

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#237) [[text of report](#)]
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Preservation Restriction at 44 J.F. Kennedy Street. (CM25#238) [[text of report](#)]
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$94,531, received from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, State 911 Department, to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account. (CM25#239)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$7,000 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Travel and Training account. The Children's Trust Concrete Support funding will be used to provide gift cards to families to help access nutritional and other concrete supports (diapers, wipes, and other child/family supplies). (CM25#240)
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-05, regarding a report on the use of M.G.L Ch. 40U to determine which local statutes can be enforced by the Local-Option Procedure in order to better collect fines in violation of Cambridge Ordinances. (CM25#241) [[text of report](#)]

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the City Council to establish a Seal Review Committee with the charge of recommending an updated city seal and motto in time for adoption prior to the 400th anniversary of the City of Cambridge in 2030. Vice Mayor McGovern, Mayor Simmons (PO25#130)
2. That the Housing Committee will be convened to discuss the concrete details of social housing; that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department, Finance Department, Law Department, and other relevant departments to explore all steps towards advancing social housing in Cambridge. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson (PO25#131)
3. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to provide a recommendation on the site conditions of 25 Lowell Street and considerations and process for determining the future use of the property. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#132)
4. That the City Manager is requested to illuminate Cambridge City Hall in purple lights on Sunday, Oct 5, 2025, in recognition of Rett Syndrome Awareness Month and to demonstrate the City's support for individuals and families

affected by this disorder. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#133)

5. That the City Council go on record in recognizing October as National Women's Business Month in Cambridge. Councillor Wilson, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#134)
6. Proclaim Sept 30, 2025, as "Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day" in the City of Cambridge and encourages all Cambridge residents to recognize this day by learning more about LGMD, supporting advocacy and research, and helping build inclusive communities with compassion and understanding for those living with neuromuscular diseases. Councillor Wilson, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#135)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. 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. [Charter Right – Azeem, Sept 15, 2025] (CM25#233)

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)
6. A communication was received from Councillor Nolan transmitting a report on the Cambridge Zero Emission Transportation Plan. [Tabled – Sept 15, 2025] (COF25#121)

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Maggie Booz, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 10 Blanchard Road; 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. (AP25#37)
2. An application was received from Raymond Thill representing Moona, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 750 Main Street approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters proof of mailing has been provided. (AP25#38)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Bruce, regarding Request for Enforcement Plan on Handheld Device Ban While Driving.
2. CRLS Bike Club, re: bike club letter to Cambridge City Council.
3. Gordon T. Moore, re: Submitted comments for Health and Environment Committee Meeting on Tues, Sept 16th.
4. Jessica Sculley, re: City Council Sept 15, 2025 PO25#117.
5. Lahra Tillman, re: Must see photos, Russell Field.
6. Lois Markham, re: public comment on license plate reader cameras.
7. Marie Elena Saccoccio, re: Condon American City Canadian City Diagram.
8. Marilee Meyer, re: Cambridge Day argument for better housing.
9. Michael S. Grill, re: Support for Cambridge Street Rezoning.
10. Nike Tirman, re: Garden Street Continued Hazard PLEASE READ.
11. Ovadia R Simha, re: ECPT Letter Future of Cambridge St Proposal.
12. Roy Russell, re: Data Retention Policy.
13. Sharmil Modi, re: CDD Corridor Zoning Recommendations.
14. Susan Leite Bowers, re: Ltr to Mayor Simmons and councillors re: tunnel project.
15. Walden Street neighbors and abutters, re: 70 Walden Street Development – Follow-Up Concerns.
16. Young Kim, re: My Comment tonight.
17. Young Kim, re: I am disappointed about forwarding Zoning petitions to Ordinance Committee.
18. Young Kim, re: Requesting a Policy Order - Report on the MassAve Partial Construction.
19. Young Kim, re: Tonight's vote to forward the 2 zoning petition to the Ordinance Committee.
20. Young Kim, re: SeeClickFix Traffic congestion at Alewife Brook Pkwy & Mass Ave at 8:30am (#12524562).
21. Ethan Frank, re: Support for Corridor Rezoning and Bow Street Pedestrianization.
22. Nonie Valentine, re: Institutional Use Zoning.
23. Carlos Loya, re: Re Please help open - Elizabeth's Daycare and Preschool Center in Cambridge.

24. Liz Byron Loya, re: BPS teacher requests response re: Elizabeth's Daycare and Preschool.
25. Ovadia R Simha, re: Dover Amendment.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences to the family of Red T. Mitchell. Mayor Simmons
2. Congratulation to Kevin Treanor and Joe McCabe on their 30 year anniversary of the Phoenix Landing. Councillor Zusy
3. Condolences on the death of Carlos M. Coelho. Councillor Toner
4. Celebrating 50 Years of the Cambridgeport Children's Center. Councillor Zusy
5. Condolences on the death of Joao M. Lopes. Councillor Toner
6. Congratulations to Dr. Maria McCauley on her election as 2026-2027 President of the American Library Association, for which she was recently honored by the Cambridge Public Library Foundation. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Simmons, Councillor Toner
7. Commending Dr. Maureen McCormick, Ph.D., for her exemplary professional and volunteer service, and celebrating her retirement from volunteer work with De Novo. Councillor Siddiqui
8. Thanks to the organizers of the inaugural Celebrating Disability Pride community event which will take place on Sat, Oct 4, 2025, at Joan Lorentz Park in front of the Cambridge Public Library at 449 Broadway from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Siddiqui

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Health and Environment Committee** held a public hearing on Sept 9, 2025 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. [\[text of report\]](#)
Proposed Order: That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments and the recently formed coalition to consider options including consideration of costs and benefits to meet a 2050 25-year storm level of control of CSOs, update regulations for private development of stormwater, use of green infrastructure, and improve meaningful public outreach regarding ongoing sewer and stormwater investments, including the creation of a Combined Sewer Overflow Commission. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Azeem (PO25#136)
2. The **Public Safety Committee** held a public hearing on Sept 10, 2025 to discuss COF25#106, including questions that were submitted by City Council members regarding an

incident at 243 Broadway on Aug 2, 2025 and the public safety response. [\[text of report\]](#)

3. The **Health and Environment Committee** held a public hearing on Sept 16, 2025 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. (PO25#137) [\[text of report\]](#)

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#124)

HEARING SCHEDULE

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

6:30pm The Cambridge City Council will conduct a public meeting on: **PROPERTY TAX RATE CLASSIFICATION**

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 29, 2025

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The official seal of the City of Cambridge was designed in 1846 by Harvard President Edward Everett and has served as a symbol of the community for nearly two centuries; and

WHEREAS: The seal depicts Gore Hall and the Washington Elm, two features that no longer exist in the city; and

WHEREAS: The seal’s imagery no longer reflects the breadth of Cambridge’s history, diversity, or broader identity; and

WHEREAS: The Latin motto “*Literis Antiquis Novis Institutis Decora*” translates as “*Distinguished for classical learning and new institutions,*” language that reflected the priorities of 1846 but is not widely understood by Cambridge residents today; and

WHEREAS: The city would benefit from a motto expressed in clear, inclusive English that honors Cambridge’s heritage while speaking directly to its diverse contemporary community; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge will celebrate the 400th anniversary of its founding in 2030, providing a timely opportunity to update the city seal to reflect its past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS: It is in the public interest to form a representative committee to lead this process, ensuring that the city seal embodies inclusivity, historical accuracy, and civic interests; and

WHEREAS: Such a committee should include individuals representing our various communities including the Indigenous population, as well as European, African diaspora, Latin American, and Asian immigrant groups, historians, representatives of one or more key institutions, members with media backgrounds, representatives from the Cambridge Historical Commission and the Cambridge Arts Council, city staff, and others; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the City Council to establish a Seal Review Committee with the charge of recommending an updated city seal and motto in time for adoption prior to the 400th anniversary of the City of Cambridge in 2030.

O-2 Sept 29, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: There is an affordability crisis in Cambridge, especially for low-income residents, where over 70% of Cambridge households below 50% AMI are rent-burdened according to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)'s [most recent Housing Needs Assessment](#); and

WHEREAS: Over the last three decades, tens of thousands of people had to leave Cambridge, largely because of the high cost of housing, reducing the economic, racial, and ethnic diversity of long-term residents of the city; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has made significant efforts on housing affordability and the creation of new affordable and market rate housing over the last several years, including with the Affordable Housing Overlay, the increase to the City's Affordable Housing Linkage Fee, a municipal housing voucher program, and the Multi-Family Housing Ordinance; and

WHEREAS: New market-rate housing construction alone is not sufficient to address this crisis for low and moderate-income families, and a commensurate dramatic increase in the construction of affordable housing is also needed; and

WHEREAS: Major European cities have addressed their housing needs for the past century through substantial construction of "social housing"; and

WHEREAS: Social housing means mixed-income, government-owned or -controlled rental housing in which at least 40% of the units are affordable to households below 80% AMI, a significant portion of which are reserved for low-income households below 30% AMI; in which affordability is achieved through cross-subsidization from the higher income units and low-interest capital from government funding; and in which community and tenant control are maintained; and

WHEREAS: Social housing's financial success is achieved through low-interest loans and higher-income rents cross-subsidizing the lower-income units, allowing loan repayment and the recycling of funds in excess of costs to invest in the next project; and

WHEREAS: Tenant control means that residents have democratic control of the housing they live in, and community control means that the board overseeing the developer of social housing is composed of the community served by the housing, possibly in a manner similar to Seattle's social housing ordinance, where a 13-person social housing board is composed of a majority of renters with lived experience of housing insecurity; and

WHEREAS: Many cities and states in the United States, including Maryland, Rhode Island, Seattle, Chicago, Atlanta, and Boston, have initiated efforts to establish social housing, including creating social housing development agencies, capitalizing hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds towards social housing, and passing dedicated tax revenue for social housing; and

WHEREAS: Boston established the Boston Acquisition Fund, a revolving loan fund providing low-interest debt for affordable housing; Massachusetts seeded \$50 million in the Momentum Fund, a revolving loan fund to support the development of mixed-income housing; and Massachusetts passed a social housing pilot

as part of its \$275 million Sustainable and Green Initiatives line item in the most recent Housing Bond bill; now therefore be it ORDERED: That the Housing Committee will be convened to discuss the concrete details of social housing, including but not limited to the affordability and composition of a social housing portfolio; mechanisms of funding social housing, including the establishment of a revolving loan fund, use of bonding capacity, and dedicated funding sources from the operating budget; who will develop social housing in Cambridge; and how social housing will achieve democratic governance in its buildings; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department, Finance Department, Law Department, and other relevant departments to explore all steps towards advancing social housing in Cambridge, including but not limited to: (a) creating a revolving loan fund to support the development of social housing, (b) identifying a preferred public or quasi-public developer of social housing in Cambridge, either an existing agency/agencies or the establishment of a new one; (c) identifying possible dedicated funding mechanisms based on the models of other cities, including Seattle's compensation tax and Chicago's municipal bond issuance; (d) establishing preferential zoning for social housing; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council before January 2026.

O-3 Sept 29, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR TONER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has been considering best uses for all City-owned property, and has recently done work to reassess a large portfolio in the Central Square area as part of the [Central Square Lots Study](#); and

WHEREAS: The City Council has been engaged in discussions about all City-owned properties, including the property at 25 Lowell Street which is currently occupied by the New School of Music and the Cambridge Arts Association [Cf. [POR 2021 #35](#)] and considering the highest and best use for the properties; and

WHEREAS: Some building issues at 25 Lowell Street have come up recently including repairing external fire damage and how to improve access through a possible elevator, and the need for more attention to repair and maintenance is an important capital consideration for the property; and

WHEREAS: It is good governance and accepted best practice that leases of City buildings and properties should be reviewed on a regular basis, which has not happened for decades with 25 Lowell Street; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to provide a recommendation on the site conditions of 25 Lowell Street and considerations and process for determining the future use of the property; 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-4 Sept 29, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: October is designated as *Rett Syndrome Awareness Month*, an annual observance dedicated to educating the public, supporting families, and advancing research into this rare and devastating disorder; and

WHEREAS: Rett syndrome is a rare, non-inherited genetic neurological disorder that almost exclusively affects girls, typically emerging between 6 and 18 months of age, with symptoms that may include developmental delays, loss of motor and communication skills, seizures, and breathing difficulties; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 1 in 10,000 girls worldwide are affected by Rett syndrome, and while there is no known cure, research continues to bring hope for future treatments that will improve quality of life for individuals and families impacted; and

WHEREAS: Since its designation in 2007 by the International Rett Syndrome Foundation, Rett Syndrome Awareness Month has been recognized by states and municipalities across the country, with the color purple serving as a symbol of solidarity and awareness; and

WHEREAS: Awareness activities include wearing purple, participating in fundraising events, sharing stories on social media using the hashtag *#RettSyndromeAwareness*, and lighting public buildings purple to highlight the urgent need for education, advocacy, and research; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing October 2025 as *Rett Syndrome Awareness Month* in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to illuminate Cambridge City Hall in purple lights on Sunday, October 5, 2025, in recognition of *Rett Syndrome Awareness Month* and to demonstrate the City’s support for individuals and families affected by this disorder; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to representatives of Rett syndrome advocacy and research organizations on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-5 Sept 29, 2025

COUNCILLOR WILSON

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: October is recognized nationally as Women’s Business Month, a time to celebrate and uplift women entrepreneurs and the vital role they play in local and national economies; and

WHEREAS: National Women’s Business Month commemorates the Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988, which authorized the federal government to issue loans to businesses controlled by women and removed barriers such as the requirement of a male co-signer for access to capital; and

WHEREAS: According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, women-owned businesses represented over 42% of all U.S. businesses by 2019, accounting for more than 13 million businesses across the nation; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge is home to a diverse and growing community of women-owned businesses that enrich our neighborhoods, create jobs, and foster innovation; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge will host a series of events during October 2025, including the Women’s Business Month Kick-Off Event at Asaro Bakery on October 9 and the Women’s

Entrepreneurship Network Fall Meet Up at Page & Leaf Cafe on October 29; and

WHEREAS: These events will provide opportunities for networking, resource-sharing, and community support while highlighting the accomplishments of women business owners in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to support women-owned businesses in Cambridge during the month of October and throughout the year by exploring the Cambridge Business Diversity Director and shopping locally; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record recognizing October 2025 as Women’s Business Month in the City of Cambridge and celebrating the contributions of women-owned businesses to the City’s culture, economy, and community.

O-6 Sept 29, 2025

COUNCILLOR WILSON

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: September 30, 2025, marks the eleventh annual Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy (LGMD) Awareness Day, a global effort to recognize and support individuals living with LGMD; and

WHEREAS: LGMD is a group of rare neuromuscular diseases that cause progressive muscle weakness, most often impacting the hips, shoulders, and surrounding muscles, and can significantly impact mobility, independence, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families living with LGMD face significant medical, physical, and emotional challenges that require greater community awareness, education, and support; and

WHEREAS: Raising awareness of LGMD is essential to promoting earlier diagnosis, advancing research, improving treatment options, and fostering inclusion and accessibility for those affected; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing LGMD also highlights the importance of education, inclusion, and accessibility for residents living with neuromuscular diseases and other rare conditions; and

WHEREAS: While no cure or treatment currently exists for LGMD, scientists and medical researchers are carrying out promising studies that may lead to future breakthroughs and improved treatment options; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming September 30, 2025, as “Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day” in the City of Cambridge and encourages all Cambridge residents to recognize this day by learning more about LGMD, supporting advocacy and research, and helping build inclusive communities with compassion and understanding for those living with neuromuscular diseases.