

## CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a federal update including an update on relevant court cases. (CM25#190) [[text of report](#)]
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to an update on Teamster strike and Republic Services. (CM25#191) [[text of report](#)]
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a request for the City Council to authorize the Purchasing Agent to award a contract for 5 years with an option to renew for an additional 5 years to the successful bidder on the Flexible Spending Services Bid. (CM25#192)
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointments of members to the **Commercial Parking Control Committee** (CPCC). [Nathaniel Kay, Casey Szilagyi, Dana Ray Bullister, Jacqueline Palavicino, Patrick Magee] (CM25#193)
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$704,800, received from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Community Mitigation Fund to the Grant Fund Community Development Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$39,300); the Grant Fund Community Development Department Salaries and Wages account (\$75,000); the Grant Fund Community Development Department Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$12,000); the Grant Fund Community Development Department Travel and Training account (\$1,000); the Grant Fund Arts Council Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$235,100); the Grant Fund Police Salaries and Wages account (\$112,400); the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$48,000); the Grant Fund Fire Travel and Training account (\$32,000); and the Grant Fund Transportation Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$150,000). (CM25#194)
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$16,600 to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Salaries and Wages account (\$14,500) and to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,475) and to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Travel and Training (\$625). The funds will be used to support financial assistance to educate and inform the public about the city's architectural and social history through presentations to children and adults, publications, technical assistance, and an archive and noncirculating reference library. (CM25#195)
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item #25-15 regarding the creation of plaque upholding the separation of church and state and gender equality. (CM25#196)
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of **John Nardone** as a member of the **Community Preservation Act Committee** (CPAC) for a term of five years. (CM25#197)
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-28, regarding an update on the status of potential civilian flagger operations in the Cambridge Police Union contract. (CM25#198)
10. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$30,000, received from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Jail Diversion Program, to the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$30,000). This appropriation if approved represents funding through the first quarter of FY26. These funds, if approved will enable the department to continue the current co-response program with one clinician through September 2025. (CM25#199)
11. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$263,815 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salaries and Wages account (\$242,282), and to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$21,533). Funds will be used to support the cost of 6 full-time staff and 1 part-time staff salaries. Additional funds will support Text-a Tip Fatherhood campaign, workshops, events, consultants, and program supplies. (CM25#200)
12. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$46,000 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salaries and Wages account (\$32,395), and to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$13,605). This is a grant that DHSP has received for many years. Funds will be used to support the cost of 3 full-time staff salaries; food for parenting support programming (parent/child activity snacks, parent education series, and community building events); program supplies; and staff training. (CM25#201)
13. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,089,817 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salaries and Wages account (\$1,061,599), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$27,018), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$1,200). (CM25#202)
14. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,437,938, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$19,720), and to the Grant Fund

- Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,418,218). This grant was awarded under the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Continuum of Care Program competition. The Continuum of Care Program is authorized by the HEARTH Act of 2009. The Continuum of Care Program funds will be contracted with homeless services providers and cover the costs related to serving homeless persons. (CM25#203)
15. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$2,161.22 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$1,261.22), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$900). The funds, received by the Friends of the CLC through a First Literacy mini-grant will be used to support an ESOL part-time teacher/advisor to offer the Eco Club class to CLC students, as well as pay for incentives for students who participate in the Student Leadership project this year. (CM25#204)
  16. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a request for approval to seek authorization from the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (the “IG”) for the City to use the Construction Manager at Risk (“CMaR”) procurement and construction method (the “CMaR Method”) in connection with the First Street Garage Life Safety Priority Project. (CM25#205) [\[text of report\]](#)
  17. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$500,000, from the General Fund Employee Benefits Salaries and Wages Account to the General Fund Employee Benefits Travel and Training Account. Funds will be used to cover the costs of anticipated payments of workers compensation medical bills for personnel injured in the course of their job, through the end of FY26. (CM25#206)
  18. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-37, regarding full and open access to Linear Path at Westley Avenue. (CM25#207)
  19. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-26, regarding a list of public and private spaces available to the public, indoors and outdoors. (CM25#208) [\[text of report\]](#)
  20. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the submission of the 2025 Affordable Housing Overlay Annual Report. (CM25#209) [\[text of report\]](#)
  21. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-35, regarding a request that the City Manager explore and establish a City of Cambridge Electronic Records Archiving Policy. (CM25#210) [\[text of report\]](#)
  22. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-36, regarding a further response to the request that the exception language in Chapter 2.129.040 Section J of the Cambridge Municipal Code be revised with language clarifying that Cambridge city employees shall not participate in federal immigration enforcement operations and that the sole role of Cambridge city employees during any action by ICE is only to protect public safety and not to assist or facilitate the work of ICE. (CM25#211) [\[text of report\]](#)
  23. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report regarding the Marasao, et al., Zoning Petition (Religious Uses). (CM25#212) [\[text of report\]](#)
  24. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Order Number 25-101, regarding Marasao, et al., Zoning Petition. (CM25#213) [\[text of report\]](#)

**ORDERS**

1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department, in collaboration with the Finance Department, to conduct a comprehensive review of current permitting fees for residential development projects, with a focus on identifying opportunities to create a tiered fee structure that reduces or eliminates fees entirely particularly for smaller-scale and affordable housing developments. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Azeem (PO25#106)
2. That the City Manager is requested to allocate \$25,000 in feasibility funds to support an exploratory process – potentially including stakeholder engagement, legal and technical assessments, and community outreach – to evaluate the creation of a Business Improvement District in Porter Square. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Wilson (PO25#107)
3. That the City Manager is requested to coordinate with the Community Safety Department, the Cambridge Police Department, and other relevant parties to ensure that the overnight use of the garden area between St. James Episcopal Church and the Beech Street condos is actively monitored. Mayor Simmons, Councillor Toner (PO25#108)
4. Declaring August 9, 2025, as Rocky Horror Day in the City of Cambridge. Vice Mayor McGovern, Mayor Simmons (PO25#109)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Works, and any other relevant City departments to develop a plan to install needle drop boxes in identified problem areas throughout the city. Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson (PO25#110)

6. City Council support of Representative McGovern Resolution on nuclear deproliferation. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#111)
7. That the City Council go on record urging Governor of the Commonwealth Maura Healey and the Massachusetts Legislature to act without delay to safeguard the constitutional rights of indigent defendants and preserve the integrity of the Commonwealth's criminal justice system by increasing compensation rates for bar advocates to ensure adequate participation statewide, and establishing pay parity with neighboring states and competitive future rates to prevent recurring crises. Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Wilson, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#112)
8. Recognizing August as National Black Business Month 2025. Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons (PO25#113)

#### **ON THE TABLE**

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-22, regarding a request to work with the School Department, the Department of Public Works, and other relevant departments to open the publicly owned parking at the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper School Complex for either residential free parking or commercial parking opportunities during "off" hours. [Tabled – May 5, 2025] (CM25#113)
2. That the City Manager is requested to explore with the Government Operations Committee whether the functions of the Peace Commission may be improved and enhanced by bringing them within another City Commission or Department, such as the Human Rights Commission, and report back in a timely manner. [Charter Right – Simmons, May 19, 2025; Tabled June 2, 2025] (PO25#76)
3. That the City Council go on record thanking SEIU 32BJ for their vigilance, partnership and advocacy on behalf of unionized workers. [Charter Right – Simmons, June 16, 2025; Tabled – June 23, 2025]
4. That the City Council go on record expressing its profound disappointment over Apex Clean Energy's decision to forgo the use of local union labor on the Bowman Wind Project. [Tabled as Amended June 23, 2025] (PO25#94)

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a revised draft of the "Eastern Cambridge Community Enhancements" Zoning Petition. [Placed on Unfinished Business, June 9, 2025] (CM25#153)
6. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to East Cambridge Community Enhancement Overlay District ("ECCE Overlay District"), which is governed by the regulations and procedures specified in this Section 20.1200. It is the intent of this Section that these regulations

will apply to land within the ECCE Overlay District. [Passed to 2nd Reading, June 9, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained June 30, 2025; Expires Aug 18, 2025] (ORD25#10)

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-36, regarding a request that the language of the Welcoming Community Ordinance be amended to clarify that City employees shall not participate in federal immigration enforcement operations and that the sole role of City employees during any action by ICE is only to protect public safety, and be amended to clarify that if Cambridge Police Department Officers respond to the scene of ICE action, CPD Officers should document the actions of ICE including their badge numbers. [Passed to 2nd Reading, Referred to Ordinance Committee June 30, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained July 21, 2025] (CM25#181)
8. An Ordinance has been received from Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk, relative the Mushla Marasao et al Zoning petition in regard to Article 5.28.21, 8.22.1, 8.22.2, Tbl 5.1. [Passed to 2nd Reading June 30, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained July 21, 2025; Expires Aug 18, 2025] (ORD25#12)
9. An Ordinance has been received from Interim City Clerk Paula M. Crane, relative to Chapter 2.129 Welcoming Community. [Passed to 2nd Reading June 30, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained July 21, 2025] (ORD25#13)

#### **APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. An application was received from Lucas Ingemi, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 9 Vincent Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association. (AP25#28)
2. An application was received from Meaghan Moriarty representing 212 Kitchen, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 212 Western Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters. (AP25#29)
3. An application was received from Craig Murphy representing Charles Schwab, requesting permission for a projecting blade sign at the premises numbered 1430 Massachusetts Avenue. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailing. (AP25#30)
4. A Zoning Petition has been received from Martin Bakal in regard to Table 4.30, Sec. 4.40 Footnote with the intent of Restrictions on increasing pavement in Open Space Districts. (AP25#31) [[text of petition](#)]

## COMMUNICATIONS

1. Abigail Lewis-Bowen, re: Please support community benefits earmarked for the East End House.
2. Anne, Anand and Rowan Sundaram, re: Please don't lose the historic Cambridge areas.
3. Audrey Cunningham, re: 320 Charles Community Benefits.
4. Brendan Hickey, re: Commission appointments.
5. Brinda Kirpalani, re: Community Benefits Fund.
6. Darrin Korte, Cambridge Community Center, Community Art Center, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, and The Dance Complex, re: Response to Representative Mike Connolly's Letter to City Council.
7. Cathleen Higgins, re: Please vote to delay the deal negotiated with Biomed Realty, in order to engage in a fairer, more equitable process.
8. Chuck Hinds, re: East Cambridge Community Enhancement Overlay District (UB#6).
9. Chuck Hinds, re: Support for the East End House (UB#6).
10. Dan Totten, re: community benefits and the inclusionary zoning percentage.
11. David Halperin, re: Inclusionary Housing Study.
12. David Hattis, re: In Support of Adjusting Inclusionary Zoning.
13. Elena Saporta, re: Equitable distribution of Public Benefit Dollars.
14. Elise Moore, re: PO#5: Request for a formal report on the 100+demolition requests now pending before the Historical Commission.
15. Esther Hanig, re: Slow and review allocation of funds to local nonprofits.
16. Esther Hanig, re: Support for the East End House (UB#6).
17. Ethan Frank, re: Strong Support for Pedestrianization of Bow Street.
18. Fred Fantini, re: comments regarding support for BioMed project.
19. Gerald Bergman, re: Universal pre-kindergarten.
20. Janet Stein, re: Transparency needed on process for Community Benefits Funds allocation.
21. Justin Saif, re: Support for East End House and making IZ work.
22. Lee Farris, re: Support for the East End House (UB#6).
23. Lisa Glover, re: Please support PO#5.
24. Mark Kon, re: strong concerns about mis-direction of Cambridge, Protection of Historic Neighborhoods.
25. Mary Ann Donofrio, re: Money being allocated to the East End House.
26. Matt Connolly, re: Linden Park Letter re: BioMed Petition for 320 Charles Street.
27. Michael Sellers, re: CM25#180.
28. O. Robert Simha, re: Bio-Med Zoning Petition (AP25#14).
29. Ozan Dokmecioglu, re: Council Letter - DND Homes LLC.
30. Patrick W. Barrett III, re: CM25#180, Support for the Reduction of Inclusionary Zoning Requirements.
31. Rep. Mike Connolly, re: Support for the East End House (UB#6).
32. Ronald Suleski, re: I do not like demolitions.
33. Rosalyn Grunmann, re: OPPOSE another Linear Park entrance at Westley.
34. Tim Rowe, re: Letter for inclusion in the packet for tomorrow's council meeting.
35. Rosalind Michahelles, re: Preservation not demolition!
36. Priscilla Sanville, re: Statement ORD25#10 for record.
37. Geeta Pradhan, re: Community Benefits Ordinance concerns related to the East Cambridge Funding Proposal.
38. Helen Abraham, re: Concern About Affordable Housing Over 100 Demolitions.
39. Jacqui Fahey Sandell, re: Please support PO#5.
40. Quinton Zondervan, re: The incredible story of the East End House (and the unfortunate fight between local nonprofits over the effort to save it).
41. Guillemette Simmers, re: PO#5.
42. The Title IX Aurelia Advocates, re: An open letter from the Title IX Aurelia Advocates.
43. Ilan Levy, re: City Council comments and Petition Against Biomed Realty proposed East Cambridge Enhancement Overlay District.
44. Sharmil Modi, re: East End House + Inclusionary Zoning.
45. Sergey Petrov, re: East End House.
46. Lee Farris, re: Support for Welcoming Communities changes, CM#5.
47. Lee Farris, re: Support for the East End House, and a new benefit process.
48. Lee Farris, re: Maintain current Inclusionary 20% rate, consider Capital funding.
49. Heather Hoffman, re: Bus routes have already been changing.
50. Catherine Coleman, re: Two abandoned properties on Upper Rindge Avenue.
51. Christopher Bar, re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Development at 44 Russell Street and Zoning Ordinance Impacts.
52. Ed Bacher, re: Concerns about proposed development at 70 Walden Street.
53. Federico Muchnik, re: 21 Walden Square Road in North Cambridge.
54. Janet Stein, re: horrified by ICE and DHS tactics.
55. Jeffrey Singer, re: Mt Auburn St condo demolition.
56. John O'Reilly, re: Median Boston-area home price hits \$1M for single-family - Boston Business Journal.
57. Nua Nicaj, re: Oversized Development at 70 Walden Street.
58. Ovadia R Simha, re: East Cambridge Community Enhancement Overlay District (ECCE) Petition.
59. Tara R Greco, re: why Cambridge has filled only 17 of 48 affordable units in nine months since 40 Thorndike tower opened.
60. Julie Craven, re: Petition to City Council for Mon, July 28 agenda.
61. Ovadia R Simha, re: East Cambridge Community Enhancement Overlay District Petition.
62. Audrey Cunningham, re: Promise to East End House.
63. Arthur Strang, re: What do we know about our non-resident participants in the Cambridge Housing Market.

64. Nicolai Cauchy, re: Water concerns – should not large scale developers pay an additional fee for water?

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Angela Orangio on her retirement from the Cambridge Health Alliance. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons
2. Resolution on the 90th Birthday of Mary (Miano) DiClemente. Vice Mayor McGovern
3. Happy 100th Birthday to Retired Cambridge Police Officer Nicholas “Nick” Arancio. Councillor Toner
4. Congratulations to Robert Sarchioni and Sarchioni’s Variety for 47 years of service to the community and wishes him well in his retirement. Councillor Toner
5. Condolences to the family of William Bruce “Bill” King. Mayor Simmons, Councillor Toner
6. Resolution on the death of Tom Lehrer. Mayor Simmons
7. Condolences on the death of Maria Cinira (Silva) Vicente. Councillor Toner
8. Condolences to the family of Margaret “Peggy” Mickle. Mayor Simmons
9. Retirement of Dr. Lisa Dobberteen from the Cambridge Public Health Department. Vice Mayor McGovern
10. Resolution on the death of Elizabeth Oberhauser Bohart. Vice Mayor McGovern
11. Condolences on the death of Patricia M. (Kennedy) Boyle. Councillor Toner

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Human Services and Veterans Committee** held a public hearing on May 28, 2025 to discuss PO25#48 on sex trafficking. This hearing allowed for stakeholders and other community members to raise awareness and share resources to keeping individuals safe and free of harm. [\[text of report\]](#)
2. The **Public Safety Committee** held a public hearing on June 2, 2025 for an update and review of the Cambridge Police Department’s use of “Shot-Spotter” technology. [\[text of report\]](#)
3. The **Civic Unity Committee** held a public hearing on June 11, 2025 to discuss how Cambridge can proactively prepare for the growing challenges associated with elder care. The discussion focused on critical areas including: senior housing needs, equitable access to medical and mental health care, and the mounting shortages in the healthcare workforce that impact elder services. [\[text of report\]](#)
4. The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** and the **Housing Committee** held a joint public hearing on June 17, 2025 to discuss draft zoning recommendations for Cambridge Street and Massachusetts Avenue. [\[text of report\]](#)

5. The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** and the **Transportation and Public Utilities Committee** held a joint public hearing on June 18, 2025 to help define a study, including its focus, areas of consideration and expected outcomes to identify service gaps and potential improvements in the public transit and shuttle network in the city. [\[text of report\]](#)
6. The **Economic Development and University Relations Committee** held a public hearing on June 23, 2025 for the purpose of inviting representatives from the 23 long term vacant properties (defined as has been vacant for more than five years) on the record, to share updates on their tenancy efforts, short and long-term plans, and to provide the community with an opportunity to weigh in on this important discussion. (PO25#49) [\[text of report\]](#)
7. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on July 28, 2025 to discuss updates to the City’s Welcoming Community Ordinance. The Committee voted favorably to forward the proposed amendments to the Welcoming Community Ordinance to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. [\[text of report\]](#)

## COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#104)
2. A communication was received from City Solicitor Megan B. Bayer, transmitting proposed response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint from Charles Teague along with a copy of the Complaint. (COF25#105)

## HEARING SCHEDULE

### Mon, Aug 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Tues, Aug 12

12:00pm The **Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee** will hold a public meeting to discuss the City’s community engagement function, share updates on its structure and direction, and hear from the City Council about their values, priorities, and expectations for engaging with community members.

### Thurs, Aug 14

2:00pm The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss policy options presented by city staff to regulate maximum unit sizes to ensure that the City’s zoning ordinances incentivize the creation of housing.

### Wed, Aug 27

3:30pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on a Zoning Petition by the Cambridge City Council to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Article 4.000 with the intent to amend Section 4.60.

### Mon, Sept 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Sept 15**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Sept 29**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Oct 6**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Oct 20**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Oct 27**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Nov 3**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Nov 10**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Nov 17**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Nov 24**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 1**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 8**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 15**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 22**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Mon, Dec 29**

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 Aug 4, 2025

COUNCILLOR TONER

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR WILSON

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge faces a critical shortage of housing, exacerbating affordability challenges for residents across income levels; and

WHEREAS: High permitting fees disproportionately burden smaller residential developments, limiting the ability of local developers to contribute to the housing supply; and

WHEREAS: Reducing or eliminating permitting fees for residential projects, including exempting multifamily projects from building permit fees as highlighted in the memo sent to the Council on June 30th, 2025, from Melissa Peters, Assistant City Manager for Community Development and Chris Cotter, Director of Housing wherein it states:

*“Exempting Multifamily Projects from Building Permit Fees Building permit fees are a smaller but still significant cost for multifamily developers. Multifamily projects pay a fee of \$20 for every \$1,000 of estimated construction cost. Reducing building permit costs could also assist with making new development more financially feasible.”*; and

WHEREAS: Exempting residential projects from building permit fees is a targeted action to reduce financial burdens on housing developers, thereby incentivizing the construction of multifamily housing to address the housing crisis; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department, in collaboration with the Finance Department, to conduct a comprehensive review of current permitting fees for residential development projects, with a focus on identifying opportunities to create a tiered fee structure that reduces or eliminates fees entirely particularly for smaller-scale and affordable housing developments; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with a response and recommendations with a proposed implementation plan by September 15, 2025; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City of Cambridge reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing housing development as a critical means of addressing the housing crisis and fostering an inclusive vibrant community.

O-2 Aug 4, 2025

COUNCILLOR TONER

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: Porter Square is home to over 150 independent retail shops, restaurants, and services, contributing to the economic and cultural vibrancy of North Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The Porter Square area is facing increasing quality-of-life issues that impact both residents and business, including public space management, safety, cleanliness, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS: Unlike other commercial areas in Cambridge, Porter Square currently lacks a formal business association or entity that advocates for or coordinates on behalf of its diverse business community; and

WHEREAS: The district contains key institutional and commercial landmarks, including Lesley University, multiple hotels, shopping plazas, and active transit connections, that could serve as natural anchors in the formation of a BID; and

WHEREAS: North Massachusetts Avenue is currently under consideration for rezoning, making this an important time to proactively plan for long-term district management and economic development; and

WHEREAS: Members of BIDs enjoy many benefits as a result of sharing resources, such as coordinated marketing strategies, increased foot traffic and a healthier retail environment; and

WHEREAS: BIDs are integral in improving communities by putting on events, coordinating seasonal decorations, maintaining cleanliness and safety of streets, connecting community members with social services, and creating a more inviting environment for both residents and visitors by emphasizing “place-making”; and

WHEREAS: The success of the Central Square Business Improvement District has shown that a BID can provide a sustainable model for district maintenance, promotion, safety, and economic stewardship; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in support of exploring the feasibility of forming a Business Improvement District (BID) in Porter Square; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to allocate \$25,000 in feasibility funds to support an exploratory process – potentially including stakeholder engagement, legal and technical assessments, and community outreach – to evaluate the creation of a Business Improvement District in Porter Square.

O-3 Aug 4, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS  
COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: There has been a longstanding and worsening set of concerns stemming from the nightly congregation of unhoused individuals on the front porch and garden areas between St. James Episcopal Church and the Beech Street condominiums along Massachusetts Avenue; and

WHEREAS: Members of that condominium community have consistently reported significant and repeated overnight disturbances, including overnight occupancy, increased drug use and transactions, noise, and unsafe conditions in both the porch and garden areas; and

WHEREAS: The porch area is church-owned property, and St. James Episcopal Church has expressed a strong commitment to its mission of offering sanctuary to those in need, including permitting unhoused individuals to seek rest overnight in this space – yet there are concerns that without proper oversight, members of the public may also utilize the garden space during those hours; and

WHEREAS: The garden area adjacent to the property is considered condominium-owned open space that is open to the public only between sunrise and sunset and is explicitly off-limits at night — yet it has become a site of increasing overnight occupation and problematic activity; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Police Department has indicated that enforcement in and around private property—particularly faith-based spaces—requires careful coordination, and that the current legal thresholds limit intervention absent specific encampment criteria or violations of trespass law; and

WHEREAS: Mediation efforts are scheduled between the church and the condominium association regarding use of the porch area, yet the question of how the City and the church will address enforcement in the garden area remains unresolved; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to coordinate with the Community Safety Department, the Cambridge Police Department, and other relevant parties to ensure that the overnight use of the garden area between St. James Episcopal Church and the Beech Street condos is actively monitored and that appropriate actions are taken in such a way that balances public safety considerations with the humanitarian values that guide our city; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with an outline of what additional enforcement tools may be needed to allow the City to better respond to this matter, and to similar situations involving overlapping public-private spaces where significant health and safety concerns are being raised; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter no later than October 1, 2025.

O-4 Aug 4, 2025

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN  
MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The Harvard Square Theatre, originally known as the University Theatre, opened in 1926 and remained operational until 2012; and

WHEREAS: The theatre showcased films and hosted concerts and performances by legendary artists including Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, David Bowie, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Iggy Pop, Hall & Oates, and The Clash; and

WHEREAS: Harvard Square is not only recognized for its rich history and academic institutions but also for its vibrant museums and performing arts scene; and

WHEREAS: In addition to live performances and new film releases, the Harvard Square Theatre was home to weekly midnight screenings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*; and

WHEREAS: This beloved tradition began in 1984, when the screenings moved from Boston's Exeter Street Theatre to Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The Harvard Square Theatre also hosted the first *Rocky Horror* stage production in the United States, performed by a full-body cast; and

WHEREAS: When the theatre closed in 2012, it brought to a close *Rocky Horror*'s 28-year run with over 1,500 screenings; and

WHEREAS: The Harvard Square Business Association continues to honor the spirit of *Rocky Horror*, most recently partnering with Moonbox Productions to bring live theatrical pop-ups to vacant storefronts; and

WHEREAS: The iconic Harvard Square Theatre will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record congratulating the Harvard Square Business Association for keeping the *Time Warp* alive and declaring August 9, 2025, as *Rocky Horror Day* in the City of Cambridge.

O-5 Aug 4, 2025

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI  
COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: Substance Use Disorder continues to impact cities across the country, including the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Many individuals struggling with this disorder use substances through injection, leading to the improper disposal of needles; and

WHEREAS: The City has received numerous complaints from residents about needles being found in playgrounds, parks, and public squares; and

WHEREAS: Between July 2024 and July 2025, the Central Square Business Improvement District collected 85,000 discarded needles in Central Square alone, including an average of 6,000 needles per month from the drop box located on Green Street; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Works, and any other relevant City departments to develop a plan to install needle drop boxes in identified problem areas throughout the city and report back to the City Council.

O-6 Aug 4, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN  
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council continues to support Policy Order [PO21#195](#), adopted on September 20, 2021 that

urges the United States Congress to fulfill its obligation to prevent nuclear war, as outlined in the [Back from the Brink](#) campaign; and

WHEREAS: The prospect of nuclear war seems far removed from Cambridge and the likelihood of effect on Cambridge a seemingly remote possibility, the impact of using even a tiny fraction of these weapons would dramatically affect the City and could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; and

WHEREAS: Despite advances in monitoring and treaties, the potential for catastrophe is ever present for nuclear war, and the economic implications and federal budget allocations prevent spending on needed social programs including funding that would go to states and cities; and

WHEREAS: Since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but some 12,000 nuclear weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

WHEREAS: The United States and Russia, together possess an estimated 95 percent of these weapons, and should meet their obligations under Article VI of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”; and

WHEREAS: Rep. James McGovern and at least 26 other Representatives have submitted [H. Res. 317](#), a resolution calling for the President and other elected officials to the House of Representatives to:

- (1) actively pursue a world free of nuclear weapons as a national security imperative; and
- (2) lead a global effort to move the world back from the nuclear brink, halt and reverse a global nuclear arms race, and prevent nuclear war; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record in support of H. Res. 317 and hereby requests that Representatives Katherine Clark and Ayanna Pressley co-sponsor and lead support of Rep. McGovern’s H. Res. 317; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council hereby requests that Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Edward Markey introduce a companion resolution in the Senate to H. Res. 317; and be it further

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

O-7 Aug 4, 2025

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR WILSON

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The 6th Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article XII of the Massachusetts Constitution guarantee the right to counsel in a criminal proceeding; and

WHEREAS: In Massachusetts, approximately 80% of criminal defendants qualify as indigent and rely on court-appointed counsel, provided either by public defenders employed by the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) or by private attorneys known as bar advocates who handle a majority of these cases statewide; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge District Court and Middlesex County courts serve hundreds of Cambridge residents each year who depend on this system to exercise their constitutional right to a fair trial; and

WHEREAS: Bar advocates are currently paid \$65/hour for District Court cases and \$85/hour for Superior Court cases – the lowest rates in New England – despite bearing their own costs for office space, malpractice insurance, health coverage, retirement contributions, case preparation, and other expenses; and

WHEREAS: Due to these uncompetitive rates, hundreds of bar advocates – including many who regularly serve Cambridge courts – [have been unable to accept new cases since May 2025](#), leaving over 1,300 defendants statewide without counsel, including over 100 individuals held in custody; and

WHEREAS: Under the Lavallee protocol, defendants who lack appointed counsel must be released after seven days in custody and have their cases dismissed after forty-five days, including cases involving domestic violence, assaults on police officers, and other serious offenses; and

WHEREAS: When defendants are left without counsel, innocent people may be unable to preserve critical evidence or secure witness testimony that would prove their innocence, resulting in permanent harm to their ability to receive a fair trial; and

WHEREAS: These dismissals and delays undermine public safety, the rights of victims, the integrity of local courts, and disproportionately harm vulnerable populations, including juveniles; and

WHEREAS: A functioning indigent defense system is essential to ensuring fairness, public confidence, and equal access to justice for all residents; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging Governor of the Commonwealth Maura Healey and the Massachusetts Legislature to act without delay to safeguard the constitutional rights of indigent defendants and preserve the integrity of the Commonwealth’s criminal justice system by increasing compensation rates for bar advocates to ensure adequate participation statewide, and establishing pay parity with neighboring states and competitive future rates to prevent recurring crises; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Governor Maura Healey and Cambridge’s state legislative delegation.

O-8 Aug 4, 2025

COUNCILLOR WILSON

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The month of August was first designated as National Black Business Month in the year 2004, due to the dedicated advocacy of historian John William Templeton and entrepreneur Fredrick E. Jordan; and

WHEREAS: Since the creation of this designation, each August provides us with an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and support black-owned business and entrepreneurs throughout our nation and within our local community; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge, our neighbors, and our visitors, can easily take part in Black Business Month at the [following community events](#) organized to highlight the Black owned businesses of Cambridge,

- Small Business Open House on City Services, Mon 8/11/25, 11:00am-1:00pm; LOCATION: Cambridge Public Library, Central Square Branch, 45 Pearl St.
- National Black Business Month Kickoff Networking Event, Tues 8/12/25, 4:00-6:00pm; LOCATION: BRED Cambridge, 730 Main St.
- Speed Networking for Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs, Wed 8/13/25, 12:15-1:00pm; LOCATION: MIT Open Space, 292 Main St.
- CSBBN National Black Business Month Reception, Tues 8/19/25, 6:00-8:30pm; LOCATION: 1175 Cambridge St.
- Vendor Fest at the 6th Annual “Everybody Gotta Eat BBQ”, Sun 8/24/25, 12:00 (noon) - 6:00pm; LOCATION: Greene-Rose Heritage Park, 155 Harvard St., Cambridge

WHEREAS: The significance of National Black Business Month, and the importance of Black wealth creation, rests on the inherent connection that exists between Black American’s personal freedom and economic agency, and

WHEREAS: Pursuing justice with this understanding has been central to each advancement towards racial equality in the United States, and

WHEREAS: The initiative of our local Black businesses today, and the quality goods and services they provide to our community is worthy of recognition; now therefore be it

ORDERED: The Council recognizes August as National Black Business month, celebrates the contributions Black businesses make to our local economy, and appreciates the meaningful role these Black entrepreneurs have in the cause of equality and the advancement of a more just future.