



# ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Monday, July 28, 2025

1:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber

**The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss updates to the City's Welcoming City Ordinance**

| Attendee Name          | Present                             | Absent                              | Late                     | Arrived |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Burhan Azeem           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| Marc C. McGovern       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| Patricia Nolan         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| Sumbul Siddiqui        | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| Paul F. Toner          | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:03 PM |
| 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"/> Remote     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Ordinance Committee was held on Monday, July 28, 2025. The meeting was Called to Order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. 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, Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

- Councillor Azeem – Absent
- Vice Mayor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
- Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
- Councillor Siddiqui – Present/Remote
- Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent
- Councillor Toner – Absent\*
- Councillor Wilson – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
- Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
- Mayor Simmons – Present/Remote

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

\*Councillor Toner was present and remote at 1:03p.m.

Vice Mayor McGovern offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to hold a public hearing to discuss the City’s Welcoming Committee Ordinance. Present at the meeting were City Solicitor, Megan Bayer, Police Commissioner, Christine Elow, and Superintendent, Pauline Wells.

**Vice Mayor McGovern opened Public Comment.**

David Sullivan, 16 Notre Dame Avenue, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance language.

Julia Schlozman, 41 Walker Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance language.

Joe Adiletta, 68 Walker Street, Cambridge, MA, shared concerns about the role of Cambridge Police Officers as they relate to ICE interactions.

Laura McMurry, 334 Harvard Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance language.

Daniel Fisher, 25 Bigelow Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance language.

Ayah Al-Zubi, 156 Magazine Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance language and spoke in support of the City creating stronger language.

Laura Rotolo, Center Plaza, Boston, MA, spoke in support of the proposed changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance language.

John Faria, 357 Western Avenue, Cambridge, MA, shared their personal interactions with ICE Agents.

Siobhan McDonough, Walden Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support for stronger language to be drafted for the Welcoming Community Ordinance.

Alex Marthews, 28 Temple Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in support for stronger language to be drafted for the Welcoming Community Ordinance.

John Hawkinson offered proposed suggestions to proposed Section K of the Welcoming Community Ordinance.

LaQueen Battle, 86 Otis Street, Cambridge, MA, offered comments and concerns related to ICE and military veterans.

**Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to close public comment. Clerk of Committees Erwin 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.**

**Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to bring forward the proposed language to the Welcoming Community Ordinance. Clerk of Committees Erwin 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.**

Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Megan Bayer who provided an overview of the proposed language and changes to the Welcoming Community Ordinance, noting that the language was first before the City Council on June 30, 2025. Megan Bayer pointed out that this proposed language was in response to Awaiting Report 25-36, requesting that the language be revised and clarified. Megan Bayer reviewed the language being proposed related to the Cambridge Police Department and Cambridge Police Officers, noting that the role of Police Officers will be to protect the public safety of everyone on scene, and not to do the work of Federal Agents. Additionally, Megan Bayer reviewed proposed Section K, explaining the role of the Police Department Command Staff.

Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Wilson and Councillor Toner who all spoke in strong support of the proposed language, adding that it is important for the community and Officers to remain safe. Councillor Nolan shared that there would be additional proposed changes to Section J that she would like the Committee to review. Councillor Toner shared that he was happy that the Cambridge Police Unions and City Staff were able to come to an agreement on the language. Vice Mayor McGovern thanked Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler and others who worked to bring this proposed language forward. The Vice Mayor agreed with comments made by Committee members, highlighting the importance of confirming Federal Agents are in the City.

**Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to strike language in the last sentence of Section J.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin 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.**

**Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to forward the proposed amendments to the Welcoming Community Ordinance to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin 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.**

**Vice Mayor McGovern recognized Councillor Wilson who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin 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.**

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:48p.m.**

**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/1059?view\\_id=1&redirect=true](https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/1059?view_id=1&redirect=true)

**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 SECOND READING AND REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE IN  
COUNCIL JUNE 30, 2025**

**A communication was received from Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, transmitting proposed changes to Chapter 2.129, Welcoming Community Ordinance.**