

## CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to recommendations of the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) for FY2026. (CM25#224) [[text of report](#)]
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number #25-50, regarding a Deadline for Charter Change. (CM25#225)
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a recommendation from the Cambridge Election Commission regarding the assignment of twenty-six (26) police officers and any additional officers as required to the City's polling locations for the 2025 Municipal Election, pursuant to G.L. c. 54, §72. (CM25#226)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of an FY26 State 911 Department Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Grant in the amount of \$28,512 to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Other Ordinary Maintenance Account, which will support quality assurance (call review) of the emergency medical protocol used by staff to provide pre- and post-dispatch instructions for medical emergencies. (CM25#227)
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-45, regarding the siting of needle drop boxes and Naloxone boxes in high priority locations throughout the city. (CM25#228) [[text of report](#)]
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a transfer in the amount of \$1,703,731.64 from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund. (CM25#229)
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 25-38, 25-39 and 25-41, regarding issues related to parking in the area surrounding the eastern end of Broadway. (CM25#230) [[text of report](#)]
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-27, regarding the City Manager investigate bike pod storage options to be placed in suitable areas in the city to provide residents and visitors safe storage options. (CM25#231) [[text of report](#)]
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-42 regarding pedestrianization of Lower Bow Street. (CM25#232) [[text of report](#)]
10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-32,

regarding a request that the City engage in discussions with leadership from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Harvard Square Business Association (HSBA) regarding a proposal to explore the feasibility of repurposing the long-abandoned MBTA tunnel in Harvard Square into a commercial or cultural space. (CM25#233) [[text of report](#)]

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the transmission of the Cambridge Street Zoning Petition. (CM25#234) [[text of report](#)]
12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the transmission of the Massachusetts Avenue Zoning Petition. (CM25#235) [[text of report](#)]
13. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-43, regarding a request for an interim report on demolition and building permit applications received during the six-month period following the City Council's adoption of the Multifamily Housing Zoning Amendment on February 10th, 2025. (CM25#236) [[text of report](#)]

## ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to provide an update to the City Council at the September 29, 2025 City Council meeting regarding the status of discussions with the MBTA and HSBA, the potential allocation of funds for the tunnel feasibility RFP, and any anticipated next steps in this process. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Toner (PO25#125)
2. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Cambridge Police Department to review current crisis prevention protocols, strengthen them by clearly defining the role and deployment of mental health professionals. Councillor Wilson, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#126)
3. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship, the City Solicitor, the Police Department, the Mayor's Office, and other relevant stakeholders to evaluate and implement ICE Encounter Guidance. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#127)
4. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to provide an update on rodent control measures citywide and especially how the City addresses rodent mitigation through large construction projects, both public and private. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#128)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Cambridge Police Department, the Law Department, and relevant stakeholders to develop and present to the City Council a proposed policy for the timely release of body-worn camera footage. Councillor Azeem, Councillor

Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#129)

### CHARTER RIGHT

1. 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. [Charter Right – Toner, Sept 8, 2025] (PO25#117)

### 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 Harvard Art Museums requesting permission for 22 temporary pole banners around Cambridge Commons, Quincy Street and Cambridge Street announcing the Master brand Campaign from September 15, 2025 through January 15, 2026. (AP25#36)

### COMMUNICATIONS

1. Candice Beaulieu, re: [CIVITAS- TDMD FAQ Sept 2025](#).
2. Susan Leite-Bowers, re: Letter in Support of PO25#116 and PO25#117.
3. Carlos Loya, re: [urgent] Please help open - Elizabeth’s Daycare and Preschool Center in Cambridge.
4. Denise Jillson, re: Letter of Support for PO25#116.

5. Gerald Bergman, re: Axe wielding incident on August 10...hate crime charges brought!
6. Selin Kubali, re: License plate readers in Cambridge.
7. Susan Miller-Havens, re: PO25#108 Comment.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Steve McAuliffe who will be honored as the Massachusetts Red Sox Volunteer of the Year on Saturday, September 27, 2025 for his outstanding volunteer service with the Cambridge Girls Softball League. Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor McGovern
2. Condolences on the death of Phyllis S. Sage. Councillor Toner
3. That the City Council go on record recognizing and commending Priyota for her leadership in creating the Mother Language Poetry Contest, her ongoing advocacy for language preservation, and her contributions to celebrating the diversity and cultural richness of Cambridge. Councillor Siddiqui

### COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#120)
2. A communication was received from Councillor Nolan transmitting a report on the Cambridge Zero Emission Transportation Plan. (COF25#121) [[text of report](#)]

### HEARING SCHEDULE

#### 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

#### Tues, Sept 30

3:00pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on PO24#33, regarding a request to amend Cambridge Code of Ordinance 6.08.10 (“Regulation of vicious dogs”) to bring into compliance with State law; and to create a “Kennel License” that complies with MGL Section 137A.

#### Mon, Oct 6

5:30pm City Council Meeting

**Tues, Oct 7**

3:00pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on a Zoning Petition by Martin Bakal, et al., to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Sections 4.30 and 4.40 with the intent to restrict increasing pavement in Open Space districts by establishing “Paved way greater than 10’ wide” as a principal use within the Table of Use Regulations that would be prohibited in Open Space districts and permitted in all other zoning districts, with a footnote providing further clarifications and restrictions on the establishment of “paved ways.”

**Wed, Oct 8**

2:00pm The **Economic Development and University Relations Committee** will hold a public hearing with the Community Development Department, Economic Opportunity and Development Division, to provide an update on the city’s efforts to support small businesses and commercial districts in Cambridge.

**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 15, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: Harvard Square remains one of the most iconic and economically vital commercial districts in Cambridge, and sustained efforts to ensure its vibrancy and long-term success are of paramount importance to the broader health of the City; and

WHEREAS: On May 19, 2025, [the City Council passed a policy order](#) urging the City Manager to engage with the Harvard Square Business Association (HSBA) and the MBTA to discuss the HSBA’s proposal to explore the feasibility of reactivating the long-abandoned MBTA tunnel in Harvard Square for future commercial or cultural use; and

WHEREAS: That order specifically requested that the City Manager consider the use of \$72,000 from the \$300,000 budgeted for a pedestrianization study of Harvard Square to support the drafting and release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an engineering feasibility study of the tunnel space; and

WHEREAS: It has now been approximately four months since the passage of that order, and the City Council is eager to understand what progress has been made toward engaging stakeholders, identifying potential funding sources, and advancing this proposal toward implementation; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update to the City Council at the September 29, 2025 City Council meeting regarding the status of discussions with the MBTA and HSBA, the potential allocation of funds for the tunnel feasibility RFP, and any anticipated next steps in this process.

O-2 Sept 15, 2025

COUNCILLOR WILSON

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The Public Safety Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, to discuss an incident at 243 Broadway on August 2, 2025, and the public safety response; and

WHEREAS: The hearing underscored the importance of establishing clear protocols to ensure that mental health expertise is integrated into crisis prevention and response efforts; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Cambridge Police Department to review current crisis prevention protocols, strengthen them by clearly defining the role and deployment of mental health professionals, and report back to the City Council.

O-3 Sept 15, 2025  
MAYOR SIMMONS  
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, after the close of regular business hours, the Mayor's Office received an urgent call involving a Cambridge Rindge and Latin School student and their family, who were in the midst of an immigration-related emergency following escalating interactions with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents; and

WHEREAS: The call came at a time when all City departments and most legal and social service organizations were closed for the day, significantly complicating efforts to obtain timely, coordinated support for a family in crisis; and

WHEREAS: Despite these constraints, the Mayor and staff worked into the evening to verify facts, locate an interpreter, and make initial contact with the family and with legal resources — ultimately discovering that both parents were wearing ICE-issued ankle monitors, had their visas confiscated, and were facing imminent risk of detention and deportation, all without access to clear guidance or rights-based information; and

WHEREAS: This incident exposed serious after-hours operational gaps in the City's emergency response infrastructure with regard to immigration enforcement cases, including the absence of:

- A clear and designated protocol for triaging and escalating ICE-related emergencies outside of normal business hours;
- Immediate access to multilingual interpreter support during evenings or weekends;
- A centralized directory of legal and community-based organizations with afterhours availability;
- Trauma-informed strategies and legal guidance for interacting with families under federal surveillance, particularly those who may be facing imminent detention; and

WHEREAS: Immigration enforcement actions are unpredictable and often occur outside traditional working hours, and it is therefore critical that the City be prepared to respond with structure, speed, competence, and compassion whenever these cases arise; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship, the City Solicitor, the Police Department, the Mayor's Office, and other relevant stakeholders to evaluate and implement the following recommendations:

- Create a Designated 24-Hour Immigration Emergency Hotline for City staff, staffed by trained professionals or contracted experts who can walk City staff through appropriate legal, communications, and support protocols;
- Develop a Vetted Interpreter Network, including after-hours and weekend availability, prioritizing high-demand

languages including but not limited to Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Amharic;

- Assemble a Centralized Legal and Community Response Directory of immigration attorneys, advocacy groups, and mutual aid networks prepared to assist in after-hours detention or deportation risk cases;
- Establish Internal Protocols for Handling ICE-Related Incidents, outlining who to notify, how to document interactions, how to communicate with affected families, and how to ensure next-day follow-up;
- Designate an On-Call City Liaison to serve as a centralized point of contact and coordination during after-hours emergencies; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter no later than Monday, October 13, 2025.

O-4 Sept 15, 2025  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN  
COUNCILLOR AZEEM  
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: In previous years, the City Council has asked City staff for periodic updates on rodent control measures including [PO22#68](#), [PO22#184](#), and [PO23#154](#), and City staff have been responsive on updating the Council and the community regularly, including with [CM22#102](#), [CM22#226](#), [CM23#296](#), and [CM24#258](#) and dedicated City staff from ISD and DPW have been readily available to meet with residents and investigate rodent issues throughout the city along with providing accessible resources; and

WHEREAS: Reducing access to food waste is the most important action that can be taken to combat rodent populations, and after several years of work by the Department of Public Works and in consultation with the Health and Environment Committee, the City Council adopted the updated Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP 2.0) in June 2025 which will over time improve food waste diversion for residents, restaurants, and commercial buildings, which will dramatically reduce food access for rodents; and

WHEREAS: Additionally, as part of an ongoing initiative DPW will be installing 200 new fully enclosed BigBelly bins to combat rodent activity and prevent litter, and these new bins, which include both trash and recycling stations, will replace almost all of the open-top trash cans currently in the city and will be a great benefit in reducing access for rodents, compacting trash, and allowing DPW to optimize waste pick-ups; and

WHEREAS: Soil and landscape disruptions due to construction and demolition can have a large effect on how residents experience rodent activity throughout the city, and reports of rat population exploding across the city, in every area, and with large construction projects ongoing, having a

mitigation plan will be important in dealing with increased rodent activity in the area; and

WHEREAS: In CMA 2022 #102, then DPW Commissioner Owen O’Riordan suggested that DPW would like to propose changes in the Refuse and Litter Ordinance of 1991, which are especially relevant now since the ZWMP 2.0 update and ongoing rodent control initiatives; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to provide an update on rodent control measures citywide and especially how the City addresses rodent mitigation through large construction projects, both public and private; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to provide recommendations to update the Refuse and Litter Ordinance at the time of other upcoming ZWMP recommended related ordinance updates; 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.

O-5 Sept 15, 2025

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Police Department has now deployed body-worn cameras for all officers, ensuring an important tool for transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS: While there are legitimate sensitivities around ongoing investigations, the City has a strong interest in promoting public trust by releasing body-worn camera footage in a timely and consistent manner; and

WHEREAS: Other municipalities have adopted clear timelines for releasing body camera footage, and Cambridge should consider establishing a policy that such footage be released within 30 days of an incident or at minimum that the Council and community hold a discussion thereof; and

WHEREAS: There is no legal barrier preventing the City from releasing body camera footage to the public once appropriate privacy protections are considered; and

WHEREAS: In a recent incident, Cambridge Police officers deployed a pepper ball into a private apartment and body camera footage has not yet been released, raising community concern and underscoring the urgent need for timely public access to footage; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Cambridge Police Department, the Law Department, and relevant stakeholders to develop and present to the City Council a proposed policy for the timely release of body-worn camera footage, including consideration of release within 30 days of an incident, and to report back to the City Council on this matter.