

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the votes necessary to seek the Massachusetts Department of Revenue approval for the tax rate for FY2009: **All adopted 8-0-1 (Decker ABSENT)**
 - A. Appropriate \$8,000,000 from Free Cash to the City's Debt Stabilization Fund;
 - B. Authorize the further use of Free Cash of \$9,000,000 to reduce the FY2009 tax rate as follows: Operating Budget \$2,000,000; Public Investment \$1,000,000; Tax Support Reduction \$6,000,000.
 - C. Authorize \$2,000,000 in overly surplus/reserve be used for reducing the FY2009 tax rate;
 - D. Authorize \$7,000,000 from the Debt Stabilization Fund to be used as a revenue source to the General Fund Budget;
 - E. Authorize \$2,919,340 from the School Debt Stabilization Fund to be used as a revenue source to the General Fund Budget;
 - F. Classify property into five classes;
 - F. Adopt a minimum residential factor of 57.00%
 - H. Approve the maximum residential exemption factor of 30% for owner-occupied homes;
 - I. Double the normal value of the statutory exemptions;
 - J. Increase the FY2009 exemption allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D from \$262.00 to \$271.00;
 - K. Increase the FY2009 asset limits allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E from \$52,117 to \$53,889;
 - L. Increase the FY2009 income and assets limits allowed under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D, as follows: Income limits from \$21,548 to \$22,281 for single and \$32,323 to \$33,422 for married; and asset limits from \$43,097 to \$44,562 for single and \$59,258 to \$61,273 for married;
 - M. Increase the income limit for deferral of real estate taxes by elderly persons from \$20,000 to \$40,000; and
 - N. Vote to set the charge for each written demand issued by the collector \$5.00 (no change) to be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by MGL Chapter 60, Section 15.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following persons as member of the Conservation Commission for a term of three years to expire Sept 17, 2011: Blair Haney, Catherine Pedemonti
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-74, regarding a report on methods of collecting, maintaining, and analyzing traffic enforcement and accident data. **Referred to Transportation, Traffic, & Parking Committee - Kelley**

ON THE TABLE

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to environmental and legal matters associated with the Yerxa Road Underpass project. [Placed on Table on motion of Councillor Kelley on City Manager Item Number Twenty-five of July 28, 2008.]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Nov 18, 2004 for the purpose of considering proposed amendments to Chapter 2.74 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, the Police Review and Advisory Board Ordinance. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 14, 2005. [Four sections of the proposed amendment were passed to be ordained as amended. Ordinance #1284. The remaining proposed amendments to chapter 2.74 remain on Unfinished Business.]
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 06-87, 07-83 and 07-138, regarding the status of putting the City's self-evaluation on the website. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Kelley on City Manager Agenda Item Number Sixteen of Dec 10,

2007. Dec 17, 2007 - Referred to 2008-2009 City Council as Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Kelley.]

4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an additional appropriation request and Loan Order regarding the CRLS renovation project. The question comes on adoption on or after Aug 11, 2008.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to a recommendation to submit a Home Rule Petition to the General Court seeking authority to increase civil penalties for failure to remove snow. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Oct 6, 2008. **Ordained 8-0-1 (Decker ABSENT) - Ordinance 1317**

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Classic Graphx, requesting permission for a sign at the premises numbered 26 Central Square. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.
2. An application was received from Harvard Square Business Association, requesting permission for two temporary banners across Massachusetts Avenue at City Hall and JFK Street at Mount Auburn Street announcing Oktoberfest.
3. An application was received from The Sacramento Street Gallery at the Agassiz Baldwin Community Center, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Sacramento Street announcing the 8th Annual Small Works Show.
4. An application was received from Sign of the Dove, requesting permission for a sandwich board sign in front of 36 JFK Street.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Francis H. Duehay et al., transmitting support for the proposal to rename Plympton Street for David J. Halberstam. **Referred to Gov't Operations & Rules Committee**
2. A communication was received from the family of Palmyra (Carvalho) Freitas, acknowledging your kind expression of sympathy.
3. A communication was received from Janet Creighton, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, transmitting thanks for the resolution concerning the Ethiopian government and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Anna (Siraco) Lombardi. Councillor Toomey
2. Retirement of Marie Elena Letona from her position as Executive Director of Centro Presente. Councillor Toomey
3. Congratulations to the Boston Black Student Network (BBSN) organizers on their HollaDay event on Sept 27, 2008. Mayor Simmons
4. Retirement of Lisa Antonelli from the Cambridge Hospital. Mayor Simmons
5. Retirement of Patricia Regan from the Cambridge Hospital. Mayor Simmons
6. Thanks to the Cambridge Community Chorus for its years of artistic contributions to the City of Cambridge. Mayor Simmons
7. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Leonard J. Gulczynski. Councillor Decker
8. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Jamel A. Bryant. Councillor Decker
9. Resolution on the death of Corporal Michael E. Thompson. Councillor Decker
10. Resolution on the death of Captain Michael J. Medders. Councillor Decker
11. Resolution on the death of Staff Sergeant Matthew J. Taylor. Councillor Decker
12. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Wesley R. Durbin. Councillor Decker
13. Resolution on the death of First Lieutenant Robert Vallejo. Councillor Decker
14. Resolution on the death of Staff Sergeant Ronald Phillips Jr. Councillor Decker
15. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Anthony L. Mason. Councillor Decker

16. Resolution on the death of Chief Warrant Officer Brady J. Rudolf. Councillor Decker
17. Resolution on the death of Captain Darrick D. Wright. Councillor Decker
18. Resolution on the death of Chief Warrant Officer Corry A. Edwards. Councillor Decker
19. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Daniel M. Eshbaugh. Councillor Decker
20. Resolution on the death of First Sergeant Julio C. Ordonez. Councillor Decker
21. Resolution on the death of Chaplain (Colonel) Sidney J. Marceaux Jr. Councillor Decker
22. Congratulations to SCM Community Transportation on the occasion of receiving the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce's Nonprofit of the Year for 2008. Councillor Davis
23. Congratulations to George L. Fosque on the occasion of receiving the 2008 Jeff Grossman 9-1-1 Award. Councillor Davis
24. Speedy recovery wishes to former Mayor and City Councillor Francis H. Duehay. Councillor Maher
25. Happy 80th Birthday to Melvin H. King. Mayor Simmons
26. Resolution on the death of Alice L. (Conroy) Rita. Councillor Maher, Councillor Davis, Vice Mayor Murphy
27. Condolences to the family of Kitty Galbraith. Vice Mayor Murphy
28. Welcome to Jeff Mayersohn and Linda Seamonson as the new owners of the Harvard Book Store. Vice Mayor Murphy
29. Best wishes to Frank Kramer in his future endeavors and thanks for his years of service to the Cambridge community. Vice Mayor Murphy
30. Get well wishes to Kristen Freitas. Councillor Maher, Councillor Toomey
31. Congratulations to Dr. David P. Barnett as the new President and CEO of Mount Auburn Cemetery. Councillor Davis
32. Thanks to the attendees who visited the Harlem Children Zone. Councillor Reeves
33. Congratulations to the West Division for winning the 2008 Minor League All-Star Championship. Vice Mayor Murphy
34. Congratulations to the North Division for winning the 2008 Major League All-Star Championship. Vice Mayor Murphy
35. Condolences to the family of Ms. Undeen Sayles. Mayor Simmons
36. Urge residents to be cognizant of and participate in the Break the Silence Rally and vigil on October 6, 2008. Mayor Simmons
37. Resolution on the death of Mary (Perry) Bentubo. Councillor Toomey
38. Resolution on the death of Shirley M. (Doran) DaSilva. Councillor Toomey
39. Resolution on the death of Fernando G. Viana. Councillor Toomey
40. Resolution on the death of Mrs. Fusco. Councillor Toomey
41. Resolution on the death of Robert Richard Lukas-Lukosunas. Councillor Toomey
42. Resolution on the death of Joanne F. (Daly) Gillis. Councillor Toomey
43. Appreciation to all who participated in the Breast Cancer Walk on October 5, 2008. Mayor Simmons

ORDERS

1. Petition to amend the Zoning Ordinance (Sections: 20.88 and 20.810, Memorial Drive Overlay District) be referred to the Planning Board and the City Council for a hearing and report. Councillor Davis, Councillor Kelley, Councillor Seidel, Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor Murphy, Councillor Decker and Councillor Reeves
2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Law Department and to report back to the City Council with draft language of a land transfer agreement in which the owners of Shady Hill Square will donate the parcel to the City of Cambridge

- in order to ensure the open space remains a place for the public to use and enjoy. Councillor Toomey **Charter Right - Simmons**
3. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Office of Workforce Development to develop and support a Green Corps of youth and young adults who will be placed in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP), City Sprouts, and other programs to support green initiatives and learn green jobs skills in Cambridge. Mayor Simmons and Councillor Davis
4. That the City Manager is requested to recommend a method to require all property owners or managers of affordable or low-income housing units, either rented or sold, doing business within the City of Cambridge as of Jan 1, 2009, to install only energy efficient light bulbs in all of their Cambridge units, both for new bulb installations as well as for replacement of expiring bulbs. Mayor Simmons and Councillor Davis
5. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on the possible use restrictions on the Sullivan Court House if the building were to remain, be cleaned, and be renovated but not be under the ownership of the State. Councillor Toomey
6. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Department of Conservation and Recreation's attention to the continuing problems in the construction area at the BU Bridge. Councillor Davis
7. That the City Manager is requested to initiate an inventory of parking and vacant lots on Brookline Street with a view to making recommendations for better uses of those lots to restore the street to its former vitality before the Inner Belt threat. Councillor Davis
8. That the City Manager is requested to contact the Cambridge Housing Authority about antennas for large buildings they maintain that must have converter boxes in order to deliver a digital TV signal after Feb 17, 2009. Councillor Davis
9. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the City Solicitor to determine if the City can rescind the special permit for Northpoint for not complying with mitigation efforts. Councillor Toomey
10. That the City Council go on record urging residents to be cognizant of and participate in the Break the Silence Rally and candlelight vigil on Oct 6, 2008 on the steps of City Hall. Mayor Simmons
11. That the City Manager is requested to execute an appropriate informal survey of Cambridge senior citizens and low-income residents to get an idea about their level of preparedness for the conversion from analog to digital TV signals. Councillor Davis and Mayor Simmons
12. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the City of Somerville Traffic and Parking Department to create a safer intersection at the corner of Porter Street and Bedford Street and determine if signage is necessary. Councillor Toomey
13. That the Cambridge City Council reiterate its opposition to any cuts to The Work Force Program and the Cambridge Housing Authority's Community Computer Labs Program. Councillor Seidel

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Craig Kelley, Chair of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee, for a meeting held on Sept 10, 2008 to discuss red light camera enforcement.
2. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Vice Mayor Brian Murphy, Chair of the Finance Committee, for a meeting held on Sept 25, 2008 to discuss the additional appropriation of the high school, FY09 tax rate, as well as the prior and current year revenues.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY

OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Marilyn Y. Bradshaw, Executive Secretary of the School Committee, transmitting notification of an order adopted by School Committee to address the issue of parking at the Fletcher-Maynard Academy.
2. A communication was received from Mayor E. Denise Simmons, requesting approval of the City Council for travel funds to participate in a Sister City visit to Oeiras, Portugal. **Request approved on a voice vote**

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Oct 6

- 5:00pm Special Presentation to welcome Cambridge Community Chorus with new Music Director Jamie Kirsch (Sullivan Chamber)
- 5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
- 6:30pm The City Council will conduct a public hearing to discuss the property tax rate classification. (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Oct 7

- 9:00am The Government Operations and Rules Committee will conduct a public meeting to receive a presentation and report on the result of the citizen satisfaction survey. (Ackermann Room)
- 5:30pm The Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the issue of potholes and street hazard repair. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Oct 8

- 3:00pm The Housing Committee will conduct a public meeting to receive an update from the Cambridge Housing Authority on recent developments and issues, including funding issues, and further, to receive from Community Development Department housing staff a comparison of the Cambridge Housing Authority resident preference policy and the residence preference policy used in other city-funded affordable housing. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Oct 15

- 6:00pm "World Cafe" citizen participation event to assist the City Council to set its goals for FY 2010. (Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave.)

Mon, Oct 20

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

Tues, Oct 21

- 4:30pm The Cable TV, Telecommunications and Public Utilities Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the conversion to digital TV and other issues related to cable. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Oct 22

- 6:00pm GLBT Town Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Oct 27

- 5:30pm Roundtable Meeting regarding ongoing strategic planning activities at the Cambridge Health Alliance (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Oct 29

- 8:45am Facilitated Goal and Training Retreat to determine the City Council goals for FY 2010. (344 Broadway, 2nd Fl Conference)

Thurs, Oct 30

- 5:00pm The Health and Environment Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss winter heating, weatherization and preparedness for extreme weather events. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 3

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

Thurs, Nov 6

- 8:45pm Facilitated Goal and Training Retreat to determine the City Council goals for FY 2010. (If needed) (344 Broadway, 2nd Fl Conference)

Mon, Nov 17

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

Wed, Nov 19

- 5:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on a revised petition submitted by Alexandria Real Estate Equities proposing amendments in the PUD-3A, PUD-4C and PUD 4B Districts to the Zoning Map of the City of Cambridge in eastern Cambridge. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 24

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

Mon, Dec 1

- 5:30pm Roundtable Meeting with NSTAR (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 8

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

Mon, Dec 15

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

Mon, Dec 22

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

Mon, Dec 29

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

Mon, Jan 5

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

Mon, Jan 12

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

Mon, Jan 26

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

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR SEIDEL
MAYOR SIMMONS
VICE MAYOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR REEVES

ORDERED: That the attached petition to amend the Zoning Ordinance (Sections: 20.88 and 20.810, Memorial Drive Overlay District) be referred to the Planning Board and the City Council for a hearing and report.

O-2 Oct 6, 2008 **Charter Right - Simmons**

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The City Council has recently approved a Community Preservation Act allocation to be used to help obtain a parcel of land at Shady Hill Square; and

WHEREAS: Upon purchase of this land the owners and the City should ensure that the parcel remains open space in perpetuity; and
WHEREAS: By donating the land, the owners will presumably receive significant tax benefits; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Law Department and to report back to the City Council with draft language of a land transfer agreement in which the owners of Shady Hill Square will donate the parcel to the City of Cambridge in order to ensure the open space remains a place for the public to use and enjoy.

O-3 Oct 6, 2008

MAYOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: There is a need for youth and young adults to participate in the greening of Cambridge and to learn "green jobs" skills; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Office of Workforce Development to develop and support a Green Corps of youth and young adults who will be placed in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP), City Sprouts, and other programs to support green initiatives and learn green jobs skills in Cambridge.

O-4 Oct 6, 2008

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Buildings with more than 50% of units marketed as affordable or low-income eligible utilize a significant amount of electricity with the expense generally absorbed by low-income individuals; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to recommend a method to require all property owners or managers of affordable or low-income housing units, either rented or sold, doing business within the City of Cambridge as of Jan 1, 2009, to install only energy efficient light bulbs in all of their Cambridge units, both for new bulb installations as well as for replacement of expiring bulbs.

O-5 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The vacancy at the Sullivan Court House has created a complex situation for the State; and

WHEREAS: The future of the site is of great interest to the residents of East Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Future use of the site is in question due to the high cost associated with first purchasing the site from the State and then being required to perform a clean-up of the site before rehab can begin; and

WHEREAS: The Sullivan Court House has been a State-run facility since it was constructed and selling to a private entity for alternative use seems to be the most likely option that the State will explore; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the zoning status of the parcel if the building were to be demolished and the site to be under the control of a private developer; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the possible use restrictions on the Sullivan Court House if the building were to remain, be cleaned, and be renovated but not be under the ownership of the State.

O-6 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: The construction now underway at the BU Bridge is causing serious traffic gridlock in the morning and evening which also impacts bicyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS: There will be further construction and traffic issues when the bridge is totally renovated; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Department of Conservation and Recreation's attention to the continuing problems in the construction area at the BU Bridge.

O-7 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Brookline Street is being reconstructed and beautified; and

WHEREAS: Brookline Street has long been neglected due to the threat of the Inner Belt which resulted in owners tearing down structures and leaving behind unsightly parking and vacant lots on several corners; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to initiate an inventory of parking and vacant lots on Brookline Street with a view to making recommendations for better uses of those lots to restore the street to its former vitality before the Inner Belt threat.

O-8 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact the Cambridge Housing Authority about antennas for large

buildings they maintain that must have converter boxes in order to deliver a digital TV signal after Feb 17, 2009; and be it further ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the Cambridge Housing Authority's plans regarding this matter.

O-9 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The Northpoint development continues to sit idle; and

WHEREAS: The MBTA is taking the responsibility for the Lechmere Station relocation upon themselves; and

WHEREAS: The burden of the station relocation has been lifted from the developer; and

WHEREAS: The extra traffic expected at the development was to be mitigated by the developer in ways which included a new Lechmere Station; and

WHEREAS: The Planning Board found that the relocation of the Green Line station onto the Development Parcel is central to the mitigation efforts; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the City Solicitor to determine if the City can rescind the special permit for Northpoint for not complying with the mitigation.

O-10 Oct 6, 2008

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: 31 women, men and children in Massachusetts have lost their lives to domestic violence so far in 2008; and

WHEREAS: Nearly one in ten high school aged girls in Cambridge experienced dating violence in the past year; and

WHEREAS: Around the world, 1 in 3 women will be abused in her lifetime; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 43,000 children a year in Massachusetts are exposed to abuse and violence between family members; and

WHEREAS: Estimates show that 1 out of every 12 women and 1 out of every 45 men in the United States are stalked in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS: For every one case of elder abuse reported to authorities, it's estimated that five more go unreported; and

WHEREAS: Abuse is more common for pregnant women than gestational diabetes or pre-eclampsia - conditions for which women are routinely screened; and

WHEREAS: Violence against women by their intimate partners is the leading cause of injury to women, responsible for more injuries than car crashes, rape, and muggings combined; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming the month of October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record urging residents to be cognizant of and participate in the Break the Silence Rally and candlelight vigil on Oct 6, 2008 on the steps of City Hall; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Domestic Violence Free Zone Initiative at the Cambridge Public Health Department on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-11 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: An early conversion from analog to digital TV signals in Wilmington, North Carolina, resulted in 16,000 phone calls for assistance in a community of 75,000; and

WHEREAS: All Cambridge TV signals will be converted to digital as of Feb 17, 2009; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to execute an appropriate informal survey of Cambridge senior citizens and low-income residents to get an idea about their level of preparedness for the conversion from analog to digital.

O-12 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Residents parking their cars at the corner of Porter Street and Bedford Street are obstructing cars trying to make turns at that intersection; and

WHEREAS: If passenger vehicles cannot easily make the turn, emergency vehicles will most likely will have greater difficulty; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the City of Somerville Traffic and Parking Department to create a safer intersection and determine if signage is necessary and report back to the City Council.

O-13 Oct 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR SEIDEL

WHEREAS: Governor Patrick is currently considering budget cuts that would adversely impact Cambridge's Work Force Program and the Cambridge Housing Authority's Community Computer Labs Program; and

WHEREAS: The cuts would require significant cuts in services to the 135 students enrolled in The Work Force Program as well as foreclose access to technology upon which those 135 teenagers rely for their schoolwork as well as eliminate services to the 219 adults enrolled in the "Strictly Computers" classes and the 165 adults enrolled in the Gateways ESOL classes; and

WHEREAS: The positive impact of the Work Force Program in undeniable; and

WHEREAS: A recent survey of Work Force Program graduates found that 94 percent enrolled in post-secondary education upon graduation from high school and 91 percent were working or in school at the time of the survey and, perhaps most telling, 66 percent of graduates have moved out of public housing; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council reiterate its opposition to any cuts to the Work Force Program and the Community Computer Labs Program; 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 Cambridge Legislative Delegation and Governor Patrick on behalf of the entire City Council.