

MINUTES OF PAST CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. Regular Meeting - Jun 21, 2021, 5:30pm
2. Regular Meeting - Jun 28, 2021, 5:30pm
3. Special Meeting - Aug 2, 2021, 5:30pm
4. Regular Meeting - Sep 13, 2021, 5:30pm
5. Regular Meeting - Sep 20, 2021, 5:30pm
6. Regular Meeting - Sep 27, 2021, 5:30pm
7. Regular Meeting - Oct 4, 2021, 5:30pm
8. Regular Meeting - Oct 18, 2021, 5:30pm
9. Regular Meeting - Oct 25, 2021, 5:30pm
10. Regular Meeting - Nov 1, 2021, 5:30pm
11. Regular Meeting - Nov 8, 2021, 5:30pm
12. Regular Meeting - Nov 15, 2021, 5:30pm
13. Special Meeting - Aug 1, 2022, 5:30pm

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a COVID-19 and Monkeypox update.
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-54, regarding the Cambridge Public Health Department's response to monkeypox.
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$180,000 in the General Fund between School Department statutory accounts as follows: \$180,000 from the School Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account to the School Department Travel and Training account (\$180,000) to cover to cover a legal settlement.
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the recommendations of the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) for FY2023. [[FY23 Project Recommendations](#)] [[Summary of CPAC process](#)]

VOTE 1: Fiscal Year 2023 Local Funds (\$11,900,000)

Vote 1A

80% of FY2023 CPA Local Fund revenues (\$9,520,000) allocated to Affordable Housing and appropriated to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust

Vote 1B

10% of FY2023 CPA Local Fund revenues (\$1,190,000) allocated to Historic Preservation as follows:

1. \$45,000 appropriated to Digitization of Cambridge Room Collections
2. \$500,000 appropriated to the Margaret Fuller House Renovation
3. \$45,000 appropriated to the Old Burial Ground Restoration
4. \$600,000 appropriated to Historic Preservation Grants

Vote 1C

10% of FY2023 CPA Local Fund revenues (\$1,190,000) allocated to Open Space as follows:

1. \$100,000 appropriated to Gore Street Park Paved Area Design

2. \$940,000 appropriated to the Raymond Street (Corcoran) Park Partial Construction
3. \$150,000 appropriated to the Watertown Cambridge Greenway

VOTE 2: Fiscal Year 2022 State Funds [received in FY2023] (\$4,700,000)

Vote 2A

80% of FY2022 State Match revenues (\$3,760,000) allocated to Affordable Housing and appropriated to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust

Vote 2B

10% of FY2022 State Match revenues (\$470,000) allocated to Historic Preservation as follows:

1. \$40,000 appropriated to 22-CityView Recorded Media Digitization
2. \$300,000 appropriated to the 689 Massachusetts Ave. Roof Replacement
3. \$100,000 appropriated to Historical Commission Compact Shelving and Archival Support
4. \$30,000 appropriated to the Old Burial Ground Restoration

Vote 2C

10% of FY2022 State Match revenues (\$470,000) allocated to Open Space as follows:

1. \$470,000 appropriated to the Raymond Street (Corcoran) Park Partial Construction

VOTE 3: CPA Fund Balance (\$3,100,000)

Vote 3A

80% of the Fund Balance (\$2,480,000) allocated to Affordable Housing and appropriated to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust

Vote 3B

10% of the Fund Balance (\$310,000) allocated to Historic Preservation as follows:

1. \$310,000 appropriated to Historical Commission Compact Shelving and Archival Support

Vote 3C

10% of the Fund Balance (\$310,000) allocated to Open Space as follows:

1. \$310,000 appropriated to the Raymond Street (Corcoran) Park Partial Construction

VOTE 4: CPA Fund Balance - Administration (\$10,000)

Vote 4A

1. \$10,000 appropriated to Administrative Costs for Community Preservation Coalition membership dues
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-47, regarding utilization of Code Red for text alerts regarding new polling locations for the primary election on Sept 6, 2022.
6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-49

regarding Bristol and Cardinal Medeiros intersection improvements. [[Traffic Department Response](#)]

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-27 regarding the distribution of “Watch for Bikes” stickers.
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-19, regarding drafting language to enable the Cambridge Police Department and Department of Public Works to donate abandoned bicycles to charitable organizations. [[City Solicitor’s Response](#)]
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-22, regarding the feasibility of increasing the number of high school students who receive a MBTA M7 Card at no cost. [[Manager’s Response](#)]
10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-17, regarding a report on lifeguard certifications and staffing.
11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-51, regarding Cannabis Industry Information. [[CDD Response](#)]
12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report with negative recommendation on the Accessory Parking Requirements Zoning Petition.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. 105 Windsor Community Process. [Charter Right – Zondervan; Aug 1, 2022]

ON THE TABLE

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Director of the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department to limit the blocking off of Memorial Drive to vehicular traffic to Sundays. [Charter Right – Toner, May 23, 2022; Tabled June 6, 2022]
3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of appropriation and authorization to borrow \$4,500,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of building renovations to the vacant City owned property at 105 Windsor Street. [Charter Right – Zondervan, June 27, 2022; Tabled Aug 1, 2022]
4. An application was received from Andy Layman representing Tasty Burger, requesting permission for three (3) projecting signs at the premises numbered 353 Prospect Street. approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter. [Tabled Aug 1, 2022]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. Amendment to Article 22 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge entitled “SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT” to insert a new section. [Referred to Committee Feb 7, 2022]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Richard Burg representing Coldwell Banker Realty, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 1726 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.
2. An application was received from Kevin Rosenberg representing Chestnut Hill Realty, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 1640 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.
3. An application was received from Lewis Colten, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 318 Concord Avenue; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. Response has been received from the neighborhood association.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Persis McClellenn, 16 Bond Street, regarding the City Council seemingly being more concerned with what bicyclists want than the safety of pedestrians.
2. A communication was received from Joseph Koerner, 121 Brattle Street, regarding the bike lane proposal.
3. A communication was received from Heather Hoffman, 213 Hurley Street, regarding additional comments on the petition to amend the table in Sec. 6.36 of the zoning ordinance.
4. A communication was received from Ted Raia, 287 Harvard Street, regarding the proposed BEUDO.
5. A communication was received from Jake Filene, 7-1 Arlington Street, regarding objection to any proposal to amend the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance.
6. A communication was received from Rachna D. Balakrishna, Esq., regarding BEUDO.
7. A communication was received from Cynthia Broner, 246 Brattle Street, regarding support of reopening Memorial Drive to vehicles on Saturdays.
8. A communication was received from Bruce Berzin, regarding re-opening Memorial Drive on Saturdays.
9. A communication was received from Karen Falb, 245 Brattle Street, regarding support of DCR’s decision to close Memorial Drive on Saturdays.
10. A communication was received from Shelagh Hadley, regarding disappointment with DCR flip-flop decisions regarding Memorial Drive closure.
11. A communication was received from Elizabeth Rassweiler, 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, regarding the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance.
12. A communication was received from Kebrewosen Densamo, regarding support of Policy Order #11 for 105 Windsor Street.

13. A communication was received from Jeremy Carlos Burns, 15 Vincent Street, regarding urging the City Council to create a complete and safe bike network in the city.
14. A communication was received from Angela Hofmann, regarding Porter Square Safety Improvement Project.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations and Thank you to Jack Woker and Stereo Jacks on almost forty years of service to the North Cambridge Community. Councillor Toner
2. Resolution on the death of Peter Valentine. Councillor Simmons
3. Resolution on the death of Monica Strauss. Councillor Toner
4. Congratulations on the Retirement of Jean Spera from The Cambridge Public School Department. Councillor Toner
5. Resolution on the death of Maria de Castro Pereira. Councillor Toner
6. Resolution on the death of Dennis Pontes. Councillor Toner
7. Congratulations to Becca Rutenberg on the occasion of being named by the Boston Business Journal as a 2022 “40 under 40” honoree. Councillor Simmons
8. Resolution on the death of Sheila Halloran-Dailey. Councillor Toner
9. Resolution on the death of Harold Turcotte. Councillor Toner
10. Resolution on the death of Edward T. Loder, Jr. Councillor Toner
11. Congratulations to The Dance Complex on the occasion of its 30 year anniversary in Central Square. Councillor Azeem, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern
12. Condolences to family of Margie Clay. Councillor Simmons
13. Condolences to family of Cherlyn Robinson. Councillor Simmons
14. Condolences to the family of Jewel Russell. Councillor Simmons
15. Condolences to the family of Deborah Anderson. Councillor Simmons
16. Resolution on the death of Mary Griffin. Councillor Simmons
17. Congratulations to Erin Gullage and Gail Jones for being honored at this year’s Janet “Ms. K” Kendrick Sisters of the Center Awards Brunch at the Cambridge Community Center. Councillor Simmons
18. Congratulations to the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) on their 35th Anniversary. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui
19. That the Cambridge City Council welcomes leaders Lorena Araujo and Zulma Tobar of CRIPDES and US El Salvador Sister Cities to Cambridge to discuss their critical work for human rights in rural communities of El Salvador. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui

20. Appreciation to the Sufi Service Committee for their dedication and goodwill, congratulating them on another successful year fostering community, and wishing them continued success for many more years of service. Mayor Siddiqui
21. Commending the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection for its fight against childhood cancer. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan
22. Thanks to Chef Erin Miller for serving the Cambridge community through her talents and experiences, which were recognized through her impressive win at the 2022 Great American Seafood Cook-Off. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons
23. Happy 100th Birthday wishes to Ned Handy. Mayor Siddiqui
24. Appreciation to Nancy Mahan on the occasion of her retirement from Bay Cove and thanks for her dedicated service and tireless dedication to some of our most vulnerable neighbors. Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested work with the Cambridge Historical Commission, DPW, the Dedication Committee, and any other relevant City departments to create a system to document the histories of those honored, and to make those histories available to the public, including but not limited to a website on the City’s web page or a QR code on each sign. Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Toner
2. That the City Council urge the MBTA to reverse its decision to reconfigure and reduce service along the 47 Bus Line and take whatever steps are necessary to return it to its previous level of service. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Azeem
3. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish a fund designed to assist those City employees in same-sex marriages with paying for surrogacy services in instances where the City’s health insurance providers fail to provide the same coverage afforded to the City’s female employees and those in heterosexual marriages. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Azeem, Mayor Siddiqui
4. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Public Works Department to repair the grass at Greene-Rose Heritage Park, and to establish a long- term plan of action to ensure that the park is well-maintained in perpetuity. Councillor Simmons
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Department of Public Works, the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department, and other relevant departments to revise the City block party and play streets signature requirements to a more reasonable threshold, and shorten the timeline between application and event date, and provide

- more guidance to residents seeking a permit. Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui
6. That the City Manager is requested to light up City Hall purple for the week of Sept 19th, in honor of Suicide Prevention Month and recognize September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Month in Cambridge. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Carlone
 7. That the Dedication Committee hold a special meeting to expedite the process of naming the corner of Brookline Street and Franklin Street in honor of Peter Valentine. Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons
 8. That the Health and Environment Committee of the City Council hold a public hearing to discuss the issue of PFAS and overall water quality and work with the City Manager, the Water Board, and relevant city staff to set up the initial meeting this fall. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Azeem
 9. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to communicate to the Cambridge Health Alliance the City Council's support for the reopening of the Cambridge Birth Center for deliveries as soon as possible and City Council support for the protection of existing birth centers and the creation of new birth centers in Cambridge. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Mallon
 10. That the City Council refer the [zoning petition regarding lab use](#) to the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board for a hearing and report. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern
 11. That the Ordinances of the City of Cambridge be amended as it relates to Permitting Preferences for Priority Applicants. Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee** met on Mar 2, 2022 for the purpose of reviewing the draft leadership profile, and next steps in the City Manager search process. [[Text of Committee Report](#)]
Present: Mallon, Carlone, Nolan, Toner
Absent: Simmons
2. The **Ordinance Committee** conducted a public hearing on June 29, 2022 to discuss Zoning Petition from Craig A. Kelley – The Cambridge Transportation De-Carbonization Congestion-Mitigation. (Ordinance #2022-13). [[Text of Committee Report](#)]
Present: Azeem, Carlone, Mallon, McGovern, Nolan, Toner, Zondervan, Siddiqui
Absent: Simmons
 - A. That the Ordinance Committee refer Categories M (Shared Vehicle) and N (Publicly-accessible, Privately-owned Electric Vehicle Charging System) of the Cambridge Transportation Decarbonization and Congestion Mitigation Bill, along with definitions, to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. Councillor Zondervan

- B. That the City Solicitor be and hereby is requested to provide a legal opinion on the proposed zoning amendments of the Cambridge Transportation Decarbonization and Congestion Mitigation Bill, including whether the City Council could limit the electric vehicle charging station sharing to holders of residential parking permits only. Vice Mayor Mallon
3. The **Ordinance Committee** met on July 26, 2022 to reconvene and continue a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (Ordinance #2021-26). [[Text of Committee Report](#)]
Present: Azeem, Carlone, Mallon, McGovern, Zondervan, Siddiqui
Absent: Nolan, Simmons, Toner
4. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on July 27, 2022 to continue discussions around an Ordinance potentially raising the linkage fee rates. (#2022-14). [[Text of Committee Report](#)]
Present: Azeem, Mallon, McGovern, Simmons, Zondervan, Siddiqui
Absent: Carlone, Nolan, Toner
5. The **Ordinance Committee** met on Aug 3, 2022 to conduct a public hearing on Ordinance #2022-8, an ordinance amending Parking minimums and maximums. [[Text of Committee Report](#)]
Present: Carlone, Mallon, McGovern, Toner, Zondervan, Siddiqui
Absent:
6. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public meeting on Sept 7, 2022 to continue the discussion around Ordinance # 2022-14, Section 11.202(b) of Article 11.000 Special Regulations Linkage Fee, proposal to amend by substitution, raising linkage fee rates. [[Text of Committee Report](#)]
Present: Azeem, Carlone, Mallon, McGovern, Nolan, Simmons, Toner, Zondervan, Siddiqui
Absent: None

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee.
2. A communication was received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.
3. A communication was received from Councillor Zondervan, transmitting a [further amendment to the Linkage Fee Petition](#).

HEARING SCHEDULE

[Sullivan Chamber & Zoom unless otherwise noted]

Mon, Sept 12

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Sept 13

3:00pm The Housing Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss potentially allowing multifamily housing to be built citywide.

Wed, Sept 14

2:00pm The Ordinance Committee will hold a public meeting to continue the discussion around Ordinance # 2022-3, Wage Theft Ordinance. The Public Hearing Notice was published on Mar 17, 2022. The Public Hearing took place on Mar 30, 2022. Additional Public Comment will be allowed at this meeting.

Mon, Sept 19

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Sept 20

2:00pm The Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Ordinance # 2022-17, Adding a chapter 6.24 to the Cambridge Municipal Code titled Sale of Fur Apparel Products.
3:00pm The Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Ordinance # 2022-16, Banning Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

Wed, Sept 21

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will meet to continue the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2022-5, that would eliminate parking minimums. The Public Hearing Notice was published on July 14, 2022, and again on July 22, 2022. The Public Hearing was opened and recessed on Aug 3, 2022.

Wed, Sept 28

2:00pm The Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the reappointment of Kathleen L. Born to the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) for a term of 5 years, effective June 26, 2022.

Thurs, Sept 29

5:00pm The Civic Unity Committee shall meet to discuss the two Aug 1, 2022 policy orders exploring ways to improve the lives of Cambridge's African American/Black Residents.

Mon, Oct 3

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Oct 17

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Oct 24

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Oct 31

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 12

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 19

5:30pm City Council Meeting

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: Cambridge has a rich history of residents who have accomplished great things for the world, the City, and their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS: The City often honors these individuals by placing signs on various corners; and

WHEREAS: To have one of these dedications approved, a great deal of information must be provided to the Dedication Committee; and

WHEREAS: Other than the names and possible military service of the individuals, these signs provide only limited information on the rich history of the honorees; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Cambridge Historical Commission, DPW, the Dedication Committee, and any other relevant City departments to create a system to document the histories of those honored, and to make those histories available to the public, including but not limited to a website on the City's web page or a QR code on each sign.

O-2 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: The MBTA has recently announced a dramatic reconfiguration and consolidation of a number of its bus lines in the Greater Boston Area, which has been ascribed as being due to the [changing needs of commuters](#) throughout the region, as well as due to [staffing issues](#) within the MBTA; and

WHEREAS: Among those lines being significantly altered is the [47 bus line](#), which is being consolidated with other existing bus line routes that head into Boston and which will dramatically alter the timing, frequency, and location of bus stops that so many in Cambridge have come to depend upon for decades; and

WHEREAS: More alarming, the 47 bus line serves some of those Cantabrigians who are most reliant upon public transportation in our community, including seniors and those on limited or fixed incomes, who do not necessarily have access to other transportation options, and who are most vulnerable to being at the mercy of MBTA service disruptions; and

WHEREAS: The issues plaguing the MBTA undeniably extend well beyond the bus driver shortages impacting Cambridge, as evidenced by recent safety issues impacting the [Orange Line](#) and the [Green Line](#), and these must be resolved in as expeditious a way as possible, yet they mustn't be done on the backs of those who most rely upon the MBTA's service; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record urging the MBTA to reverse its decision to reconfigure and reduce service along the 47 Bus Line and take whatever steps are necessary to return it to its previous level of service; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record echoing and amplifying the recent appeal from [Boston Mayor Michelle Wu to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg](#) to provide whatever federal assistance can be granted to reverse MBTA service cuts to lines – including the 47 bus line – that run throughout Cambridge and Greater Boston; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this order to MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak, Governor Charles D. Baker, Senators

Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-3 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has long worked to demonstrate its commitment to treating all of its employees with dignity, fairness, and equality, as was demonstrated in 2011 when the City worked to ensure that employees in same-sex marriages would be offered the same tax relief on healthcare benefits as those employees in heterosexual marriages; and

WHEREAS: At that time, it was noted that under existing federal tax code, the healthcare benefits provided by the City for same-sex married employees were counted as taxable income, whereas those same benefits were not counted as taxable income for heterosexual couples, and this was rightfully called out as unfair and discriminatory; and

WHEREAS: In response to this discriminatory practice, the [City Council called for the establishment of a fund](#) that [would reimburse City employees in same-sex marriages](#) an amount equal to what they were being taxed on these healthcare benefits at the federal level, resolving the issue locally until same-sex marriage was legalized nationwide in 2015 and the issue became moot; and

WHEREAS: In 2022, a similar situation has come to light in which some Cambridge employees in same-sex marriages are not being offered the same healthcare coverage when seeking to engage the services of a surrogate to begin or expand their family – benefits that are currently offered to women and heterosexual employees who seek out such services; and

WHEREAS: In the spirit of treating all City employees equally and fairly, and applying the same framework as was used in 2011, it would be prudent and just for the City to establish a fund that would assist employees in same-sex marriages in paying for surrogacy services in those cases where the City's health insurance providers are failing to offer them the same coverage that is offered to the City's female employees and those in heterosexual marriages; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish a fund designed to assist those City employees in same-sex marriages with paying for surrogacy services in instances where the City's health insurance providers fail to provide the same coverage afforded to the City's female employees and those in heterosexual marriages; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter within 30 days.

O-4 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: It has recently come to the attention of the City Council that the turf on Greene-Rose Heritage Park has once again fallen into disrepair, with large patches of dead grass blemishing the area; and

WHEREAS: How a city maintains its parks, streets, and other public areas communicates a message about the value of the people in those neighborhoods to the city at large, and it is therefore important that Cambridge strive to keep all our city parks clean and well-maintained; and

WHEREAS: At least two policy orders have been filed in the past three years urging the City to pay greater attention to the maintenance and upkeep of this particular park, suggesting that a

longer-term plan of action is required to ensure that the City does not continually neglect this area; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Public Works Department to repair the grass at Greene-Rose Heritage Park, and to establish a long-term plan of action to ensure that the park is well-maintained in perpetuity; 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 12, 2022

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The City provides opportunities to close streets in our block party and newly announced play streets programs with the express purpose of gathering with neighbors and creating community, which is critical to neighborhood resiliency; and

WHEREAS: The current City block party and play streets policy asks residents looking to close their street to gather affirmative signatures from "75% of the households or organizations on the block that is being closed," yet the [policy](#) does not explain whether or not the street which is being closed will suffice for signatures, or the entire impacted block and surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: Requiring 75% of signatures from residents and businesses unfairly advantages low-density streets and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS: Petitioning three-quarters of a street or block is a sizeable feat for a block party or play streets event that will only last a few hours on one single day; and

WHEREAS: The time constraint of 30 days also unfairly prohibits those seeking a block party or play streets permit and should be shortened to allow applications to more seamlessly be processed; and

WHEREAS: If the City wants to promote community building, the process for closing one's street should not be so cumbersome that applicants cannot succeed within the current parameters; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Department of Public Works, the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department, and other relevant departments to revise the City block party and play streets signature requirements to a more reasonable threshold, and shorten the timeline between application and event date, and provide more guidance to residents seeking a permit; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back on this matter within a timely manner.

O-6 Sept 12, 2022

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR CARLONE

WHEREAS: Suicide Prevention Month is a national observance held every September to raise awareness and spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide; and

WHEREAS: Suicide Prevention Month can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Public Health Department are in full support of Suicide Prevention Month and believe in the importance of mental health; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge continues to raise awareness about mental health and physical health while also providing solutions; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Month in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to light up City Hall purple for the week of September 19th, in honor of Suicide Prevention Month.

O-7 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Peter Valentine was an important member of the Cambridge community who brought art, passion, fashion and his wonder of the universe to our city; and

WHEREAS: The passing of Peter has left a void in the Cambridge cosmos; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Dedication Committee hold a special meeting to expedite the process of naming the corner of Brookline Street and Franklin Street in honor of Peter Valentine as soon as possible.

O-8 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyls, known more commonly as PFAS, a group of human-made chemicals not found naturally in the environment are linked to a variety of diseases and health conditions; and due to the longevity of the chemicals and difficulty of eliminating them are often referred to as “forever” chemicals; and

WHEREAS: Studies have linked the chemicals to causing adverse health effects such as low infant birth weights, asthma, cancer and thyroid hormone disruptions. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s 2018 toxicological profile of PFAS also indicates that high levels of the chemicals in the blood may decrease how well the body responds to vaccines; and

WHEREAS: Recent research into the impact of PFAS chemicals is confirming their toxicity has increased the concern at every level of government and in the public, and led the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to set levels for water supply of 20 ppt and the federal EPA to consider declaring two of the chemicals as hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS: Measures of PFAS levels in the city’s water supply showed levels just below the state’s standard until recently, when levels above the 20 ppt were detected leading to a decision to switch to water supplied by MWRA whose PFAS levels are negligible; and

WHEREAS: The city is trying to reduce PFAS by implementing a granular activated carbon filtration system in the hope of reducing the levels of PFAS below the state limit, which system is expected to be operational by year end; and

WHEREAS: Over the years many users of Cambridge water have expressed concern about quality of the water, including high chloride levels, the lack of identification of the source of the PFAS contamination, and whether MWRA water should become a permanent source of water; and

WHEREAS: Drinking water safety and quality is of utmost importance to all who live and work in Cambridge and the City Council seeks to ensure that the community can hear from staff and others on water quality and can hear about steps being taken to address concerns about our water supply and the quality of water in Cambridge; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Health and Environment Committee of the City Council hold a public hearing to discuss the issue of PFAS and overall water quality, and work with the City Manager, the Water Board, and relevant city staff to set up the meeting; and be it further

ORDERED: That a first meeting on this topic be held this fall.

O-9 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: Cambridge Health Alliance’s popular Cambridge Birth Center has been closed since early in the pandemic; and

WHEREAS: The best available evidence, health outcomes research, and good public health policy points to the availability of out-of-hospital birthing options for healthy women with uncomplicated births as important part of a comprehensive health care system; and

WHEREAS: Birth centers help avoid infection, free up hospital beds, reduce unnecessary obstetrical interventions, increase breastfeeding rates, produce cost savings, and lead to long term mental health positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS: Local health care advocates including Judy Ann Bigby, MD, and former Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Judy Norsigian, Co-founder of Our Bodies Ourselves, and have publicly highlighted the need for more freestanding birth centers and urged Cambridge Health Alliance to reopen the Cambridge Birth Center; and

WHEREAS: Birth centers are an essential resource for communities, including women of color who face a disproportionate risk of maternal mortality and morbidity; and

WHEREAS: Care in birth center and planned home birth settings that is led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color is a crucial approach for meeting the needs of communities affected by structural racism and other forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Hospital could meet with community members and those experienced with freestanding birth centers to address any obstacles to reopening this critical community resource as soon as possible; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: The City Council go on record supporting the protection of existing birth centers and the creation of new birth centers in Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to communicate to the Cambridge Health Alliance the City Council’s support for the reopening of the Cambridge Birth Center for deliveries as soon as possible; 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-10 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Cambridge is proud to be the innovation capital of the East Coast but a discussion is needed about where future lab growth is appropriate and where it could significantly impede other priorities, including the emergency need for more housing and the desire to have vibrant, active business districts and squares; and

WHEREAS: The attached zoning amendments propose a technical definition of the lab use that is aligned with how other cities in the region have defined the use, allowing the use to be separately regulated from the general office use; and

WHEREAS: The attached zoning amendments propose a restriction on new instances of the lab use in fragile districts including Central Square, Harvard Square, and Cambridge Street; and

WHEREAS: The attached zoning amendments propose explicitly allowing any and all existing lab uses to continue in all districts without any barriers; and

WHEREAS: There is plenty of room for discussion around which districts should and should not be included, but without a proactive conversation and something on the table it is conceivable that the lab use could take over in areas where it is unwanted; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council refer the attached zoning petition to the Ordinance Committee and Planning Board for a hearing and report.

1. Define Lab use

Insert into Article 2.000 - Definitions the following language:

ARTICLE 2.000 - DEFINITIONS

...

Technical office for research and development, laboratory & research facility. Any laboratory engaged in research, experimental and testing, including but not limited to the fields of biology, chemistry, electronics, engineering, geology, medicine, and physics, including activities that requires additional air exchanges over and above a regular office use, or requires the use of chemical hoods, biosafety cabinets, regulated chemicals, or dangerous substances. This definition does not include innovation spaces, maker spaces, or other similar uses, or any purely software based activities.

2. Restrict the lab use in the following districts

Amend the table of uses in [Section 4.30](#) as follows:

4.30 - TABLE OF USE REGULATION [[Text of Order w/Table](#)]

3. Explicitly allow existing lab use to continue in all districts Insert footnotes 62 and 63 into Section 4.40 as follows:

4.40 - FOOTNOTES TO THE TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS

...

62. Any pre-existing technical office for research and development, laboratory & research facility permitted prior to January 1, 2023 in a Business or Office District shall be considered a conforming use for the purposes of making modifications to the building, until January 1, 2050.

63. The technical office for research and development, laboratory & research facility use shall be allowed in any PUD, AOD, SD, MXD or other special zoning district that already effectively allowed this use prior to January 1, 2023, notwithstanding the base zoning restrictions. Specifically, this base zoning restriction shall not apply to any existing PUD, AOD, SD, MXD or other existing special zoning districts in or near Kendall Square, Alewife or Cambridge Port, but will apply in regular overlay districts including Harvard Square and Central Square.

O-11 Sept 12, 2022

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The existing preference period for Economic Empowerment applicants established in the Cannabis Business Permitting Ordinance expires on Sept 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS: Due to various factors including supply chain disruptions and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the complex, arduous and expensive application process, and the inevitable delays in construction, a total of two Economic Empowerment retail establishment have opened and only recently

did so, while five additional Economic Empowerment retail establishments are now under construction and four additional Priority A applicants have executed Host Community Agreements; and

WHEREAS: Extending the preference period for Priority A applicants is necessary to accomplish the goal of giving these applicants an opportunity to establish their business; and

WHEREAS: That the City Council finds that the adoption of the amendment to Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 5.50 entitled Cannabis Business Permitting to extend and amend the provisions relating to the permitting preference period in Section 5.50.040 is an emergency involving the health and safety of the people of Cambridge or their property, pursuant to G.L. c.43, §20; and

WHEREAS: The City Council in recognition of the emergency waives the advertising provisions of Section 1.12.030 (b) of the Ordinances of the City of Cambridge; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council hereby declares that there is an emergency involving the health and safety of the people of Cambridge or their property, pursuant to G.L. c.43, §20 that necessitates the passages through all stages of ordination on this day; and be it further

ORDERED: That the ordinances of the City of Cambridge be amended as follows:

5.50.040 Permitting Preferences for Priority Applicants

The City shall issue a Cannabis Business Permit pursuant to this Chapter only to Priority Applicants. For the first ~~five~~ **three** years after the Effective Date of this Chapter as stated in section 5.50.100 below, the City shall issue a Cannabis Business Permit to operate a Cannabis Retail Store only to Group A Priority Applicants. The effect of this provision is to extend the preference period for Economic Empowerment Applicants from ~~three~~ **two** years to ~~five~~ **three** years, and to provide a ~~three~~ **one** year preference period for all other Group A Priority Applicants to run concurrently with the ~~third, fourth and fifth~~ **third** years of the preference period for Economic Empowerment Applicants.