

## CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A [communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale](#), City Manager, relative to [votes necessary to seek approval from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue of the tax rate for FY2022](#).

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City Council vote to authorize the use of \$22,500,000 in Free Cash to reduce the FY22 tax rate.
2. That the City Council vote to authorize \$2,500,000 in overlay surplus/reserves to be used for reducing the FY22 tax rate.
3. That the City Council vote to authorize \$9,500,000 from the City Debt Stabilization Fund to be used as a revenue source to the General Fund Budget, which is an increase of \$1,000,000 than what was included in the FY22 Adopted Budget.
4. That the City Council classify property within the City of Cambridge into the five classes allowed for the purpose of allocating the property tax. It is further recommended that the City Council adopt a minimum residential factor of 62.9395%.
5. That the City Council approve the residential exemption factor of 30% for owner occupied homes, which should result in a **residential tax rate of \$5.92** upon final approval by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. In addition, based upon final approval by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue the **commercial tax rate is anticipated to be \$11.23**.
6. That the City Council vote to double the normal value of the statutory exemptions.
7. That the City Council vote to increase the FY22 exemption allowed under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D from \$341 to \$346.
8. That the City Council vote to increase the FY22 asset limits allowed under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E from \$67,379 to \$68,322.
9. That the City Council vote to increase the FY22 income and assets limits for elderly persons (age 65 or older). Income limits of \$27,860 to \$28,250 for those who are single and \$41,792 to \$42,377 for those who are married, asset limits of \$55,718 to \$56,498 for those who are single and \$76,612 to \$77,685 for those who are married, as allowed under MGL, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D.
10. That the City Council vote the income limit for deferral of real estate taxes by elderly persons (at least 65 years old) as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue for the purposes of MGL, Chapter 62, Section 6, subsection (k), for a single person who is not head of household (\$61,000) and for a married couple (\$92,000), as allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41A. The reduction of the interest rate to 4% for deferred taxes,

which was approved by the City Council previously, will continue.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appointment and reappointment of members of the Family Policy Council, effective Oct 1, 2021: Elizabeth Hill, Michelle Lower, Geeta Pradhan, Bridget Rodriguez, Christine Elow, Susan Breen, Victoria Greer, Christine Kim, Robert Gittens
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-22, regarding updating neighborhood organization lists.
4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-33, regarding Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment standards in the review of development projects.

### ON THE TABLE

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-13, regarding next steps on implementation of Universal Pre-K. [Placed on the Table in Council May 17, 2021]
2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-41, regarding a report on closing Mass Ave from Prospect Street to Sidney Street on Friday and Saturday evenings. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor McGovern in Council June 28, 2021; Placed on the Table in Council Aug 2, 2021]
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-56, regarding improvements to Jerry's Pond and along Rindge Avenue. [Placed on the Table by Mayor Siddiqui in Council Sept 13, 2021]

### APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from MIT Visual Arts Center requesting permission for a temporary banner across Ames Street, Memorial Drive to Main Street 15 lights poles announcing Welcome back/Now Open, Contemporary Art Museum at MIT, MIT List Visual Arts Center from October 2021 until February 2022.

### COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Mark Rinaldo, regarding redesign of Mass Ave.
2. A communication was received from Mark Goldberg, regarding redesign of Mass Ave to create a separate bicycle lane.
3. A communication was received from Perry Lubin, regarding APP 2021 #26 - Ordinance Committee Neighborhood Conservation District amendments.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Maryann (Iannacci) Cataldo. Councillor Toomey
2. Resolution on the death of Sarhad Karageuzian. Councillor Toomey

3. Resolution on the death of Dorothy (Bernarducci) Harr. Councillor Toomey
4. Resolution on the death of Lorna Hoover. Councillor Simmons
5. Wishing Joe Rose a Happy Birthday. Councillor Simmons
6. Resolution on the death of Michael "Trifty" Trifone. Councillor Toomey
7. Resolution on the death of Joyce Frith. Councillor Simmons
8. Congratulations to Jada Simmons Ononeme for being presented with the Mystic River Watershed Association's Ripple Award. Councillor Toomey
9. Congratulations to the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre on the success of the Dance for World Community Festival. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui
10. Resolution on the death of Donald Burroughs. Councillor McGovern
11. Thanks to all those who helped plant the Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan

### **ORDERS**

1. That the City Manager is requested to make available the appropriate staff and information pertaining to past efforts to establish a Green Jobs program. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Zondervan
2. That the City Manager is requested to establish a written plan designed to ensure that Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color will be recruited by the City, trained, and placed in leadership positions throughout the municipal government. Councillor Simmons
3. That the City Manager is requested to direct appropriate staff to design a Language Access Plan in conjunction with the Cambridge Public Schools. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
4. That the City Manager is requested to re-establish the Community School Neighborhood Councils. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toomey
5. That the City Council go on record requesting that the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee hold a hearing to discuss the ways the city might support residents interested in having pickle and paddle ball opportunities available. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toomey
6. City Council support of the MIT Graduate Student Union. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon
7. That the City Manager is requested to present a plan, which includes funding, and the findings of any feasibility study of any DHSP and any other city department providing children and/or city youth programs, for rapidly expanding out of school time in the city to create enough slots for all families who need it. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone

8. That the City Manager is requested to convene a Caregiver Advisory Council that is overly represented by high priority families will be convened in partnership with DHSP that engages key stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to, the Agenda for Children, current and former out of school time staff and leadership, and out of school time community benefit organizations. Such a council will receive reports as ordered by Policy Order 2021 #201 that describe who applied and were enrolled, capacity, staffing, and outreach efforts. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. The Health and Environment Committee met on Apr 14, 2021 to conduct a public hearing regarding the City's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS**

1. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, communicating information from the School Committee.
2. A communication was received from Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Vice-Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern communicating information about the Children's Savings Account Program.

### **HEARING SCHEDULE**

#### **Mon, Oct 4**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
- 6:30pm The Cambridge City Council will conduct a public meeting regarding Property Tax Rate Classification under the laws of the Commonwealth, the City has the option of taxing residential and commercial/industrial property at different tax rates. At this public meeting, the City Council will review tax rates/classifications proposed by the City Manager and the Board of Assessors. The votes taken will result in property tax rates that reflect the city's property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2022, including the granting of the residential exemption. (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Wed, Oct 13**

- 5:00pm The Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss the long-term plan for school buildings, including a systemwide summary of status of plans, update on current projects, any plans for future relocations, and projections for enrollment changes over time. (Remote Hearing)

#### **Mon, Oct 18**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Mon, Oct 25**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Mon, Nov 1**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Mon, Nov 8**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Mon, Nov 15**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Mon, Nov 22**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

#### **Mon, Nov 29**

- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 6**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 13**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 20**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**Mon, Dec 27**

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

**TEXT OF ORDERS**

O-1 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: Just over a decade ago, the City of Cambridge made an initial effort to develop a Green Jobs training and employment program targeting the City's NRS (Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy) eligible residents; and

WHEREAS: This initial \$100,000 contract (with the Asian American Civic Association) ran from April 2010 through September 2011, it was funded with Community Development Block Grant Funds, and it began with sixteen residents enrolled, thirteen of whom graduated from the program, five of whom were placed in jobs, and four of whom were still working in the field a year later; and

WHEREAS: Due to a variety of factors, this initial effort to create a durable Green Jobs training and employment program did not yield the robust results that were initially hoped for, yet there are important lessons to be learned from this experience that can and should be applied to a renewed effort to create a more durable, more robust program; and

WHEREAS: There remains a strong desire by many for the City to create a viable Green Jobs training and employment program, and the need for the City to more aggressively address issues pertaining to climate change, climate justice, job creation, and job placement has only increased over the past decade; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to make available the appropriate staff and information pertaining to past efforts to establish a Green Jobs program to the Chairs of the Civic Unity Committee, the Human Services and Veterans Committee, the Economic Development and University Relations Committee, and the Health and Environment Committee in order to allow a joint hearing of these committees to be convened to discuss lessons learned from the previous Green Jobs program, and how to move forward with re-establishing a Green Jobs Program for the City of Cambridge.

O-2 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: In recent years, the City of Cambridge has done an admirable job in working to recruit and retain a workforce that more accurately reflects the diversity of the population it serves, but the City has lagged when promoting minority workers – particularly women of color – to positions of authority; and

WHEREAS: As this is a community that urges all local businesses and institutions to foster equity in their hiring and promotion practices, and to place an emphasis on recruiting, retaining, and promoting women and minorities to leadership positions, it becomes all the more imperative that the City practices what it preaches in this regard; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to establish a written plan designed to ensure that Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color will be recruited by the City, trained, and placed in leadership positions throughout the

municipal government to better reflect the community that is served by this government; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present this plan to the City Council prior to the end of this calendar year.

O-3 Oct 4, 2021

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: Language justice is the fundamental right every person has to communicate, to understand and to be understood in the language(s) and method in which they feel most comfortable, which includes the communication rights of individuals with preferred languages other than English as well as person with communication-related disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Language justice provides an opportunity for communities to reframe their commitment to residents by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of the way they communicate, are valued, respected, and can participate fully in the democratic and social processes of the community; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is dedicated to improving the quality of life for everyone in our community and ensuring all residents have meaningful and equitable access to programs, services and stakeholder engagement, especially for underrepresented, underserved communities, and the most vulnerable residents, including, but not limited to, communities of color, persons with disabilities, and individuals for whom English is not the preferred language for communication, either verbal or written; and

WHEREAS: About 8% of the Cambridge population does not speak English very well as defined by the American Community Survey, and the same survey found that linguistically isolated individuals are more likely to be technologically isolated, with at least 15% lacking any access to the internet or computers at home; and

WHEREAS: Plain language in all forms of written communications gets information across in the shortest time possible, allows more people to quickly understand the message, simplifies translation into other languages, and helps make information more accessible to wider audiences; and

WHEREAS: Language justice is needed to effectively engage with families, and the City Council has already adopted a [resolution](#) to its commitment to family engagement; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic underscored that language justice is critical for effective and equitable communication about public health, and the City of Cambridge translated essential materials and set up a phone system with 7 language lines to support residents who preferred to communicate in a language other than English in applying for Mayor's Disaster Relief and Housing Stabilization funds; and

WHEREAS: It is essential to the entire community's health and safety to broaden language justice practices in order to support all Cambridge residents in getting the information they need to stay informed and healthy; and

WHEREAS: Over the last year the Family Policy Council established a Language Justice Working Group comprised of representatives from the City, schools, and community partners that gathered information from those who live and work in Cambridge, reviewed existing demographic data, researched what Cambridge and other communities are doing to address language access issues, and developed recommendations; and

WHEREAS: The Family Policy Council continues to collaborate with and learn from other cities (i.e. [Seattle WA](#), [Denver CO](#), [Boston MA](#)); and

WHEREAS: By focusing on language justice as a city, the City can increase the number and ways in which people in Cambridge interact with and are connected to their local government, schools, health systems, nonprofits and other essential services; and

WHEREAS: Implementing a language justice policy is an important step in the path towards language justice in the City of Cambridge and will result in a stronger community with increased engagement, partnership, belonging, and trust; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct appropriate staff to design a Language Access Plan in conjunction with the Cambridge Public Schools, which includes a shared template, unified strategy, phased roll-out, timeline, budget, staffing, and goals to ensure Cambridge advances language justice and is a welcoming and just city; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide the City Council information about the appropriate funding needed to support the implementation of the Language Access Plan as part of the FY23 budget process.

O-4 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The City continues seeking ways of encouraging and enabling greater levels of civic engagement and participation in the discussions that shape our community; and

WHEREAS: One method of increasing civic engagement would be for the City to re-establish the Community School Neighborhood Councils that used to be a fixture in this community, but which have languished in recent years; and

WHEREAS: The re-establishment of the Community School Neighborhood Councils would help create a durable mechanism to allow for a more robust exchange of information between the City and community members, it would encourage a more diverse mix of voices to be heard, and it would likely enhance the policies and programs created by the City, and make them more responsive to the needs of residents; and

WHEREAS: In re-establishing the Community School Neighborhood Councils, the City should take pains to ensure that the barrier for participation for those from lower-income families is minimal, and that the voices of Black and Brown families should be centered in the discussions; and

WHEREAS: In furtherance of this endeavor, the City might wish to also consider the concept of providing childcare and/or stipends to those who participate in these Community School Neighborhood Councils; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to re-establish the Community School Neighborhood Councils, and to report back to the City Council on this effort before the close of this calendar year.

O-5 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Taking part in outdoor recreational activities can greatly improve physical and mental health, made especially clear during the past year and a half of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS: Paddle tennis and pickleball are outdoor sports both of which are growing in popularity nationwide, as physically rigorous, yet easy to learn, social, and accessible to all ages; and

WHEREAS: The sports together attract a diverse audience in terms of gender, race and ethnicity; although the high cost of most paddle ball opportunities prohibit participation by the full range of people interested; and

WHEREAS: Paddle tennis and pickleball can share courts, with paddle tennis played during winter and therefore played year-round, whereas many sports are not accessible in winters; and

WHEREAS: Paddle tennis is an exclusive sport - out of 112 courts in Massachusetts, none are open to the public; all charge membership and court fees, most are invitation-only country clubs with substantial initiation fees which would make Cambridge potentially the first municipality to provide equitable access to this sport; and

WHEREAS: There is substantial interest amongst Cambridge residents in these sports, as evidenced by the many projects submitted during the latest round of Participatory Budgeting, currently under review; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record requesting that the Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee hold a hearing to discuss the ways the city might support residents interested in having pickle and paddle ball opportunities available; and be it further

ORDERED: That the hearing include representatives from youth groups, residents, and City departments as determined appropriate by the City Manager.

O-6 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: On September 27, graduate student workers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology formally [announced a campaign](#) to establish the MIT Graduate Student Union affiliated with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), and that day hosted a [kickoff rally](#) attended by over 1,000 graduate students and community members; and

WHEREAS: MIT graduate students are essential workers who keep MIT functioning and thriving as an institution day-to-day by teaching classes, conducting research, writing papers, filing patents, running programming, staffing conferences, and applying for grants; and

WHEREAS: In their issues program, the MIT GSU [aims to win:](#)

- 1) Fair expectations and adequate resources for their work,
- 2) Safe, equitable, and dignified workplace free of systemic barriers and sexual harassment,
- 3) Financial security and guaranteed institutional support,
- 4) Affordable housing and comprehensive benefits, and
- 5) Equal academic and professional opportunities for international students; and

WHEREAS: The MIT GSU unionization effort builds on efforts by [Reject Injustice through Student Empowerment \(RISE\)](#)—a coalition of Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT (G4HMIT), the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), and the Graduate Student Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee (GSC DEI)—to fight for racial, economic, and social justice at MIT, which the City Council affirmed and commended with a [policy order on September 21, 2020](#); now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of the MIT GSU and their right to collectively bargain for their rights; and be it further



RESOLVED: That the City Council urges the MIT administration to bargain with the MIT GSU in good faith upon NLRB recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the MIT GSU, and members of the MIT administration, including President Reif.

O-7 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR CARLONE

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that many Cambridge families have been denied after school or out of school time (OST) slots this year, particularly in the Community Schools programs, in some cases jeopardizing employment and leaving parents and caregivers without childcare options; and

WHEREAS: Even before the pandemic, under the best of conditions, there was never enough capacity to accommodate all families in need of after school care; and

WHEREAS: Participating children derive immeasurable academic, social, physical, and mental health benefits from these programs; and

WHEREAS: The City Council recognizes the importance of providing after school programming until at least 6pm for every Cambridge family who needs or wants such programming; and

WHEREAS: The City Council recognizes that providing more equitable access to expansive after school programming is essential to support and uplift the city's low income and Black and Brown families; and

WHEREAS: Capacity at Community Schools programs could be immediately expanded by hiring additional staff; and

WHEREAS: The feasibility of adapting and implementing the highly successful King Open Extended Day program model in all schools in the district should be explored; and

WHEREAS: Youth Center programming should be expanded to Saturdays; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present a plan, which includes funding, and the findings of any feasibility study of any DHSP and any other city department providing children and/or city youth programs, for rapidly expanding out of school time in the city to create enough slots for all families who need it.

O-8 Oct 4, 2021

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the City Council that many Cambridge families have been denied after school or out of school time (OST) slots this year, particularly in the Community Schools programs, in some cases jeopardizing employment and leaving parents and caregivers without childcare options; and

WHEREAS: Due to the rippling effects of COVID-19, high priority families are more detrimentally impacted and must lead and be partnered with to address their needs in out of school time programming; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to convene a Caregiver Advisory Council that is overly represented by high priority families in partnership with DHSP that engages key stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to, the Agenda for Children, current and former out of school time staff and leadership, and out of school time community benefit

organizations. Such a council will receive reports as ordered by Policy Order 2021 #201 that describe who applied and were enrolled, capacity, staffing, and outreach efforts.