



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Thursday, June 20, 2024 **1:00 PM** **Remote Meeting**

The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss Amendments to the Tenant's Rights Ordinance recommended by the Law Department.

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"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Joan Pickett	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024. The meeting was Called to Order at 1:00 p.m. by the Co- Chair, Councillor Toner. 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 remote, allowing participation via Zoom.

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

- Councillor Azeem – Absent
- Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent
- Councillor Nolan – Present
- Councillor Pickett – Present
- Councillor Siddiqui – Present
- Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Present
- Councillor Toner – Present
- Councillor Wilson – Absent
- Mayor Simmons – Absent

Present – 5, Absent -4. Quorum established.

Co-Chair Toner offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to discuss amendments to the Tenant’s Rights Ordinance recommended by the Law Department. Present at the meeting was Acting City Solicitor, Megan Bayer, and Housing Liaison, Maura Pensak.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who offered comments on his proposed amendment. The proposed language was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Nolan for clarifying questions on the proposed amendment.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Megan Bayer who offered comments relative to the proposed amendment from Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler and why similar language regarding mailing notices and landlords was not suggested in the proposed language from the Law Department. Maura Pensak provided additional comments to support Megan Bayer.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Siddiqui who offered the suggestion of having mailing notices go out with tax statements to potentially reach landlords and property owners. Co-Chair Toner provided similar comments and agreed there should be a way for the City to reach all residents and landlords by mail. Co-Chair Toner shared it would be important to address a way for the City to reach everyone so they are aware of notices. Megan Bayer provided feedback on Councillors comments and how to move forward in a flexible way to reach the most people and to comply with the City Ordinance.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Pickett who provided suggested language for the proposed amendment from Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Siddiqui who shared that she does like the concept of mailing notices and that the language is broad enough to include different forms of mail but figuring out the “how” to reach everyone is important to in to.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Nolan who offered additional suggestions for the proposed language and asked if the City would be providing the forms for landlords. Maura Pensak shared that the original Ordinance is a guide that has been created that the property owners are to give to their tenants. Councillor Nolan asked if there are any different notices that are required by the State. Maura Pensak responded and shared that the guide includes the basics of the State law of the eviction process. Megan Bayer provided additional information on tenant laws and the City Ordinance. Councillor Nolan stressed the importance of making sure tenants have proper notice.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who made a motion to amend the proposed language from the Law Department by adding “The City shall mail notice of these requirements to every residential address in the City at least annually; this mailing may be a postcard that contains a QR code or other electronic link to the City’s website” after the second sentence.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Pickett – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Absent

Mayor Simmons – Absent

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

Co-Chair Toner made a motion that the Tenant’s Rights Ordinance language proposed by City Staff, as amended, be forwarded to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Pickett – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Absent
Mayor Simmons – Absent
Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.

Co-Chair Toner made a motion to close public comment.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent
Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Pickett – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Absent
Mayor Simmons – Absent
Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.

Co-Chair Toner recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent
Vice Mayor McGovern – Absent
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Pickett – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Absent
Mayor Simmons – Absent
Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:31p.m.

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/778?view_id=1&redirect=true

A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 2024 #12, regarding tenant protections resources.

A communication was received from Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, transmitting a proposed amendment.

8.71.040.2 Notice by the City. The City of Cambridge shall annually publicize the requirements of Chapter 8.71 on the City's website and through other digital City notifications directed at the community, such as daily update e-mails and social media. Also, the City shall annually provide information about the requirements of Chapter 8.71 at a City sponsored community event/program that is organized to provide information about housing resources.

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City may publicize and provide information at events/programs about the requirements of Chapter 8.71 more frequently.