



HUMAN SERVICES & VETERANS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Thursday, June 2, 2022

5:30 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Human Services and Veterans Committee will conduct a public hearing to receive an update from the City Manager's Opioid Task Force.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burhan Azeem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alanna Mallon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Human Services & Veterans Committee was held on June 2, 2022. The meeting was Called to Order at 5:30 p.m. by the Chair, Councillor McGovern. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022 adopted by the Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

Deputy City Clerk called the roll.

- Councillor McGovern – Present/Remote
- Councillor Azeem - Present/Remote
- Vice Mayor Mallon - Present/Remote
- Councillor Toner – Absent
- Councillor Zondervan - Present/Remote

Present 4, Absent 1. Quorum established.

Councillor McGovern gave opening remarks and noted that the focus of the meeting is to receive an update from the City Manager’s Opioid Task Force. He introduced Dr. Assaad Sayah and invited him to give introductions of members of the working group.

Dr. Sayah, Chief Executive Officer, stated that it is an honor and privilege to present the work that been done by the Administrative Opioid Working Group over the last four years. He thanked the City of Cambridge for its commitment in this effort.

Christine Elow, Commissioner, Cambridge Police Department, along with assistance from Mary Kowalczyk, Manager, Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Cambridge Public Health Department, Cambridge Health Alliance, gave a presentation entitled “The Human Services and Veterans Committee Report Out” ATTACHMENT A.

Councillor McGovern introduced Eva Tine who is a Cambridge resident, soon to be an MSW, who works at a program that focuses on individuals struggling with substance use disorder. Eva is the Co-Chair of the National Association of Social Workers MA Chapter Mental Health Substance Use Special Interest

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Group. Ms. Tine shared that she was injecting heroine in Cambridge from the ages of 16-19 in Cambridge. She explained that because she was able to access resources to stay safe while she healed from substance abuse, she is now in her last term of graduate school, soon to become a Trauma Informed Social Worker. She outlined the work she is undertaking in this field.

Dr. Christopher Fischer, M.D., Emergency Physician, Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, Mount Auburn Hospital, spoke about Narcan availability in as many places as possible, along with open points of distribution is something that Cambridge should aspire to, both within the medical community and outside the medical community.

Councillor McGovern then acknowledged Councillor Azeem, Vice Mayor Mallon, and Councillor Zondervan for questions/comments.

The following individuals were also present to answer questions: Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, and Nancy Mahan, Senior Vice President, BayCove Human Services.

Councillor McGovern thanked all those present for their attendance.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councillor McGovern.

Councillor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor Mallon – Yes

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Zondervan – Yes

Yes – 4, Absent – 1. Motion to adjourn passed at 7:30 p.m.

Attachment A: Presentation titled “The Human Services and Veterans Committee Report Out”

Clerk’s Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record.

The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/301?view_id=1&redirect=true

All meetings are “closed captioned”. After each meeting the “closed captioned transcripts” are available online at: <https://app.box.com/s/9qormcahynjt4pzpt1n5opixogl3q7k5>

Please note that there is no editing of these “closed captioned transcripts” and they do not constitute a verbatim transcript prepared by a certified transcriber.

A communication was received from Mary Kowalczuk of the Cambridge Public Health Department, transmitting a presentation.