

## 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#215) [[text of report](#)]
2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$10,200 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$8,200) and to the Grant Fund Fire Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$2,000) to provide funds to continue the SAFE Program that educates students in the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment. The amount allocated to salary and wages will cover the overtime costs for the firefighters who participate in the program. (CM25#216)
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$3,100 to the Grant Fund Fire Salaries and Wages account (\$3,100) to provide funds for the Senior SAFE Program that educates seniors in the dangers of fire and its effect on people, property, and the environment. The amount allocated to salary and wages will cover the overtime costs for the firefighters who participate in the program. (CM25#217)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$120,000, received from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Jail Diversion Program, to the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$120,000). Grant funds will be used to continue the Co-response program with one clinician through June 2026. (CM25#218) [[text of report](#)]
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$10,000, to the Grant Fund Police Department Salaries and Wages Account (\$5,000) and to the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$5,000). Grant funds will be used to support costs related to providing aftercare support such as supplies that individuals can bring with them to detox such as clothing, supplies (including Narcan) and personal hygiene products and transportation to treatment or clinical care services. A portion of the funding will also be allocated towards providing dedicated POST outreach services. (CM25#219) [[text of report](#)]
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$217,963, to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salaries and Wages account (\$211,997), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$4,680), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$1,286). In addition to the ABE teaching (Math and ELA -English Language Arts), this grant provides funding for the Career Connections program, advising (education, and career advising), professional

development for teachers and staff, as well as advising services at the Cambridge and Woburn Career Centers. (CM25#220)

7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$100,000 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salaries and Wages account (\$42,963) and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$57,037). The purpose of the grant is to provide an integrated education and training program for immigrant adults in the Metro North area who are interested in becoming certified nursing assistants and home health aides (CNA/HHA). (CM25#221)
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of **Sephany Alexis**, **Sally Benbasset**, and **Christina Turner** and the reappointment of **Elizabeth Aguilo**, **Rowan Murphy**, and **Michelle Lower** as members of the **Community Benefits Advisory Committee** for a term of three years. (CM25#222) [[text of report](#)]
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to amendments to the Cambridge Tobacco Ordinance. (CM25#223) [[text of report](#)]

## ORDERS

1. That the City Council go on record recognizing November 2025 as Alzheimer's Awareness Month and in formally endorsing Cambridge's continued participation in the "Light the World in Teal" initiative on November 3, 2025. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#114)
2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Department of Transportation, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and any other relevant City departments to assess the current accessible parking capacity in the vicinity of Kendall Square and identify potential solutions, which may include adding dedicated accessible parking spaces, creating short-term accessible loading/unloading zones, or implementing other reasonable accommodations. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#115)
3. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the appropriate City departments, including the City Solicitor's Office, to establish a formal policy that clearly defines the City's role and financial responsibilities in supporting large-scale public events hosted by Cambridge-based non-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Toner (PO25#116)
4. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate City staff to ensure that, effective immediately (and for each fiscal year in which the Office for Tourism continues to receive TDMD funding) that the City shall redirect its municipal funding to distribute those funds equally among the Central Square Business Improvement District (BID), the East Cambridge Business Association,

- the Harvard Square Business Association, and the Kendall Square Association. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#117)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Community Development Department, the City Assessor, and all other relevant departments to develop a comprehensive policy for future private development projects in the city. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Nolan (PO25#118)
  6. Proclaim the week of September 15 through September 21, 2025 as National Diaper Need Awareness Week in the City of Cambridge. Mayor Simmons, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#119)
  7. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Election Commission, the City Solicitor, and the City Clerk, and report back to the City Council no later than the September 15, 2025 City Council meeting on the Policy Order regarding the deadline for Charter Change. Mayor Simmons, Councillor Toner (PO25#120)
  8. That the City Manager is requested to work with all relevant departments to seek input from the community as well as direct outreach to condo owners and short-term rental operators and develop additional recommendations based on the discussion in the Ordinance Committee. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#121)
  9. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments and multi-member bodies to report back to the City Council and inform the community of the work of, and when the recommendations coming from the Micromobility Commission will be available. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Toner, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#122)
  10. That the City Manager is requested to consult with relevant departments about the implications of deploying license plate readers and provide recommendations as to whether adjustments in plans for deployment should be made in light of changes since approval in February. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler (PO25#123)

#### **CHARTER RIGHT**

1. 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. [Charter Right – Simmons, Aug 4, 2025] (PO25#108)

#### **ON THE TABLE**

2. 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)
3. 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)
4. 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]
5. 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)

#### **APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

1. An application was received from Brian Chipman representing Cannabis Dispensary, requesting permission for a projecting blade sign at the premises numbered 1960 Massachusetts Avenue approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailing. (AP25#32)
2. An application was received from William Rothfuchs, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 48 Park Avenue; 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#33)
3. An application was received from Yi Yue, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 29 Line 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#34)
4. Request has been received from Sam Stienberg representing CVS, regarding Revocation of Bond #012023137 for CVS, 1390 Massachusetts Avenue. Response from the Inspectional Services Department has been received confirming said sign has been removed. (AP25#35)

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Marilee Meyer, re: Please reconsider 1877 84-86 Ellery St from demolition.
2. Caitlin Klinger, re: Response to Unfinished Business #6 for Meeting on 8/4/25.

3. Carolann Barrett, re: remarks about PO3, Aug 4, 2025 -- with attachment.
4. Carolyn Fuller, re: CM25#176, Aug 27, 2025.
5. Catherine LeBlanc, re: Cambridge CSO. When is this disgusting dumping going to stop?
6. Daniel Heller, re: PO25#110 msg.
7. David Kudan, re: Vote to support OPTION #4 for Garden Street.
8. Earl Miller, re: Linear Park.
9. Elaine O'Reilly, re: Unfinished Business # 6 at 8/4 meeting.
10. Eryn Johnson, re: Letter to Cambridge City Council re Community Benefits 8/4/2025.
11. Geeta Pradhan, re: Community Benefits - East Cambridge Overlay district vote.
12. Gerald Bergman, re: Free speech demonstrations on the weekends of August 3 and 10.
13. Heather Hoffman, re: DETERMINATION – 6/4/2013 - OML 2013-76 - CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL.
14. Heather Parker Penzkofer, re: Support for Approved Linear Park Bike Path Restoration Project.
15. Kathy Roberts, re: Police Riot Sunday August 3.
16. Kelli Higgins, re: Official Invitation- Harvard Association of Black Women.
17. L. Margaret Kramer, re: Support Curb Cut Application #1169903 at 29 Line Street.
18. Laura B. Roberts, re: testimony from tonight's Council meeting.
19. Laurie Rothstein, re: Testimony re: proposed \$3.2M CBF compromise.
20. Lee Farris, re: Residents Alliance support for Welcoming Communities changes, Unfinished Business #7.
21. Marilee Meyer, re: Please reconsider 1877 84-86 Ellery St from demolition.
22. Mary Ann Donofrio, re: Vote on Bio-Med Benefits to East End House.
23. Mary E. Caulfield, re: St. James's Church PO#3.
24. Matthew Stewart, re: A letter re: the proposed Policy Order around St. James's Episcopal Church and the unhoused.
25. O. Robert Simha, re: East Cambridge Community Enhancement Overlay Zoning.
26. Rachel Roccoberton, re: Unfinished Business #6: Community Benefits Fund.
27. Rebekah Bjork, re: Writing in support of PO25#110, Aug 4, 2025, PO#5.
28. Sarah Hill, re: Public Comment 8/14/25.
29. Scott Kilcoyne, re: Why does the city have chemical weapons to use on its residents.
30. Steve Wineman, re: Please vote no on PO#3.
31. Suzanne Blier, re: Report on 84-86 Ellery St.
32. Taylor K. Callahan, re: Community Benefits Fund and The DC.
33. Young Kim, re: My Oral Comments on CM#20 & #21.
34. Rebekah Bjork, re: PO25#108 - Sharing the work of St. James's.
35. Terry Crystal, re: Zoning Consequences.
36. Jonathan Slate, re: Response to City Manager Letter of August 4 to City Council Re: Westley Avenue.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences on the death of Thomas W. Collins.  
Councillor Toner
2. Condolences to the family of Joan Whitaker. Mayor Simmons
3. Condolences to the family of John Semper. Mayor Simmons
4. Congratulations to the winners of the Bluebike PSA Poster Design Contest. Mayor Simmons
5. Congratulations to Cynthia Shelton Harris for her promotion to Executive Director of Veterans' Services. Vice Mayor McGovern, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Wilson
6. Condolences on the death of Elizabeth Camacho.  
Councillor Toner
7. Acknowledging the 60th Anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's arrival in Boston. Mayor Simmons
8. Condolences on the death of Daniel E. Sheehan.  
Councillor Toner
9. Condolences on the death of Lorraine F. Erb-Grande.  
Councillor Toner
10. Condolences to the family and friends of Mary Leno.  
Mayor Simmons
11. Congratulations to Virginia B. Johnson on her nomination for an Emmy Award for her work on the Netflix series American Primeval. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Simmons
12. Congratulations to Lalibela Ethiopian Restaurant and Bar on its Grand Opening in Watertown. Councillor Wilson

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Government Operations, Rules, and Claims Committee** held a public hearing on Aug 12, 2025 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. [[text of report](#)]
2. The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** held a public hearing on Aug 14, 2025 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. [[text of report](#)]
  - O- Sept 8, 2025
  - COUNCILLOR NOLAN
  - COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
  - ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with all relevant departments on zoning amendments to incentivize multifamily zoning while allowing reasonable development of single and two- family homes, the "balanced incentive approach" which is Option Four outlined in the presentation to the NLTP Committee; and be it further
  - ORDERED: That a proposal be sent to the City Council for consideration in a timely manner.

3. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on Wed, Aug 27, 2025 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 to redefine short-term rental, add definitions for “operator-occupied short-term rental,” “owner-adjacent short-term rental” and “booking agent,” add conditions of authorized uses to comply with the state building code, fire code, sanitary code, and all other state and local habitability requirements, add requirements to provide booking information and other documentation to the City upon request, and add enforcement mechanisms for violation of the ordinance or state regulations. [[text of report](#)]

## COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update re: legislative activity. (COF25#113)
2. A communication was received from City Solicitor Megan B. Bayer, transmitting a memorandum re: City Voter Guide for Ballot Questions - Proponent Argument for Proposed City Charter. (COF25#114) [[text of report](#)]
3. A communication was received from Lesley Waxman, Assistant Director, Cambridge Election Commission, transmitting a request Letter - In Favor Argument City Charter. (COF25#115) [[text of report](#)]

## HEARING SCHEDULE

### Mon, Sept 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Tues, Sept 9

2:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss ongoing work to mitigate and reduce Combined Sewer Overflows within Cambridge and the surrounding area and other mitigation efforts to address extreme weather events that affect city residents and future infrastructure projects.

### Wed, Sept 10

3:00pm The **Public Safety Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss COF 2025 #106, including questions that were submitted by City Council members regarding an incident at 243 Broadway on August 2, 2025 and the public safety response.

### Mon, Sept 15

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Tues, Sept 16

2:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss solar impact analysis and zoning options to encourage the use of solar energy systems and protect solar access for Registered Solar Energy Systems.

### Thurs, Sept 25

10:00am The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** will hold a public hearing to discuss whether we should reinstate something similar to the exemption of the Dover Amendment to regulate the density and impact of institutional development within residential districts.

Our 1979 & 1980 exemption was eliminated February 10, 2025 with the passage of the Multifamily Housing Ordinance.

### 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

11:00am The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the launch of the update to the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) and hear a status report on the current plan including any adjustments that have been or might be made before any update.

5:30pm City Council Meeting

### Wed, Oct 29

3:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss energy planning in Cambridge including expanding electricity capacity, expanding renewable energy productions, BEUDO energy requirements, and thermal energy network planning and any other topics relevant to the city’s overall planning for ensuring city goals of electrification may be met.

### 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 Sept 8, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: November is designated as Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, a time to honor those affected by this devastating disease and mobilize our community to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; and

WHEREAS: More than 6.9 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer’s disease, with this number projected to rise dramatically as our population ages, affecting not only patients but millions of family members and caregivers who witness their loved ones’ gradual decline; and

WHEREAS: Alzheimer’s disease has become the fifth leading cause of death among Americans aged 65 and older, claiming more lives

annually than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined, while imposing an enormous emotional and financial burden on families and our healthcare system; and

WHEREAS: Early detection and intervention can significantly improve quality of life for patients and families, yet too many cases go undiagnosed until the disease has progressed beyond the point where treatments and planning can be most effective; and

WHEREAS: The Alzheimer's Foundation of America's annual "Light the World in Teal" initiative transforms November 3rd into a powerful global symbol of solidarity, with more than 1,350 landmarks worldwide participating in 2024, illuminated in teal to demonstrate unified support for the millions affected by this disease; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record recognizing November 2025 as Alzheimer's Awareness Month and in formally endorsing Cambridge's continued participation in the "Light the World in Teal" initiative on November 3, 2025; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City personnel to illuminate City Hall in teal on November 3, 2025 as part of the global "Light the World in Teal" initiative.

O-2 Sept 8, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge strives to ensure that public spaces, commercial districts, and municipal infrastructure are accessible to residents and visitors of all abilities; and

WHEREAS: In certain high-traffic commercial areas, such as the vicinity of the Bank of America in Kendall Square and nearby businesses at the intersection of Broadway and Main Street, there are limited accessible parking options for individuals with mobility impairments; and

WHEREAS: Current parking configurations in these areas include a small number of metered and resident-only spaces, but do not provide sufficient dedicated accessible parking or short-term parking accommodations to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS: This lack of accessible parking can create situations where residents with mobility challenges are left with no practical parking options for necessary errands, forcing them to park in areas that may result in ticketing or fines; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Transportation, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and any other relevant City departments to assess the current accessible parking capacity in the abovementioned vicinity of Kendall Square and identify potential solutions, which may include adding dedicated accessible parking spaces, creating short-term accessible loading/unloading zones, or implementing other reasonable accommodations; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner with findings, recommendations, and an implementation plan for any proposed changes.

O-3 Sept 8, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: Cambridge has long supported public events that bring the community together, promote cultural enrichment, and foster civic engagement; and

WHEREAS: Numerous local non-profit and not-for-profit organizations, including the local neighborhood business associations, annually organize major public events — such as the Cambridge Jazz Festival, Mayfair, and Caribbean Carnival — that are free, open to the public, family-friendly, and attract thousands of attendees; and

WHEREAS: These events require significant logistical coordination and public safety support from various City departments, including the Cambridge Police Department, the Cambridge Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, the Inspectional Services Department, and the Cambridge License Commission; and

WHEREAS: There have been recent inconsistencies and confusion regarding which entities are responsible for covering the departmental costs associated with these events, resulting in administrative burdens, delayed payments, and unnecessary strain on relationships between departments and event organizers; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to consult with the appropriate City departments, including the City Solicitor's Office, to establish a formal policy that clearly defines the City's role and financial responsibilities in supporting large-scale public events hosted by Cambridge-based non-profit and not-for-profit organizations; and be it further

ORDERED: That said policy shall include criteria under which the City may waive departmental fees — such as those associated with the Cambridge Police Department, the Cambridge Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, the Inspectional Services Department, and the Cambridge License Commission — for events that:

- Are hosted by bona fide Cambridge-based non-profit or not-for-profit organizations;
- Are free and open to the general public;
- Are family-friendly in nature; and
- Attract a minimum of 1,500 attendees; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the feasibility, financial implications, and implementation timeline for such a policy no later than November 1, 2025.

O-4 September 8, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has funded the Cambridge Office for Tourism for nearly three decades, with total funding exceeding \$10 million; and

WHEREAS: The Office for Tourism is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(6) organization; and

WHEREAS: Other Cambridge-based 501(c)(6) organizations — including the Central Square Business Improvement District (BID), the East Cambridge Business Association, the Harvard Square Business Association, and the Kendall Square Association

— play similarly important roles in promoting commercial vitality and economic development; and  
WHEREAS: The Office for Tourism is now receiving more than \$1.5 million annually through the Tourist Destination Marketing District (TDMD) fund; and

WHEREAS: The [Cambridge Post-Pandemic Commercial Study Report](#) affirms the significant role that local business associations play in supporting the City’s economic recovery and long-term financial health; and

WHEREAS: Despite their proven value, the City provides comparatively limited financial support to these business associations; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the appropriate City staff to ensure that, effective immediately (and for each fiscal year in which the Office for Tourism continues to receive TDMD funding) that the City shall redirect its municipal funding to distribute those funds equally among the Central Square Business Improvement District (BID), the East Cambridge Business Association, the Harvard Square Business Association, and the Kendall Square Association; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-5 Sept 8, 2025

COUNCILLOR TONER

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The recent process for authorizing zoning changes for the Bio-Med rezoning was unnecessarily contentious and left many residents feeling that the process lacked transparency, particularly in determining appropriate mitigation costs and the appropriation of negotiated community benefits contributions; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Community Development Department, the City Assessor, and all other relevant departments to develop a comprehensive policy for future private development projects in the city that defines:

- The process by which a private developer/property owner should engage the city and community about potential projects and requested zoning changes through “contract zoning”.
- Delineate all steps to be taken prior to bringing such projects before the Ordinance Committee and City Council for a final vote for approval.
- Identify the appropriate/required city staff and departments with which the developer or property owner must make initial contact, and which will be involved in negotiating and approving such plans.
- Clarify the process for identifying the impacted geographic community.
- Define the parameters for a community engagement plan including which stakeholders should be included and when the City Council and community will be notified about proposals.
- Process by which any possible mitigation benefits will be assessed and determined in exchange for necessary zoning changes.

- A policy for decision making regarding how mitigation funds will be allocated among investments in city infrastructure, public needs, nonprofit donations, and other uses-including guidance on what percentage of benefits will be directed to the impacted neighborhood versus the broader community.
- If a portion of the mitigation funds are to be delivered in the form of grants to nonprofits, a clear policy for determining the role of the Community Benefits Advisory Committee, the process for allotting benefits among the city’s nonprofits, and specifics regarding how such allocations will be made.

and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with his recommendations by December 1st, 2025.

O-6 September 8, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: Diaper need – the lack of a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy – is a serious public health and economic issue affecting nearly one in two families with young children nationwide; and

WHEREAS: Without enough diapers, babies face a greater risk of infections and health complications, while families may be unable to access childcare or early education programs, limiting parents’ ability to attend school or maintain employment; and

WHEREAS: Many parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of five workdays each month due to a lack of diapers, exacerbating economic instability and making it harder to break the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS: Addressing diaper need can improve health outcomes for children, enable greater economic opportunity for families, and strengthen our community as a whole; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is proud to be home to the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, which plays a vital role in distributing diapers and supporting families through its programs and partnerships; and

WHEREAS: Organizations like the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House are essential partners in advancing public health, economic equity, and early childhood development; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming the week of September 15 through September 21, 2025 as **National Diaper Need Awareness Week** in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council extends its sincere appreciation to the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, its staff, volunteers, and donors for their work to address diaper need in our community; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council encourages all residents to learn more about diaper need and to support efforts that ensure every family has access to the basic necessities required for children to thrive.

O-7 Sept 8, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: Earlier this year, the City Council approved a home rule petition seeking to place a proposed Municipal Charter change on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 municipal election; and

WHEREAS: While City staff have been diligently preparing for this, and while the offices of Representative Decker and Senator DiDomenico have been concurrently working diligently to push this forward in the State Legislature, the timeline for receiving final ballot language and required materials remains uncertain, raising concerns about the ability of the City to meet statutory deadlines for ballot printing, vote-by-mail distribution, and the voter information guide; and

WHEREAS: The Election Commission has indicated that ballots must be finalized and sent to the printer by mid-September at the very latest to ensure compliance with early voting requirements and to avoid voter confusion or disenfranchisement, and the City Council has significant concerns that there may not be sufficient time to get the necessary materials to the Election Commission to meet this deadline; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Election Commission, the City Solicitor, and the City Clerk, and report back to the City Council no later than the September 15, 2025 City Council meeting on:

- Whether the required ballot language has been finalized, approved, and delivered in a form suitable for printing;
- The latest possible deadline by which the ballot question must be certified and transmitted to the printer to ensure compliance with early voting and vote-by-mail statutory requirements;
- The feasibility of deferring the ballot question to a later date, including the legal and logistical viability of holding a standalone special election for this purpose in early 2026, should it prove infeasible to meet the current timeline; and
- Any other urgent logistical or procedural considerations the City Council should be aware of at this time.

O-8 Sept 8, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: On August 27, 2025 the Ordinance Committee of the City Council met to discuss a [zoning petition](#) to amend the Short-Term Rentals (STR) Ordinance, originally ordained in 2017, and discussed in a number of Council meetings convened to discuss policy orders [POR 2023 #155](#) from 2023 and [POR 2024 #120](#); and

WHEREAS: At the meeting, the Committee discussed several possible additional changes to the proposed changes STR Ordinance including:

- Adding a category of operator-occupied STRs for whole-unit rentals;
- Adding a day-limit on whole-unit rentals to either just operator-occupied rentals or to both owner adjacent rentals and operator-occupied whole-unit rentals;
- Clarification of requirement for evidence of owner and condominium association approval;
- Clarification of definitions for operator-occupancy; and

WHEREAS: The goals of updating the STR Ordinance are to regulate short-term accommodations within the city to ensure proper enforcement of safety, waste, noise and nuisance, contact requirements, and other neighborhood concerns; to ensure that short-term accommodations are not having an undue effect on long-term rental markets in the city; and to ensure compliance with the regulations of the existing ordinance, in light of a majority of

short-term rentals currently listed on the market being unregistered and operating illegally; and

WHEREAS: In 2017, CDD reported that “at least 0.5% to 1.0% of the rental housing stock is held off the market for short term rentals through AirBnb,” suggesting that existing STRs may have a meaningful effect on rental costs; and current numbers suggest that a similar number of units are being used solely for STRs and could be available for longer term rentals; and

WHEREAS: STRs can help residents earn extra income and be a meaningful part of the housing and lodging ecosystem within a city, as long as they don’t create public health or nuisance concerns or disproportionately affect market rate rental costs, and so enforcement of zoning and regulations is essential; and

WHEREAS: Additional outreach to active registered STR operators and condominium associations is necessary to ensure changes to the STR Ordinance are done in a way that is responsive to concerns of residents; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with all relevant departments to seek input from the community as well as direct outreach to condo owners and short-term rental operators and develop additional recommendations based on the discussion in the Ordinance Committee; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back in a timely manner.

O-9 Sept 8, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR TONER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: In previous years, the City Council has asked City staff to determine what authority the City has to regulate micromobility devices such as motorized scooters, skateboards, and others on bike paths, bikeways, trails, and public ways, per [POR 2024 #17](#), and the City Manager responded via [CMA 2024 #67](#), which was further discussed in the Transportation Committee meeting on [June 25, 2024](#); and

WHEREAS: The conclusions reached by the City and the Council were that municipalities had some authority to regulate e-mobility devices on some kinds of public ways, but the issue was largely in the purview of state authority; and

WHEREAS: In April 2025, [MassDOT announced](#) a Special Commission on Micromobility aimed at “studying current state and local regulations and developing recommendations to expand micromobility use to help achieve shared goals for increasing mobility options, emission reductions, and economic vitality;” and

WHEREAS: There are three upcoming meetings of the [Special Commission](#) in September, October, and November, and although the Commission includes a range of stakeholders, and although Cambridge is not represented officially on the Commission, City staff from the Department of Transportation have worked to compile input from a range of City departments in order to submit specific questions based on input from some city staff and some residents and provide comments for the Commission to consider and plans to attend the September meeting; and

WHEREAS: Micromobility is not only about e-bikes, scooters, and skateboards, and should also prioritize alternative mobility for elderly residents and disabled residents and should also include

discussions on pedicabs, golf carts, and tricycles, all of which can greatly expand mobility options for residents, especially for short-distance trips; and

WHEREAS: Micromobility and e-mobility will continue to be an important part of the transportation ecosystem of Cambridge and the greater Boston area, and it is essential that Cambridge continue to stay on top of a changing regulatory environment; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments and multi-member bodies to report back to the City Council and inform the community of the work of, and when the recommendations coming from the Micromobility Commission will be available; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council following the issuance of recommendations by the Micromobility Commission in December 2025.

O-10 September 8, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has been reported to be active in [Cambridge](#), and recent actions by ICE around the country — including in [Somerville](#) and [Worcester](#) — have raised concerns about the safety of community members and the legality of the agency’s actions; and

WHEREAS: In carrying out immigration enforcement, the current federal administration has been using surveillance data collected and sold by companies including Flock Safety, and [the ACLU has expressed concern that Flock is building nationwide mass-surveillance infrastructure](#) through technology such as cloud-connected Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge accepted an Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant to [deploy license plate readers](#) which was adopted prior to these recent and increasingly aggressive federal actions, and before the recent updates to the city’s Welcoming Cities Ordinance; and

WHEREAS: Even before this recent reporting, a significant number of community members and several Councillors had opposed the surveillance technology request due to concerns about this possibility; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to consult with relevant departments about the implications of deploying license plate readers and provide recommendations as to whether adjustments in plans for deployment should be made in light of changes since approval in February; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Council in a timely manner.