

## CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$60,000, received from the Harvard Business School Leadership Fellows Program to the Grant Fund Executive Salaries and Wages account. (CM24#118)
2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$21,023 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance Account. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG entitlement program allocates annual grants to larger cities to provide affordable housing, revitalize neighborhoods, and expand economic opportunities to low and moderate-income persons. (CM24#119)
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$31,428.45 to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Extraordinary Expenditures account. This appropriation will increase funds available to continue the development of affordable housing to assist low- and moderate-income residents. (CM24#120)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$9,988 to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Extraordinary Expenditures account. This appropriation will increase funds available to continue the development of affordable housing to assist low- and moderate-income residents. (CM24#121)
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an order authorizing the City Manager to transfer necessary funds needed to maintain appropriation control as part of the fiscal end-of-year closeout process. (CM24#122)

Agenda Item No. 5 June 10, 2024

ORDERED: That pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 33B, and prior to the close of books for FY24, the City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations from the allotments with available balances to those needing supplementation.

6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the fourth annual Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO) Progress Report. (CM24#123) [[text of report](#)]
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 24-30, regarding Youth Center Tuition Rates. (CM24#124) [[text of report](#)]

## ORDERS

1. The City Manager is requested to provide an update to the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan (MFIP) including revised cost estimates to help inform the FY26 and ongoing capital budget priorities in a timely manner. Councillor Pickett, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner (PO24#76)

2. That the Cambridge City Council go on record requesting that MassDOT begin engaging with Cambridge residents and the Cambridgeport neighborhood early and often throughout the BU Rotary/Reid Overpass Reconstruction. Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler (PO24#77)
3. That the City Manager is requested to support local news production as a public good by conducting a \$100,000 per year city-backed news fund pilot for up to three years to be administered through an independent intermediary that will decide on funding criteria and selection of local newspapers that provide material coverage of Cambridge news. Councillor Azeem, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Pickett (PO24#78)
4. That the City Council go on record urging Fenway Health to reconsider the closure of the Central Square Boomerangs thrift store, that the organization is requested to provide a detailed explanation to the community regarding the reasons for the closure of these thrift stores, and that the organization is requested to explore all possible alternatives to maintain this vital community resource. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO24#79)

## CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to explore the feasibility of delaying the Mass Avenue reconstruction project to minimize its impact upon the busy season for restaurants and other affected businesses, and, should this not be found feasible, a method of providing financial assistance to the impacted businesses to cover the costs of removing their outdoor dining structures, designed to mitigate some of the financial impacts upon them, should be established. [Charter Right – Simmons, June 3, 2024] (PO24#70)

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance 2023 #8B has been received from City Clerk, relative to Amend Chapter 14.04 – Fair Housing. [Passed to 2nd Reading Oct 2, 2023; Amended Nov 6, 2023; to remain on Unfinished Business pending legislative approval of Special Act needed prior to ordination] (ORD23-8B)

## COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication from Andrew Ray, regarding PO#4 of June 3.
2. A communication from Andy Nash, regarding Central Square rezoning meeting.
3. A communication from Elinor Actipis, regarding PO24#75-- youth centers.
4. A communication from Ian Rudnick, regarding Opposed to PO24#70.
5. A communication from Jimena Bermejo, regarding Central Square.
6. A communication from Kate Gakenheimer, regarding 84 and 96 Bishop Allen Drive.
7. A communication from Kathy Watkins, regarding Development of City property in Central Square.

8. A communication from Marianna Leavy-Sperounis, regarding DHSP Youth Centers.
9. A communication from Marie Elena Saccoccio, regarding I am concerned about CM appointments to Planning Board CM24#114.
10. A communication from Nancy E. Phillips, regarding City-owned lots in Central Square.
11. A communication from Nella LaRosa-Waters, regarding Central Square Zoning.
12. A communication from Prabal Chakrabarti, regarding Appleton St response.
13. A communication from Stratos Idreos, regarding Broadway.
14. A communication from Vickey Bestor, regarding Support PO#4 (June 3) expand PO#2 (June 3) citywide.
15. A communication from Young Kim, regarding Business As Usual Budget Process Should be Rejected.
16. A communication from Mark Goodman, regarding Vote “No” on FY25 budget.
17. A communication from Young Kim, regarding Business As Usual Budget Process Should be Rejected.
18. A communication from Frances Peace Sullivan, regarding Policy Order regarding price hike for youth centers.
19. A communication from Jamie Lichtenstein, regarding PO24#75.
20. A communication from Paola Cappellaro, regarding DHSP Youth Centers Cost.
21. A communication from Tris Anzells-Hopson, regarding after-school tuition.
22. A communication from Alex Gourevitch, regarding after-school pricing.
23. A communication from Michelle Izadi, regarding Youth center price raises.
24. A communication from Central Square Tenants Union, regarding PO24#72 & #30 - Is it time for a Tenant-Centric Perspective on Affordable Housing.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Robert J. Medeiros Jr. on his retirement from the Cambridge Public Schools. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
2. Resolution wishing Denise Montgomery a swift recovery. Mayor Simmons
3. Resolution for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program’s 50th Year. Mayor Simmons
4. Congratulations to Lynne Cayford on her retirement from the City of Cambridge. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
5. Congratulations to Firefighter Thomas S. MacNeil on his retirement from the Cambridge Fire Department. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
6. Congratulations to Lois Josimovich on his retirement from the Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers. Councillor Toner

7. Congratulations to Susan Pahigian “Shushie” on her retirement from the City of Cambridge. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on May 21, 2024 to discuss Citizen’s Zoning Petition from Khalida Griffin-Sheperd, et al. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Section 11.206.1 and Subsections 11.206.1 and 11.206.2, Application 2024 #10. [[text of report](#)]  
**Present:** McGovern, Pickett, Siddiqui, Sobrinho-Wheeler  
**Remote Present:** Azeem, Nolan, Toner, Wilson  
**Absent:** Simmons
2. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on May 22, 2024 to discuss a City Council Zoning Petition to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Articles 2.000, 4.000, 5.000, 6.000, 11.000, 13.000, 14.000, 17.000, 20.000, and 22.000, Application 2024 #12. The Committee voted to send the Petition as amended to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation to Pass to a 2nd Reading. [[text of report](#)]  
**Present:** McGovern, Nolan, Pickett, Wilson, Simmons  
**Remote Present:** Siddiqui, Sobrinho-Wheeler  
**Absent:** Azeem, Toner
- A. An Ordinance has been received from the Ordinance Committee, relative to proposed: Zoning Petition to amend Articles 2.000, 4.000, 5.000, 6.000, 11.000, 13.000, 14.000, 17.000, 20.000, and 22.000 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. (ORD24#2)
3. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on May 28, 2024 to discuss Citizen’s Zoning Petition by Joseph S. Ronayne et al. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Articles 4, 5, and 8, AP24#14. The Committee voted to send the Petition back to the full City Council with a recommendation that it be sent to the Housing Committee. [[text of report](#)]  
**Present:** McGovern, Nolan, Pickett, Siddiqui, Toner, Wilson, Simmons  
**Remote Present:** Azeem  
**Absent:** Sobrinho-Wheeler

## COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF24#82)

## HEARING SCHEDULE

### Mon, June 10

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Wed, June 12

2:00pm The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Utilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss municipal broadband.

### Mon, June 17

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Tues, June 18

3:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the first annual Green

Jobs report, as required by the Green Jobs Ordinance, Article III Ch. 2.66.100.

**Mon, June 24**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Tues, June 25**

3:00pm The **Transportation and Public Utilities**

**Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss the micromobility memo prepared by Acting City Solicitor Bayer, for updates from the Community Development Department and Traffic, Parking, and Transportation on related topics and to discuss the next steps.

**Wed, June 26**

1:00pm The **Economic Development and University**

**Relations Committee** will hold a public hearing with Harvard, MIT, and Lesley Universities to receive their “Town Gown” reports and to discuss current and potential programs and partnerships with the City.

**Mon, Aug 5**

5:30pm Special (Midsummer) City Council Meeting

**TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 June 10, 2024

COUNCILLOR PICKETT

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: In 2018, the City developed a 43 building, 13 year municipal facilities improvement plan (MFIP) based on an assessment of all municipal buildings; and

WHEREAS: At the time of the assessment, it was believed the City had five years of deferred maintenance and recent building projects brought before the City Council for funding have been to address deferred maintenance issues; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has recently passed significant new climate resiliency standards and the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) which have implications for the facilities improvement plan; and

WHEREAS: Maintaining high performing facilities is critically important for the public, staff and occupants of these buildings and should be one of the highest priorities; and

WHEREAS: Estimated costs for capital projects have increased greatly due to the lingering impacts of COVID, high inflation and supply chain challenges; and

WHEREAS: The City is focused on moderating its capital spending and will need to set priorities over the next several years; now therefore be it

ORDERED: The City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update to the MFIP including revised cost estimates to help inform the FY26 and ongoing capital budget priorities in a timely manner.

O-2 June 10, 2024

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is currently in the process of planning a major reconstruction project of the BU Rotary/Reid Overpass, which will have significant impacts on the Cambridgeport neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association has asked MassDOT to enhance their civic engagement efforts on this project, including specific requests for a project web page and a community meeting once MassDOT’s design consultant has completed their initial technical analysis and alternatives evaluation, before they undertake any significant engineering or design work; and

WHEREAS: In their typical process, MassDOT would not have a public meeting for this project until the 25% design hearing, at which time MassDOT would have already selected a design approach and invested significant time and money into design development; and

WHEREAS: By that point, MassDOT would be very reluctant to have meaningful engagement with the residents of Cambridge and Cambridgeport about a project that will have major effects on our city and our neighborhood for the next century; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record requesting that MassDOT begin engaging with Cambridge residents and the Cambridgeport neighborhood early and often throughout this process; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary of MassDOT, Governor Maura Healey, and the Cambridge delegation in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate.

O-3 June 10, 2024

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR PICKETT

WHEREAS: Local newspapers across the country are disappearing at an alarming rate: [Almost 2,900 newspapers have ceased operations since 2005](#) – a reduction of about 30%, and more than half of U.S. counties can now be defined as “local news deserts,” where residents have little to no access to a reliable local news source; and

WHEREAS: Marketing dollars moving away from traditional print advertising and into digital is partly to blame, with Pew Research Center’s [most recent data](#) estimating a drop of advertising revenues for papers nationwide from almost \$50 billion in 2005 to less than \$10 billion in 2022; and

WHEREAS: A study from [Pen America](#) outlines the effect of news deserts on our democracy, citing that citizens are less likely to run for office, significantly less likely to vote, [more susceptible to misinformation](#), and [at a higher risk of polarization](#); and

WHEREAS: Reporting from [Democracy Fund](#) describes higher taxes and higher municipal borrowing costs in communities without local news, as well as less efficient government, and less accountability among local leaders; and

WHEREAS: Despite its reputation for higher education and innovation, Cambridge is one of the many local news markets at risk following the retiring of all full-time local reporters at the generations-old, now Gannett-owned *Cambridge Chronicle* in 2021; and

WHEREAS: Local print news principally comes from the *Cambridge Day*, run by Marc Levy, as well as some metro coverage provided by *The Harvard Crimson* during the school year, with a few smaller publications publishing more niche or politically motivated content; and

WHEREAS: The council passed a [policy order](#) last term that asked for legal notices to be published in online newspapers, which is now a large revenue source for the *Cambridge Day*; and

WHEREAS: Local news is a public good and therefore is something reasonable to support with public funds while maintaining editorial freedom through a separation of government influence; and

WHEREAS: John Palfrey, president of the MacArthur Foundation and a leading figure for the Press Forward funding coalition, says: “For local news to be sustainable over the long term, communities will need to stand up and support their local news providers. We all need to invest in local news, the same way that we invest in arts and culture, hospitals, or our alma maters.”; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to support local news production as a public good by conducting a \$100,000 per year city-backed news fund pilot for up to three years to be administered through an independent intermediary that will decide on funding criteria and selection of local newspapers that provide material coverage of Cambridge news and report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-4 June 10, 2024

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Fenway Health has [recently announced](#) the impending closure of its Boomerangs thrift store, a beloved fixture in Central Square since the mid-1990s; and

WHEREAS: Boomerangs was established by AIDS Action, now part of Fenway Health’s Public Health Division, with the mission of supporting HIV care and services through its thrift store operations, and for two decades the shop raised significant funds for HIV services, but Fenway Health [has noted](#) that the stores have experienced substantial financial losses over the past six years, leading to the organization’s decision to close the Central Square shop as well as other locations; and

WHEREAS: The Central Square Boomerangs thrift store has been a cherished part of the Cambridge community, providing not only affordable goods but also a sense of

community and support for local residents, and the closure of this location has caused considerable grief and sadness among community members who have long relied upon and cherished this store; and

WHEREAS: Fenway Health has acknowledged the impact of these closures upon the approximately 50 employees and upon the broader Cambridge community, but it has not shared whether other options to keep the shops open may have been explored, nor whether a better method of communicating the reasons behind the closures to a community that is feeling the loss of this hub could yet be pursued; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record urging Fenway Health to reconsider the closure of the Central Square Boomerangs thrift store, that the organization is requested to provide a detailed explanation to the community regarding the reasons for the closure of these thrift stores, and that the organization is requested to explore all possible alternatives to maintain this vital community resource; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Fenway Health on behalf of the entire City Council.