



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

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.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Health and Environment Committee was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The meeting was Called to Order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chair, Councillor Nolan. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 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, 2nd 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 – Present/Remote

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Siddiqui – Present/Remote

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Wilson – Absent

Present – 4, Absent – 1. Quorum established.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan offered opening remarks (Attachment A) and noted that the Call of the meeting was to review and discuss the first annual Green Jobs report, as required by the Green Jobs Ordinance, Article III Ch. 2.66.100. Present at the meeting was Iram Farooq, Assistant City Manager for the Community Development Department (CDD), Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning, Susan Mintz, Director of the Office of Workforce Development, Sue Walsh, Assistant Director of Adult and Family Service, and Allyson Allen, Senior Economic Development Manager.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Iram Farooq who offered opening remarks regarding the Green Jobs Ordinance and introduced City Staff that was joining her. Sue Walsh offered an overview of the Green Jobs Initiative Report, which was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. The report included information on industry trends related to clean energy and climate technology in Massachusetts, workforce needs, training and education,

challenges faced filling workforce needs, Green Jobs Initiative hiring positions, and a Green Jobs Specialist workplan.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who had a question on how Green Jobs are being introduced in City run career pathways, such as Cambridge Works and the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. Sue Walsh responded by sharing that programs that are out of the Office of Workforce Development are very individual focused and noted that there are other programs in place, such as the Department of Public Works Apprenticeship Program, that try and meet more of the Green Job needs. Susan Mintz stressed the importance of creating the need to prompt interest in more Green Job opportunities and building career pathways. Iram Farooq offered additional comments on the experience youth are getting with Green Jobs through the Mayor's Program.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan asked what group of people are being addressed for positions when discussing Green Jobs, noting that it is an opportunity for Cambridge youth to take advantage of. Allyson Allen responded and referenced data from a 2021 study which shared that 3,000 is the number of people who can make use of a training program like this. Councillor Nolan offered suggestions on how to better promote the program and having a market plan that is transformative. Councillor Nolan asked if there was any support from the State to help with recruiting and marketing. Sue Walsh responded by sharing information on Mass Clean Energy Center which provides resources and technical assistance and is invested in getting people interested in this line of work. Iram Farooq provided additional comments on collaborating with State partners. Councillor Nolan had clarifying questions about Union Apprenticeships and Mass Regulation. Sue Walsh was able to respond and provide some background information on feedback that is being heard from different Unions, noting that some are on board with opening the doors to a program like this, and that the City is trying to work with the more proactively, as well as providing information on Mass Regulations from the State.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Siddiqui who offered the suggestion on holding a meeting to discuss all the work that is done through the different workforce development programs that are offered in Cambridge. Councillor Siddiqui shared it would be helpful if all the workforce programs worked together and created smart goals. Councillor Nolan agreed with the comments made by Councillor Siddiqui and offered additional suggestions and comments on ways to move forward.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Suzanne Rasmussen who shared that the actions being taken are only helping to create more jobs and opportunities for work in Cambridge.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan offered closing remarks and stressed how important and critical this work is in reaching climate goals and providing opportunities for citizens.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Absent
Yes – 4, No – 1. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:02p.m.

Attachment A – Councillor Nolan opening remarks (not verbatim).

Clerk’s Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/775?view_id=1&redirect=true

A communication was received from Sue Walsh, Assistant Director of Adult and Family Service, transmitting the Green Jobs Initiative Report.

Attachment A

Opening remarks from Councillor Nolan (Not Verbatim)

This meeting is a continuation of our ongoing efforts to address at our local level the climate crisis. The climate crisis will require large scale electrification solutions and those solutions will require a local workforce capable of delivering those electrification solutions. The council passed a Green Jobs Ordinance last year, finalized it in March of 2023 and requires annual reporting. This meeting is the first annual report. I want to note that the Green Jobs Ordinance built on work of more than a decade ago, by the council including Mayor Simmons, who has always championed local efforts to provide opportunities for local jobs and all of the council's interest in good jobs, especially in the clean energy and related fields. The goal of the Green Jobs Ordinance is to prepare Cambridge residents to enter the growing workforce related to combatting the climate crisis. There are thousands of jobs to fill in the areas of HVAC and energy efficiency technology, solar panel installation, green forestry, electric vehicle technology, renewable energy technology, building automation, and more. The hard work of the ordinance is to connect Cambridge residents and prepare them to enter these absolutely essential fields. The City will have to work with unions, job training programs, and other partners to provide pathways to training and employment. Today we will learn more about ongoing work and consider ways to improve the pipeline to these great jobs for Cambridge residents