.

>> SOUNDS WONDERFUL.

ARE YOU ENGAGED WITH THE  
D.E.I.?

>> WE WORK CLOSELY WITH D.E.I.,  
BUT THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM IS  
ONE WHICH WE'VE HAD AN OUTSIDE  
CONSULTANT BUT OUR STAFF FOR  
THE MOST PART PEOPLE WHO DO  
THIS WORK.

WE'VE HAD SOME OUTSIDE  
FACILITATION FOR OUR AFFINITY  
GROUPS AND WE ARE NOW MOVING  
TOWARDS HAVING THOSE AFFINITY  
GROUPS FACILITATED BY OUR OWN  
STAFF.

>> Councilor Zusy: EXCELLENT.  
AND I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE COST AND STAFFING OF  
COLLEGE SUCCESS AND BABY  
UNIVERSITY.

>> FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS, LET ME  
TURN IT OVER TO MY COLLEAGUE.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,  
MADAM CHAIR.

THE COLLEGE SUCCESS  
EFFICIENTIVE.

>> THE STAFFING COSTS ABOUT  
\$400,000 OR SO AND THEN THERE'S  
SOME OPERATIONAL COSTS IN THERE  
AS WELL AT ABOUT \$59,000.

>> Councilor Zusy: AND THIS IS  
COACHING, KEEPING KIDS IN  
COLLEGE, RIGHT, KEEPING THEM  
SUPPORTING THEM.

OKAY.

AND HOW ABOUT CAN YOU TELL ME  
MORE ABOUT BABY UNIVERSITY AND,  
AGAIN, I'M NEW TO THIS.

I APOLOGIZE MY COLLEAGUES, BUT  
I'D JUST LOVE TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE  
SERVED, WHAT THE HOURS OF  
OPERATION ARE, AND WHAT  
PROGRAMS THE CENTER FOR  
FAMILIES PROVIDES.

>>.

>> I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER IN  
A MINUTE TO MY COLLEAGUE  
MICHELLE GODFRY WHO OVERSEES  
THE CENTER FOR FAMILIES AND  
BABY U. AND OUR COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT TEAM BUT I'D LIKE TO  
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
REINFORCE THE INVITATION THAT  
WE SENT TO ALL OF YOU ON  
SATURDAY AT 10:30 AT FLETCHER  
MAINARD ACADEMY IS THE  
GRADUATION OF THIS YEAR'S BABY  
UNIVERSITY AND I WOULD SAY YOU  
HAVE TO HAVE A REASONABLY HARD  
HEART NOT TO BE MOVED TO TEARS  
WHEN YOU ARE IN THAT ROOM, SO I  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US IF YOU  
CAN.

>> HELLO.

SO MY NAME IS MICHELLE GODFRY  
AGAIN.

JUST TO SUPER YOUR QUESTION  
ABOUT BABY UNIVERSITY.  
SO IT RUNS THROUGHOUT THE  
ENTIRE YEAR, SO 52 WEEKS A  
YEAR.

BABY U IS COMPRISED OF A FEW  
COMPONENTS.

ONE IS THE CORE PROGRAM WHICH  
IS MODELED AFTER THE HARLEM  
CHILDREN ZONE'S BABY COLLEGE IN  
NEW YORK AND THAT PROGRAM IS AN  
INTENSIVE 14 WEEKS OF SATURDAYS  
THAT MEETS AT ONE OF THE LOCAL  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR 8:00 IN THE  
MORNING UNTIL 12:30 AND IT'S  
STAFFED BY FULL-TIME FAMILY  
SUPPORT WORKERS AND CLINICAL  
COORDINATORS AND PARENTS GO  
THROUGH INTENSIVE PARENT  
EDUCATION AND THEN THEY SPEND  
THE LAST PIECE OF THE PROGRAM  
PRACTICES SOME OF THOSE SKILLS  
WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

SO CHILDREN ARE ALSO THERE.  
THERE ARE ALSO HOME VISITS,  
OFFICE VISITS AND COMMUNITY  
VISITS THAT HAPPEN THROUGHOUT  
THE WEEK AND THOSE HAPPEN IN  
THE A.M., P.M., WEEKENDS AND  
IT'S REALLY WHAT THE FAMILIES  
NEED AND WHAT THEIR SCHEDULES  
REQUIRE.

WHEN THE CORE SESSION IS NOT  
HAPPENING.

WHEN THE COURSE SESSION RUNS  
JANUARY TO JUNE AND DURING THE  
REST OF THE YEAR, IT IS TIME  
FOR ALUMNI WORK.

SO ALL FAMILIES WHO HAVE  
GRADUATED FROM BABY UNIVERSITY  
ARE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN OUR ALUMNI  
PROGRAMMING UNTIL THE CHILD  
THEY ENTERED BABYU WITH  
SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONS TO  
KINDERGARTEN.

AND SO WHAT HAPPENS DURING  
THOSE TIMES ARE WORKSHOPS,

OUTINGS, MEET-UPS, HOME VISITS,  
HELPING FOLKS CONNECT TO OTHER  
SERVICES ACROSS THE COMMUNITY  
AND A BIG CHUNK OF THAT IS  
COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS.

>> Councilor Zusy: SOUNDS  
GREAT.

YOU ARE ALSO THE FAMILY POLICY  
COUNCIL, IS THAT RIGHT?

>> NO.

I'M ON THE FAMILY POLICY  
COUNCIL.

I'M A MEMBER.

>> Councilor Zusy: SO I'D LOVE  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY  
POLICY COUNCIL.

YEAH.

>> Chair: IS THIS ON THE  
BUDGET OF THE FAMILY POLICY  
COUNCIL.

>> Councilor Zusy: WELL, IT  
IS.

THE I CAN TALK TO THEM LATER  
ABOUT THAT.

THE OTHERS HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT  
U.P.K.

>> Chair: THERE IS A BUDGET  
ITEM RELATED TO THE FAMILY  
POLICY COUNCIL WHICH IS AT THE  
END OF THIS SECTION.

>> Councilor Zusy: THAT'S WHY  
I INCLUDED IT.

I WANTED TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE  
YOUTH COUNCIL AND THE BROADER  
WORK OF THE FAMILY POLICY  
COUNCIL.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
FIRST, I WANT TO JUST SAY I  
NEGLECTED TO INTRODUCE ONE OF  
MY STAFF WHO MANY OF YOU  
ALREADY KNOWMENTMENT SUSAN  
MEANTS WHO IS OUR OFFICE OF  
WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT.  
OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE TOO MANY  
STAFF IF I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO  
THEY ALL ARE BUT I JUST WANTED  
TO MAKE SURE YOU SEE HER.

I THINK, COUNCILOR ZUSY, YOU WERE WITH US IN TAMPA WHERE I THINK YOU GOT TO SEE SOME OF THE WORK OF OUR CAMBRIDGE YOUTH COUNCIL WHERE THEY WERE IN COMPETITION AND THEIR VIDEO ABOUT WHAT THE WORLD COULD LOOK LIKE AND PART OF THE FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL AND WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THE YOUTH COUNCIL THEY'VE BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL IN TAKING A LOOK AT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT THEY AS YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING PARTICIPATING IN CREATING MURAL.

I WOULD INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL AND I'M HAPPY.

NANCY TALBERT WHO IS A MEMBER OF OUR SENIOR TEAM IS ACTUALLY ON VACATION THIS WEEK BUT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SIT DOWN WITH YOU AND TALK MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE YOUTH COUNSEL.

>> Chair: VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

THROUGH YOU.

AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE STAFF BETWEEN MY MOM USING THE SENIOR CENTER AND MY KIDS NOW ENTERING THE MAYOR'S PROGRAM AND VARIOUS OTHER THINGS WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER, YOU HAVE ALL BEEN AN INFLUENCE IN MY FAMILY FOR MULTIPLE GENERATIONS.

SO I THANK YOU FOR THAT.

POINT IN TIME I DON'T HAVE A TON OF QUESTIONS BECAUSE, AGAIN, I FEEL LIKE WE TALK ALL THE TIME AND YOU'RE IN FRONT OF US ALL THE TIME.

SO BUT I DID, CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT'S IN THIS

BUDGET AROUND AFTER SCHOOL  
INITIATE IS AND THAT EXPANSION.  
>> I'LL START AND IF YOU HAVE  
MORE QUESTIONS, I'LL HAND IT  
OVER TO MY COLLEAGUE, MICHELLE.  
POINT IN TIME WHAT I WANTED TO  
SAY IS THIS IS NOT A YEAR IN  
WHICH WE HAVE DONE MAJOR  
EXPANSION.

BUT YOU WILL SEE ON THE CITY  
COUNCIL AGENDA FOR MONDAY IS  
THE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
HOW WE MIGHT MOVE FORWARD.  
BUT AND I THINK YOU WILL FIND  
IT VERY INTERESTING AND I AM  
IMAGINING THAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
SCHEDULE A HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING TO HEAR MORE.  
I WOULD JUST SAY TWO THINGS YOU  
WILL WANT TO SEE IN THIS BUDGET  
SOMETHING TWO THINGS WHICH WERE  
REALLY IMPORTANT.

ONE IS AS YOU MIGHT RECALL, WE  
HAD FUNDED THROUGH ARPA 91  
SEATS FOR LOW INCOME CHILDREN  
AND YOUTH AT THE COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS AND AMONG THE SMALL  
NUMBER OF THINGS THAT THE THAT  
THE CITY MANAGER HAD  
RECOMMENDED ARE THOSE 91  
SCHOLARSHIPS.

SO THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL  
STILL BE ABLE TO GO TO THE FIVE  
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SO  
THAT MONEY IS INCLUDED IN OUR  
BUDGET.

FOR THIS YEAR, IT'S ABOUT  
\$750,000 BECAUSE WE HAD SOME  
ARPA MONEY LEFT OVER.

IT WILL BE CLOSER TO A MILLION  
DOLLARS FOR FY27 IF WE CONTINUE  
THE SAME SCHOLARSHIPS.

AND IN ADDITION, IT WON'T  
SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT A  
MAJOR PIECE OF THE FAMILY  
FEEDBACK THAT WE RECEIVED IN  
THE STUDY HAD TO DO WITH THE

NEEDS OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND IN ORDER  
TO ADDRESS SOME OF THAT WOE  
HAVE ADDED AN ADDITIONAL  
INCLUSION SUPPORT SPECIALIST ON  
MICHELLE'S TEAM SO THAT WE CAN  
DO MORE ASSESSMENTS OF KIDS,  
PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT IN THE AND  
IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE ADDED A  
SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY.

MUCH OF WHICH WE'VE MOVED  
SOMEONE ELSE IN OUR DEPARTMENT  
TO BE ABLE TO HIRE SOME  
CONSULTANTS AT TWO TIMES  
DURING THE YEAR.

HAVE SO MANY ASSESSMENTS TO DO.  
WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO IS TO  
BE ABLE TO ACCEPT MORE CHILDREN  
ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS AND  
ACTUALLY LOOK AT THEM IN THE  
CLASSROOM AND SEE WHAT SUPPORTS  
THEY WOULD NEED TO STAY RATHER  
THAN HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL WE CAN  
DO A FULL ASSESSMENT ELSEWHERE.  
THIS WILL NOT.

I WANT TO BE REALLY CLEAR, MEET  
ALL OF THE NEED THAT'S OUT  
THERE.

BUT OF ALL OF THE THINGS THAT  
WE THOUGHT WERE IMPORTANT TO  
DO, THIS WAS THE ONE THAT

SEEMED.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: THANK  
YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

I KNOW IT'S HARD BECAUSE WE  
HEAR FROM PARENTS WHOSE  
CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL DON'T  
NEED A ONE TO ONE BUT THEN IT'S  
OFTEN RECOMMENDED BUT PARTLY  
BECAUSE THOSE ENVIRONMENTS ARE  
DIFFERENT.

THE CLASSROOM OFTEN HAS TWO OR  
THREE ADULTS IN IT WHETHER  
THEY'RE WORKING WITH THAT CHILD  
OR NOT.

AND YOU GET 17 TO 20 KIDS AFTER



SCHOOL IT'S REALLY DIFFERENT.  
SO I WISH IF'S AS EASY TO DO  
THAT BUT IT'S NOT.  
BUT I DO APPRECIATE THAT YOU'RE  
CONTINUING TO DO THAT.  
CONCERNS WERE GOING UP AND  
THERE WAS SOME CONCERN AROUND  
THAT.

>> THERE THROUGH YOU, MADAM  
CHAIR.

THERE ARE SOME CHANGES IN THE  
FEE STRUCTURES.

AS WE TALKED ABOUT LAST YEAR  
AND OUR HEARING, WE HAVE NOW  
APPLIED A 50% SIBLING DISCOUNT  
ACROSS ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS AND  
SO THAT GOES INTO EFFECT.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: IF YOU  
DO IT NOW, I COULD HAVE USED IT  
WITH THE TWINS BACK IN THE DAY.  
THANK YOU

>> WHAT WAS THE FACT UNTIL WE  
UNIFIED OUR APPLICATION PROCESS  
AND OUR TUITION FEES, EACH OF  
OUR PROGRAMS CHARGED SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT, HAD DIFFERENT  
POLICIES AND SO TWO OF OUR  
PROGRAMS DID HAVE SIBLING  
DISCOUNTS AND THE OTHERS DID  
NOT.

AND SO THIS YEAR, WE WILL BE  
APPLYING THE 50% SIBLING  
DISCOUNT ACROSS THE FAMILY.  
FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS THE  
FEES FOR THE YOUTH CENTER WERE  
REMNANTS FROM REALLY LOW --  
REALLY LOW FEES LIKE WHEN YOUR  
KIDS WERE IN THE YOUTH CENTERS  
THAT WERE REALLY BASED OFF THE  
FACT THAT WE ONCE HAD OVER 70%  
OF THE FAMILIES ENROLLED WERE  
LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND SO THE  
SEE STRUCTURE WAS CREATED WHEN  
THAT WAS THE CASE AND OVER THE  
YEARS, THE MAKE-UP OF WHO IS  
ENROLLED IN OUR YOUTH CENTER  
LOOKS DIFFERENT AND WE ARE NOW

AT 40%.

IT MADE NO SENSE IF WE ARE  
ACTUALLY TAKING ON EQUITY THAT  
BECAUSE YOU WERE ENROLLED IN  
THE YOUTH CENTER THAT THE FEE  
WOULD BE DIFFERENT.

THE ANSWER IS YOU ARE NOT  
GETTING SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

THE PROGRAMS ACROSS DHSP AFTER  
SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE STAFFED AT  
THE SAME STAFF RATIOS.

OUR STAFF HAD THE SAME TRAINING  
AND WHAT MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT  
ACROSS OUR PROGRAMS IS HOW THE  
PROGRAMS ARE STRUCTURED AND  
THAT IS BASED ON EITHER  
HISTORY.

WE'VE GOT PROGRAMS THAT REALLY  
FOCUS ON PROJECT-BASED LEARNING  
AND MENTORSHIP WHICH IS AGE  
APPROPRIATE FOR PRETEENS AND  
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: WE CAN  
TALK ABOUT IT ANOTHER TIME BUT  
I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THAT  
DROP FROM 70% TO, YOU KNOW, 40%  
IS WHAT YOU SAID.

I MEAN, JUST OUR YOUTH CENTERS  
HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN SUCH A  
SUPPORT FOR OUR LOWER INCOME  
KIDS TO HAVE DESTRUCTIVE THINGS  
TO DO AND WHY THAT NUMBER HAS  
DROPPED AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING  
INSTEAD IS SOMETHING I'D LOVE  
TO DIG DEEPER IN BUT I'LL YIELD  
FOR NOW.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

AND THE QUESTION IS DID THE  
PERCENTAGE GO DOWN WHILE THE  
USAGE WENT UP.

WERE THERE OTHER COUNCILOR  
SIDDIQUI OR COUNCILOR WILSON  
DID YOU?

COUNCILOR WILSON, YOUR QUESTION  
ON DEMOGRAPHICS WAS ANSWERED.

I HOPE YOU HEARD IT.

>> Councilor Wilson: I HEARD.

I HEARD THAT IT WAS MENTIONED.  
I'LL HAVE TO LOOK BACK BUT I  
KNOW THAT YOU ALL ARE DOING  
GREAT WORK IN KEEPING BEING  
MINDFUL OF THAT QUESTION AND  
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW WE ARE  
THE DEMOGRAPHIC OF THE STAFF  
MAKES UP AND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE  
WITHIN OUR CITY.

SO THANK YOU ALL.

PART OF MY REMARKS REALLY JUST  
HAVE TO DO WITH JUST THIS  
DEPARTMENT RAISE ME REALLY JUST  
WATCHED ME GROW AS A CHILD AND  
MANY OF YOU I REFER TO AS MY  
MENTORS AND DEFINITELY MY  
FRIENDS.

SO I TRULY DO FEEL LIKE THIS  
DEPARTMENT IS REALLY NEAR AND  
DEAR AND AS OTHERS HAVE SPOKE  
TO JUST HOW MUCH WORK YOU ALL  
HAVE DONE FOR THEIR CHILDREN OR  
FOR THEM, WE KNOW THAT THERE'S  
GREAT WORK HAPPENING ACROSS  
THIS DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE.

GRASS I JUST CHAIRED AN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
ON ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR YOUNG  
PEOPLES, I WANTED TO -- I WAS  
KIND OF THINKING ABOUT A FEW  
DIFFERENT THINGS THAT WERE  
COMING UP FOR ME AND ONE WAS  
THE C.T.E. AFTER DARK AND SO  
NOW THIS IS A PROGRAM THAT WAS  
TALKED ABOUT IN TERMS OF RISTA  
AND HOW RISTA CAN OFFER  
PROGRAMS AND SO I'M CURIOUS IF  
YOU ALL HAD SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT  
WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE AND  
HOW MIGHT THIS FALL WITHIN YOUR  
DEPARTMENT.

AND I DID MEAN TO MENTION THIS  
LAST NIGHT AT THE SCHOOL  
COMMITTEE MEETING BUT IT  
TOTALLY SLIPPED MY MIND.  
I'M SURE IT WOULD WORK IN

PARTNERSHIP.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,  
MADAM CHAIR.

IT WAS EXCITING TO HEAR THAT  
LAST TUESDAY AT THE HEARING AND  
SO I THINK THE IDEA THAT RISTA  
WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN SO IT WAS  
REALLY INTERESTING TO HEAR LAST  
WEEK THEY ARE CONSIDERING IT.  
I THINK FOR US, WE WOULD LOVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH  
THEM ABOUT THE CHOICE PROGRAM  
THEY WOULD OPERATE.

OBVIOUSLY THEY WOULD NOT BE  
ABLE TO GO OUT OF THEIR  
EXISTING PROGRAMS.

THEY WOULD NEED THE EQUIPMENT  
AND SPACE.

HOWEVER, I THINK WITH OUR  
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER.  
THE AND THAT IS APPROPRIATE  
WITH OUR WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT  
STAFF.

LOOKING WHAT OUR ADULT  
RESIDENTS AND EMERGING ADULT  
RESIDENTS I COULD SEE LOTS OF  
OPPORTUNITIES TO USE THAT SPACE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT TO SERVE THE  
ADULT RESIDENTS OF CAMBRIDGE  
WHO NEED ADDITIONAL TRAINING  
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR  
INDIVIDUAL THAT IS UTILIZE THE  
JOB CONNECTOR PROGRAMS THAT  
THEY ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING AND  
HOW MIGHT HUMAN SERVICES BE  
ABLE TO STEP IN.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
WE JUST LEARNED YESTERDAY THE  
SAME NEWS YOU WERE LEARNING.  
WE THOUGHT THERE WAS ONE PERSON  
AND THEN WE LEARNED YESTERDAY  
THAT THE DIRECTOR HAD BEEN LAID  
OFF.

SO THIS IS LATE BREAKING NEWS  
TO US.

I WOULD SAY THAT A NUMBER OF

THE FOLKS WHO ARE SERVED THERE  
ARE CLIENTS OF OUR PROGRAMS AND  
SO IT'S NOT AS IF THEY WON'T  
HAVE A PLACE TO GO TO FIND OUT  
EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING.

I KNOW THEY WERE IN THE MIDDLE  
OF RUNNING THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT PROGRAM.

WE UNDERSTAND AND SUE CAN  
ELABORATE IF SHE KNOWS MORE  
THAT THEY HAVE ONE STAFF AT  
LEAST WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE  
THERE THROUGH THIS SUMMER AND I  
DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT STAFF  
PERSONS IN A BIG SURPRISE TO US  
AS WELL.

>> I THINK ONE THING TO ADD IS  
WE'LL WORK WITH THE TEAM OVER  
THERE TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHO  
ARE THEY SERVING NOW?

CAN WE REACH OUT TO THEM.

CAN THEY REACH OUT TO THEM TO  
MAKE SURE THEY'RE AWARE OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

THIS IS DEFINITELY A PROGRAM  
FACE DONE SOME GREAT WORK.

BLACK BOYS, BLACK MEN WHO HAVE  
COME THROUGH THAT PROGRAM AND  
MOVING I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING  
MORE CONVERSATIONS AND BEING  
HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE AND  
MAKING SURE NO ONE FALLS  
THROUGH THE CRACKS.

THAT SHOULD BE OUR FIRST  
PRIORITY.

IN REGARDS TO I DON'T KNOW.

I MEAN, I THINK THERE WAS A  
QUESTION AROUND PARKING AND WE  
RECOGNIZED THAT, YOU KNOW,  
THAT'S NOT IN YOUR WHEEL HOUSE.  
HOWEVER, IT IMPACTS OUR CITY AS  
A WHOLE BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE  
THAT FOLKS ARE COMING IN FROM  
ALL OVER AND SO HOW DO YOU  
BELIEVE PARKING ESPECIALLY  
BECAUSE OF YOUR OFFICES ALL  
BEING UP AND DOWN BROADWAY

SPECIFICALLY.

HOW DO WE THINK THAT THIS MAY  
IMPACT PRODUCTIVITY.

FOLKS GETTING TO WORK ON TIME.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

UNFORTUNATELY, LOTS OF OUR  
STAFF CANNOT AFFORD TO LIVE IN  
THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AND  
THEREFORE THEY COULDN'T REALLY  
PARK AROUND OUR BUILDING TO  
BEGIN WITH.

FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO LIVE  
SOMEWHERE ELSE IN CAMBRIDGE AND  
CAN DRIVE TO OUR BUILDING, I  
THINK IT ALWAYS PARKING IS  
ALWAYS AN ISSUE AND I THINK IT  
WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ISSUE.

>> Councilor Wilson: AND ARE  
YOU WORKING WITH ANY  
DEPARTMENTS TO IDENTIFY ANY OF  
THE PARTNERSHIPS AROUND PARKING  
IS THE GREEN STREET GARAGE.  
AND I THINK WE NEED TO DO A  
BETTER JOB MAKING SURE THAT ALL  
OF OUR EMPLOYEES -- IT'S A WALK  
BUT I'M A WALKER SO I -- IT'S A  
REASONABLE WALK FROM OUR  
DEPARTMENT FOR PEOPLE AND I  
THINK PEOPLE JUST MAYBE DON'T  
THINK OF IT AND SO I THINK WE  
WILL NEED TO DO SOME MORE WORK  
TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF THAT WHICH, OF  
COURSE, MAY FILL UP THE GARAGE.  
I DO THINK THAT'S ONE OPTION  
THAT WE CAN BE PURSUING WITH  
OUR TEAM.

>> Councilor Wilson: THANK  
YOU FOR THAT.

THE LAST THING I WANTED TO  
DISCUSS IS THE COLLEGE SUCCESS  
INITIATIVE AND I LOVE THE  
INITIATIVE AND KIND OF WHERE IT  
STARTED.

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT ANY BUDGET  
THOUGHTS, YOU KNOW, I KNOW I  
WAS IN 51 AND I WAS AT O.W.D

WITH MY NEPHEW WHO WAS DOING  
HIS MAYOR'S PROGRAM APPLICATION  
AND LEARNED THAT ZANY IS  
LEAVING AND GOING TO BUNKER  
HILL AND SO I KNOW THAT THAT  
WILL BE A POSITION THAT WILL BE  
TO BE FILLED, BUT I'M CURIOUS  
IF YOU CAN JUST TALK A LITTLE  
BIT MORE ABOUT C.S.I. AND KIND  
OF THE VISION TO MAKE SURE THAT  
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

I FEEL LIKE I REMEMBER BACK  
WHEN EMILY SINGER WAS IN THAT  
ROLE IF WE'RE ON TRACK FOR  
THAT.

IF THERE'S ADDITIONAL NEED FOR  
SERVICE AND SUSPECTSES TO MAKE  
SURE WE ARE ENSURING THAT ALL  
OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE  
GRADUATING WITH A PLAN AS WE  
HAVE THIS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
THE CITY AND THE SCHOOL.

>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU,  
MADAM CHAIR.  
MADAM CHAIR.

MAYBE ONE DAY MADAM MAYOR.  
SO I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A  
BIG TRANSITION LOSING THE STAFF  
PERSON WHO IS A CAMBRIDGE  
RESIDENT, WHO'S BEEN WITH US  
FOR FIVE YEARS AND WHO HAS DONE  
AMAZING WORK FOR THE PROGRAM.  
SO I THINK THAT AS YOU SAY,  
COUNCILOR WILSON, YOU KNOW, OUR  
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO  
MAKE SURE WE'RE BACK FILLING  
THAT POSITION.

FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF  
2025, THE DIRECTOR AND ANOTHER  
STAFF PERSON WILL BE IN THERE  
WORKING WITH THE STUDENT WHO IS  
WOULD HAVE GONE TO ZANY.  
MAKE SURE THOSE STUDENTS ARE  
TAKEN CARE OF.

[CAPTIONER SWITCH]

>>> THAT THEY ARE REGISTERED.  
THAT THEIR FINANCIAL AID IS SET.

MAKING SURE THAT ALL THOSE  
PARTICULAR ADMINISTRATIVE THINGS  
ARE TAKEN CARE OF.

WE ALSO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON  
THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE  
GRADUATING FROM RINDGE, WHO ARE  
GOING TO UMASS BOSTON AND BUNKER  
HILL.

THE REASON WE CHOSE THE TWO  
INSTITUTIONS IS HISTORICALLY AND  
STILL NOW, THOSE ARE THE  
INSTITUTIONS THAT RECEIVE THE  
LARGEST NUMBER OF CRLS  
GRADUATES.

I THINK SINCE COVID THE FOCUS  
HAS BEEN ON THOSE GRADUATE AND  
MAKING SURE THEY ARE SET.

IT'S ABOUT 40 PLUS STUDENTS A  
YEAR.

I THINK THERE'S MORE WORK THAT  
WE CAN DO TO TRY TO INFUSE THE  
MESSAGES OF THE COLLEGE SUCCESS  
INITIATIVE TO OTHER STUDENTS WHO  
ARE NOT GOING TO BUNKER OR TO  
UMB AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH  
GUIDANCE TO DO THAT.

THAT IS OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS.  
WE'VE BEEN GOING HARD ON THE  
PROGRAM AND WE NEED TO THINK  
MORE ABOUT THE LARGER QUESTION  
OF WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RINDGE  
GRADUATES WHO ARE PART OF OUR  
COLLEGE GOING CULTURE AND STILL  
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEIR  
NEXT STEP IS.

MY UNDERSTANDING FROM THE SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT IS THAT EVERY YOUNG  
PERSON DOES SIT WITH THEIR  
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AND IS  
LEAVING THE SCHOOL WITH SOME  
LEVEL OF A PLAN.

WHAT WE WANT TO ENSURE IS THAT  
PLAN IS ABLE TO BE REALIZED AND  
THAT'S AN AREA OF WORK WE HAVE  
TO DO.

>> Councillor Wilson: THANK YOU  
FOR THAT.



THROUGH YOU MADAM CHAIR.

I AGREE.

THAT'S AN AREA OF WORK WE HAVE  
TO BE MORE INTENTIONAL AROUND  
AND REALLY REV IT UP TO MAKE  
SURE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE  
GRADUATING WITH A PLAN.

MY LAST THING, AND I RECOGNIZE  
WE'RE BEHIND TIME.

OTHERS MAY TALK ABOUT THIS MORE  
BUT JUST THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.  
WE HAVE A HUGE INVESTMENT GOING  
INTO THIS AND THIS IS A  
PHENOMENAL THING WE'VE BEEN  
WORKING ON AND MANY OTHERS  
BEFORE ME HAVE WORKED ON THIS.  
WE'LL BE TALKING MORE ABOUT WHAT  
IT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO EXPAND?  
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO SCALE?  
WE WANT TO MAKE SURE FAMILIES  
MOST AT NEED ARE ABLE TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE AND BE A PART OF THIS  
PROGRAM.

RECOGNIZING THAT THERE ARE SOME  
FAMILIES WHO ARE ABLE TO WHO  
HAVE IT FINANCIALLY WHO CAN PAY  
FOR IT FULL OUT WHO ARE  
TAKING -- WHO ARE ABLE TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF IT, RESPECTFULLY.  
WE MAYBE NEED TO MAKE  
ADJUSTMENTS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER  
CONVERSATIONS AROUND THAT AND  
MAYBE HOSTING SOME COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS SO WE CAN DISSECT WHERE  
WE GO THERE THERE.

OTHER THAN THAT I YIELD.

THANK YOU ALL.

>> Chair: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR  
WILSON.

EVERYONE ASKED QUESTIONS THAT I  
WOULD HAVE WANTED TO ASK.

I WILL SAY THERE WAS A QUESTION  
ABOUT HAVING A LIST OF THE  
C.P.P., THE CAMBRIDGE PRESCHOOL  
PROVIDERS PROVIDED.

I KNOW THAT'S IN PLACE SO WE

DON'T HAVE TO GO OVER IT NOW.  
IF THAT CAN BE SENT TO COUNCIL.  
I KNOW YOU'VE SEEN THAT IN  
WRITING.

I WANT TO THANK THE MAYOR FOR  
BEING HERE AND RECOGNIZE THERE'S  
A A SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING.  
SHE'LL BE LEAVING US FOR ANOTHER  
BODY IN THE CITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION  
UP TO DATE.

IF SHE HAS QUESTIONS SHE CAN  
SEND THEM FORWARD BEFORE COUNCIL  
VOTES ON THIS.

DID YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING IN  
REFERENCE TO THE C.C.P.?

I WANT TO MAKE SURE,  
PARTICULARLY, COUNCILLOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER ASKED FOR THAT  
INFORMATION AND DATA.

I DID WANT TO FOLLOWUP ON SOME  
OF WHAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT.

THIS DEPARTMENT DOES SUCH A  
RANGE OF WORK AND INTERFACES  
WITH ALMOST EVERY OTHER  
DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY.

THE MISSION, IN PARTICULAR OF  
THE MULTISERVICE CENTER, IS VERY  
TIED TO AND ALIGNED WITH SERVING  
UNHOUSED POPULATION, HOMELESS,  
HOUSING LIAISON WE TALKED ABOUT  
YESTERDAY AND THE HOUSING  
DEPARTMENT.

HOW IS THAT WORK COORDINATED  
ACROSS THE DEPARTMENTS SINCE  
IT'S SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE  
POPULATION IN THE CITY WE OFTEN  
TALK ABOUT?

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
I WOULD SAY THERE HAS FOR A LONG  
TIME BEEN DEEP COLLABORATION  
ACROSS THE PROGRAMS.  
I WOULD SAY THE PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT FOLKS FROM HUMAN  
SERVICES SPEND A LOT OF TIME  
WITH OUR MULTISERVICE CENTER  
COLLEAGUES.

THEY SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH CHRIS COTTER AND, OBVIOUSLY, THE OFFICE OF THE HOUSING LIAISON IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE MULTISERVICE CENTER SO THERE'S DEEP COLLABORATION THERE.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE LEADERS OF THOSE GROUPS HAVE BEEN MEETING MORE FORMALLY TOGETHER TO ENSURE WHAT WAS A MORE INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT FOR CONVERSATION ACTUALLY IS HAPPENING ON A MORE FORMALIZED BASIS.

>> Chair: THANKS FOR THAT. WE WANT ALL RESOURCES DEPLOYED AND YET SOMETIMES WHEN THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE AND UNCLEAR LINES OF WHAT SOMEONE IS WORKING ON IT CANNOT BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEPLOY THOSE SERVICES.

I ALWAYS THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO ASK ABOUT COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION AND TRULY MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS.

I DON'T THINK I HAVE TO HAVE AN ANSWER BUT THE QUESTION OF THE COORDINATION ACROSS DEPARTMENTS ON CHILDHOOD, THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL SERVES THOSE KIDS THAT END UP IN A RANGE OF PROGRAMS.

THERE USED TO BE SOME CONCERN ABOUT WHETHER INFORMATION WAS ABLE TO BE SHARED.

SENIORS, OF COURSE, THERE'S A RANGE OF PROGRAMS IN THE CITY THAT SERVES SENIORS.

I KNOW ALL OF US ARE INTERESTED IN ENSURING YOU HAVE THE BUDGET AND THE STAFF AND TO BE ABLE TO COORDINATE THOSE SERVICES.

I DID HAVE ONE OTHER QUESTION WHICH WAS ELUDED TO A LITTLE BIT EARLIER FOR ONE OF THE PROGRAMS. IS THERE AN IMPACT -- I THINK

PART OF WHAT THE JOB CONNECTOR  
MIGHT BE IS THERE'S BEEN M.I.T.  
AND OTHERS WHO HAVE HAD TO DO  
DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FUNDING.  
THE IMPACT OF THE FEDERAL  
SITUATION AND THE BUDGET.  
I UNDERSTAND WITH COMMUNITY  
LEARNING CENTER HAS CONTINUED TO  
HAVE A LOT OF STUDENTS COME.  
THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH CHANGE.  
DO YOU HAVE A SENSE OR ANYTHING  
WE SHOULD KNOW IN TERMS OF THE  
BUDGET AND HOW IT MIGHT  
INFLUENCE THE ABILITY OF THIS  
DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE THE  
SERVICES IT'S PROVIDED SINCE  
SOME OF THE FUNDING OUTSIDE THE  
GENERAL FUND BUDGET DOES COME  
FROM OTHER SOURCES?

>> MADAM CHAIR, WHAT I WOULD SAY  
IS AT THIS MOMENT, WE ARE  
WATCHING CAREFULLY THE RANGE OF  
THINGS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.  
WE UNDERSTAND SORT OF TWO  
DIFFERENT BUCKETS OF THAT.  
ONE OF WHICH IS THINGS THAT  
HAPPEN IN THE BUDGET -- IN  
PROGRAMS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN  
BUDGETED AND WHERE THERE'S A BIG  
DISPUTE RIGHT NOW BETWEEN MANY  
CITIES AND THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ABOUT THEM  
NOT ALLOCATING MONEY, WHICH IN  
FACT WAS APPROVED BY CONGRESS IN  
AN ADOPTED BUDGET.  
SO THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS GOING  
ON ABOUT THAT THAT WE ARE IN  
CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH,  
OBVIOUSLY, THE CITY MANAGER  
TAKING LEAD HERE AND THE LAW  
DEPARTMENT IN LOOKING AT THAT.  
THERE'S ALSO THE ISSUE THAT  
YOU'VE ALL SEEN, CERTAINLY, OF  
WHAT WE ALL REFER TO AS THE  
SKINNY BUDGET.  
WHICH IS WHAT'S THE IMPACT FOR  
FY27 IF THERE ARE PROGRAMS THAT

ACTUALLY THE PRESIDENT HAS THE RIGHT, AS OPPOSED TO TRYING TO CUT THINGS APPROVED BY CONGRESS. THOSE IMPACTS WOULD BE VERY BIG IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES. AT THE MOMENT WE ARE MOSTLY WATCHING CAUTIOUSLY AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE CITY MANAGER AROUND WHERE WE ARE.

>> Chair: I APPRECIATE THAT. I KNOW NONE OF US HAVE A CRYSTAL BALL BUT IT'S WEIGHING ON ALL OF US.

WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT AND WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND ALSO STAND READY TO HAVE THE CONVERSATIONS WHEN NECESSARY. UNLESS THERE'S OTHER QUESTIONS WE'LL MOVE THIS. COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI.

>> Councillor Siddqui: SORRY. I JUST WANTED TO GET THIS COMMENT IN.

ECHO EVERYONE'S APPRECIATION AND ALL THE WORK THE OFFICE DOES. I WANTED TO BRIEFLY SAY THAT I JUST WANTED TO REFLECT ON THE JANUARY ROUNDTABLE FROM C.C.P. AND THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

I KNOW IN THAT CONVERSATION WE TALKED ABOUT THE OVERSUPPLY OF FREE SCHOOL SEATS.

I THINK LARGER LOOMING QUESTIONS ABOUT DIFFERENT POLICY DECISIONS RELATED TO YEAR THREE --

IMPLEMENTATION AND, AS COUNCILLOR WILSON ELUDED TO, OTHER THINGS DOWN THE LINE.

I WANT US TO NOT FORGET THAT PIECE OF IT.

I KNOW WE'RE NOT FORGETTING BUT TO REMIND US THERE ARE SOME OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS IN THE FUTURE AS WE THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT -- IF SUPPLY EXCEEDS DEMAND AND OUR BIRTHRATE IS GOING DOWN,

THOSE ARE OVERARCHING QUESTIONS.  
NOTHING FOR NOW BUT IT'S JUST  
SOMETHING THAT AFTER READING THE  
BUDGET SECTION ON THIS I WANTED  
TO REPEAT IT.

>> THROUGH YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

I WANT TO SAY WE COULD NOT BE  
LUCKIER TO HAVE HER LEADING THE  
WORK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

SHE HAS BEEN DOING AN  
ASTONISHINGLY GOOD JOB.

WE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.

IT'S USEFUL WHEN YOU HIRE  
SOMEONE WHO COMES FROM ANOTHER  
JURISDICTION WHICH HAS  
IMPLEMENTED UNIVERSAL  
PREKINDERGARTEN.

YOU ALSO HAVE A RANGE OF  
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE ISSUES  
ARE THAT HAVE BEEN FACED IN  
ANOTHER JURISDICTION.

I JUST WANT TO -- WE SENT TO THE  
COUNCIL AND WE WILL RESEND,  
ACTUALLY, INFORMATION, WHICH I  
THINK WOULD ANSWER, PERHAPS  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER'S  
QUESTIONS, BUT WE'RE HAPPY TO  
END UP ENGAGING WITH YOU MORE  
AROUND THE ISSUES OF WHAT DOES  
IT MEAN TO HAVE EXCESS CAPACITY?  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SUPPORT  
FAMILY CHOICE, WHICH IS AT THE  
HEART OF HOW FAMILIES END UP IN  
THE PROGRAM.

WE'RE HAPPY TO ENGAGE MORE.

>> Councillor Siddiqui: THANK  
YOU.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

I BELIEVE THAT ENDS THE  
QUESTIONS FOR THIS DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES OF THE  
\$65.7 MILLION BUDGET.

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI MOVES THAT  
WE MOVE THE HUMAN SERVICES  
BUDGET TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL  
WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION.

DISCUSSION HAVING OCCURRED ROLL  
CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM?  
ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR McGovern?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR NOLAN?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER?

ABSENT.

COUNCILLOR TONER?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR WILSON?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR ZUSY?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: MAYOR SIMMONS?

ABSENT.

YOU HAVE SIX MEMBERS RECORDED IN  
THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH THREE  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.

>> Chair: THANK YOU ALL AND  
THANK YOU.

I GUESS WE ARE ADJOURNING AND  
DOING THE THREE DEPARTMENTS.  
HOLD ON.

WE HAVE PROBABLY A COUPLE OF  
QUESTIONS.

CAN PEOPLE STAY ANOTHER 15  
MINUTES OR NO?

YOU HAVE TO GO.

YEAH.

I THINK WE ADJOURN.

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: CAN  
FOLKS TALK OUTSIDE.

>> Chair: IF COUNCILLOR WILSON  
HAS TO LEAVE I'M NOT SURE WE  
HAVE A QUORUM, WHICH IS FINE.  
I'M SORRY BUT WE CAN --

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: MADAM  
CHAIR.

I THINK AS WE LOOK AT THE LEFT  
OVER ONES MAYBE WE CAN DECIDE  
RIGHT NOW WHICH ONES -- IF THERE

ARE ANY THAT WE CAN REALLY PASS  
ON THAT WE CAN REFER RIGHT NOW  
SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO COME BACK  
TOMORROW.

I'M ASKING US TO BE -- THINK OF  
OUR QUESTIONS.

IF WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE  
DEPARTMENT DOES, THAT'S A  
QUESTION THAT CAN BE ANSWERED  
OFFLINE.

THEY DON'T NEED TO COME BACK  
TOMORROW FOR THAT.

IF WE CAN GET ANY OF THESE  
FORWARDED RIGHT NOW AND NOT HOLD  
PEOPLE UP TOMORROW, PLEASE,  
LET'S DO THAT.

>> Chair: YES.

IT'S FIVE OF US.

USE YOUR MICS.

WOMEN'S COMMISSION AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION.

I THINK THERE WERE A COUPLE OF  
QUESTIONS.

THE QUESTIONS WE WHIP THROUGH  
EVEN THOUGH THEY WAITED ALL DAY  
AND NOT EVEN ASK QUESTIONS OR?  
SO THE WATER DEPARTMENT IS  
COMING TOMORROW ANYWAY FOR  
PUBLIC INVESTMENT.

DO WOMEN'S COMMISSION AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS?

OKAY.

USE YOUR MIC.

SHOULD WE JUST CALL UP THE  
WOMEN'S COMMISSION AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND WE CAN EVEN ASK A  
COUPLE OF QUESTIONS AND NOT GET  
THEM ANSWERED BUT MOVE THEM  
FORWARD.

IS THAT THE WILL OF THE BODY?

>> Councillor Wilson: YES.

THAT WOULD BE IDEAL.

>> Chair: HOW ABOUT WOMEN'S  
COMMISSION, DIRECTOR.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE BACK  
TOMORROW, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T WE JUST ANSWER THE



WATER QUESTIONS TOMORROW.  
SORRY ABOUT THAT.  
THANK YOU.  
ON THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION, WHICH  
IS ON PAGE V ROMAN NUMERAL  
5-148.  
I THINK THE QUESTIONS HERE --  
HELLO.  
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF  
DIRECTOR.  
>> HI.  
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.  
STILL NOT EVENING.  
GOOD AFTERNOON.  
I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE, IF I  
COULD, MY TEAM.  
I'M INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR  
THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND THEIR  
TALENT, THEIR INTEGRITY THEY  
BRING.  
THEY HAVE THE MISSION OF THE  
COMMISSION IN THEIR DNA.  
IT REALLY TRANSLATES TO  
REMARKABLE SERVICE.  
I WANT TO INTRODUCE EMILY  
SHIELD.  
SHE IS OUR MANAGER OF PROGRAMS  
AND SPECIAL PROJECTS.  
I WANT TO INTRODUCE KELSEY HOGAN  
WHO IS OUR ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROJECT COORDINATOR.  
I JUST DO WANT TO -- COUNCILLOR  
WILSON TO YOUR POINT IN  
QUESTION.  
I WANT TO IDENTIFY US.  
WE ARE A STAFF OF THREE, TWO  
WHITE WOMEN AND ONE WOMAN OF  
COLOR.  
>> Chair: THANK YOU.  
I THINK THE ONLY QUESTION THAT  
CAME THROUGH A COUPLE OF US TO  
BE IN TRANSPARENCY IS THE  
QUESTION OF HOW DOES THIS  
COMMISSION INTERFACE WITH OTHER  
WORK OF OTHER COMMISSIONS?  
BECAUSE WHEN THIS COMMISSION WAS  
ESTABLISHED THERE WAS NOT THE

OFFICE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION.  
THERE WAS NOT THE OFFICE OF  
DOMESTIC AND GENDER BASED  
VIOLENCE.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH A NEW  
CITY ADMINISTRATION, A NEW  
UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO  
COORDINATE AND ENSURE THERE'S  
COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION  
ACROSS THAT THE QUESTION -- IT'S  
IDEAL AT BUDGET TIME TO RAISE  
THE QUESTION OF HOW MIGHT WE --  
IS THIS THE BEST ORGANIZATIONAL  
MOVING FORWARD OR SHOULD WE  
CONSIDER SOME KIND OF -- OTHER  
KIND OF ARRANGEMENT THAT MERGES  
AND BLENDS?

YOU MIGHT NOT BE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON  
THAT BUT THAT CAME UP.

IF YOU WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT  
THAT'S FINE AND WE CAN SEE IF  
THERE'S OTHER QUESTIONS.

>> HAPPY TO, THROUGH YOU MADAM  
CHAIR.

I ACTUALLY CAN SPEAK TO THAT IN  
THE SENSE IT WAS NEARLY 50 YEARS  
AGO, 1977, THAT EVEN SOME OF THE  
FOLKS HERE, COUNCILLOR  
McGovern'S MOM WAS PART OF THE  
FIRST -- THE WOMEN IN THE  
COMMUNITY AND PART OF --

>> Vice Mayor McGovern: I  
REMEMBER BEING DRAGGED TO THOSE  
MEETINGS IN 1977, BY THE WAY.

>> I THINK I CAN ACTUALLY SPEAK  
TO THAT A LITTLE BIT.

I THINK OUR FOUNDING MOTHERS, AT  
THAT TIME, REALLY RECOGNIZED THE  
IMPORTANCE OF ADVANCING WOMEN  
AND GIRLS IN THE CITY.

IT WAS THEN CODIFIED BY THIS  
BODY, AS YOU KNOW, FOLKS IN  
THESE CHAIRS IN 1977.

IF I CAN I'LL READ THROUGH A  
LITTLE BIT OF WHAT I HAVE  
WRITTEN UP ONLY BECAUSE I THINK  
IT'S IMPORTANT.

THEY REALLY DID BRING THEIR  
VISION TO THIS BODY.  
THEY BROUGHT THAT VISION TO ACT  
AS A CENTRALIZING FORCE IN THE  
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO DEAL WITH  
ALL WOMEN'S ISSUES.  
ESTABLISHING A LEGACY THAT  
REALLY DOES CONTINUE IN OUR WORK  
TODAY.  
I WOULD SAY INNOVATIVE PROGRAM  
AND ADVOCACY FROM CAMBRIDGE  
GIRLS IN SPORTS TO MAPPING  
FEMINIST CAMBRIDGE TO OUR  
INQUIRY OF GENDER ANALYSIS OF  
CITY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES  
REFLECT OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT  
WHILE FORMAL EQUALITY GUARANTEES  
DO EXIST AND HAVE CHANGED A BIT  
SINCE 1977, THERE DEFINITELY  
REMAINS IMPORTANT WORK TO BRIDGE  
THE GAP TO LIVED EQUITY.  
WE RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE  
RICH DIVERSITY OF  
INTERSECTIONALITY OF RACE,  
CLASS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND  
ABILITY ON WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES  
IN CAMBRIDGE.  
I WANT TO SAY I THINK CAMBRIDGE  
STANDS AS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF  
WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN A COMMUNITY  
COMMITTS TO GENDER EQUITY.  
THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION HAS  
PIONEERED NUMEROUS APPROACHES  
AND RESOURCES.  
THINGS LIKE OUR WOMEN'S  
ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK, OUR  
GAME CHANGER SUMMER PROGRAM.  
THINGS THAT DEMONSTRATE HOW  
TARGETED, THOUGHTFUL INITIATIVES  
CAN CREATE AND SUPPORT  
MEANINGFUL SOCIAL PROGRESS.  
I WOULD OFFER IN TODAY'S  
CLIMATE, OUR WORK TAKES ON  
GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.  
I WOULD SAY MANY OF YOU PROBABLY  
HOLD THAT IN THIS ROOM.  
AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WE HAVE

WITNESSED, REALLY, A BACKWARDS  
MOVEMENT, IN CHOOSING THE  
REMOVAL OF MORE THAN 150 PAGES,  
WEBSITE PAGES, FROM THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT THAT CITES THAT  
PRIMARILY AFFECT CONTENT RELATED  
TO EQUITY.

THE PAGE THAT IS ARE REMAINING,  
THEY'VE BEEN SCRUBBED OF WORDS  
LIKE WOMEN, BLACK, AND  
DISCRIMINATION.

I REALLY WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS  
REALLY MAKES OUR LOCAL  
COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUITY AND  
ACCESS EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL.

>> Chair: THANK YOU.

I THINK IT'S PART OF A LARGER  
CONVERSATION.

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF US ARE  
COMMITTED TO THIS.

AT LEAST MORE ME I THINK IT'S  
TIME TO HAVE A CONVERSATION  
OUTSIDE OF BUDGET TO UNDERSTAND  
HOW THIS COMMISSION AND OTHER  
COMMISSIONS WORK TOGETHER AND  
WHAT MAKES SENSE.

ESPECIALLY IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY  
THE COUNCIL.

ONE OF THE THINGS THE COUNCIL  
DOESN'T OFTEN DO IS GO BACK AND  
SAY DOES THIS MAKE SENSE WITH  
THIS STRUCTURE?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE SURPRISED  
BY THAT OR NOT FEEL NOT 1,000 %  
UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THIS.

IT'S A QUESTION OF HOW IT'S  
WORKING IN WITH THE OTHER WORK  
OF THE CITY.

TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THAT I THINK  
WE ALL FEEL THAT AND IN GIVING  
WE HAVE THE FIVE OF US WE'RE  
ABOUT TO LOSE IT.

WE DON'T HAVE A QUORUM.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE THIS  
CONVERSATION TO PERHAPS A  
COMMITTEE HEARING.

ON COUNCILLOR WILSON'S MOTION TO

PASS THE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN TO THE CITY  
COUNCIL.  
IS THAT WITH A FAVORABLE  
RECOMMENDATION?  
YES.  
ROLL CALL.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM?  
ABSENT.  
VICE MAYOR McGovern?  
>> YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR NOLAN?  
>> YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI?  
>> YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER?  
ABSENT.  
COUNCILLOR TONER?  
COUNCILLOR TONER IS ABSENT.  
COUNCILLOR WILSON?  
>> YES.  
>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR ZUSY?  
>> YES.  
>> Clerk: MAYOR SIMMONS?  
ABSENT.  
ON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE WITH  
FIVE MEMBERS IN FAVOR AND FOUR  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.  
>> Chair: DON'T THINK WE  
SHORTCHANGED BECAUSE WE DON'T  
BELIEVE IN THIS.  
THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO COME BACK TOMORROW.  
YOU CAN FOR THE DISCUSSION ABOUT  
THE REST TO HAVE CITY BUDGET.  
>> I APPRECIATE IT.  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.  
>> Chair: DO WE HAVE TIME TO DO  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION?  
OKAY.  
IS THAT THE WILL OF THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION.  
WOULD YOU LIKE US TO TRY TO  
DISCUSS THIS?  
THAT'S FINE.

THANK YOU.

WE WILL HAVE A MOTION -- CAN I  
DO A MOTION TO PASS THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION TO TOMORROW  
AND ADJOURN AT THE SAME TIME?  
ROLL CALL.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR AZEEM?  
ABSENT.

VICE MAYOR McGovern?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR NOLAN?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR  
SOBRINHO-WHEELER?

ABSENT.

COUNCILLOR TONER?

ABSENT.

COUNCILLOR WILSON?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: COUNCILLOR ZUSY?

>> YES.

>> Clerk: MAYOR SIMMONS?

ABSENT.

YOU HAVE FIVE MEMBERS RECORDED  
IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH FOUR  
RECORDED AS ABSENT.