

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number #25-55 relative to guidance during ICE encounters. (CM25#242) [[text of report](#)]
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment of **Marnie Gale** and **C. Dale Gadsden** and the reappointment of **Louis Bacci III** all for five-year terms to the **Cambridge Housing Authority Board**. (CM25#243) [[text of report](#)]
3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$5,600, to the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account. The funds will support the Secret Santa for Seniors gift drive, which provided gift bags to approximately 900 seniors during the holidays. (CM25#244)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$71,600, to the Grant Fund Water Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account (\$70,960) and to the Grant Fund Water Department Travel and Training account (\$640). Funds will be used to convene a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which will consist of representatives from watershed communities (Lexington, Lincoln, Weston, and Waltham), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), larger commercial property owners, Cambridge Water Department staff, and other interested parties. (CM25#245)
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$4,800 to the Public Investment Fund Housing Department Salaries and Wages account. (CM25#246)
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$993,123 to the Grant Fund Office of Sustainability Extraordinary Expenditures account, to support the creation of a Resilience Hub at the Cambridge Community Center. The funding provided through this grant will allow for the procurement and installation of the necessary infrastructure and equipment. (CM25#247)
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item #25-20 regarding Incentive Zoning Nexus Study. (CM25#248) [[text of report](#)]
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the Zero Emissions Transportation Plan Report. (CM25#249) [[text of report](#)]

TAX RATE HEARING [6:30pm]

1. [Tax Rate Letter from City Manager](#)

2. Tax Rate Orders

Agenda Item Number 1A Oct 6, 2025

ORDERED: That the City Council classifies property within the City of Cambridge into five property classes allowed for the purpose of allocating the property tax levy.

Additionally, that the City Council hereby adopts a minimum residential factor of 0.600298 for the purpose of distributing the property tax levy.

Agenda Item Number 1B Oct 6, 2025

ORDERED: That the City Council approves a thirty (30) percent residential exemption for owner-occupied homes.

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Health, and any relevant environmental consultants to provide a comprehensive report on Gold Star Mothers Memorial Park. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Toner (PO25#138)
2. Recognize October 2025 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* in the City of Cambridge, and encourage all residents and City staff to attend the *Annual Domestic Violence Vigil* on October 8, 2025, to show support for survivors. Mayor Simmons, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#139)
3. That the City Council go on record recognizing October 11, 2025, as Black Girl Day Off in the City of Cambridge and encourage residents to honor the spirit of this day by supporting the health, wellness, and empowerment of Black women and girls in our community. Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons (PO25#140)
4. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant staff to ensure that the zoning code relating to Institutional Use Regulation is in compliance with State law. Councillor Zusy, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner, Councillor Wilson (PO25#141)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments, state agencies, and the property owner IQHQ to provide an update on efforts to maintain cleanliness and safety in the area on Alewife Paths near Russell Field. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Toner (PO25#142)
6. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to consider a plan to better utilize the Russell Youth and Community Center. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner (PO25#143)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. Condolences to the family of Red T. Mitchell. [Charter Right – McGovern, Sept 29, 2025]
2. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Community Development Department to draft zoning language based on the proposed recommendations, review the feasibility of the proposed recommendations with developers, and consider the possibility of having AHO construction be exempt from the proposed zoning. [Charter Right – Azeem, Sept 29, 2025]

ON THE TABLE

3. 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)
4. 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)
5. 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]
6. A communication was received from Councillor Nolan transmitting a report on the Cambridge Zero Emission Transportation Plan. [Tabled – Sept 15, 2025] (COF25#121)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Adam Baratz, regarding Bakal et al petition.
2. Ann Stewart, re: comment CSO committee and PO25#136.
3. Anne Riesenfeld, re: New School of Music public comment, 9.29.2025.
4. Bernie Corbett, re: Tunnel Project.
5. Bruce Willis, re: Lack of Enforcement of Hands-Free Driving Law in Cambridge.
6. Caitlin Shea, re: Reject the Bakal Zoning Amendment Petition.
7. Candice Driver, re: September 29 Meeting – PO#3.
8. Carolann Barrett, re: comments from Sept. 5 City Council meeting.
9. Carolyn Magid, re: public comment on PO# 2.
10. Derek Etkin, re: Please support PO25#131 on social housing for Cambridge.
11. Ed Henley, re: Public Comment on Social Housing, 9/29/25.
12. Ellen Vickery, re: Reject the Bakal Zoning Petition.
13. Erin Howell, re: Support for PO25#131.
14. Ethan Frank, re: CRLS bike racks.
15. Henry H. Wortis, re: PO#2, Social Housing.
16. Jessica Sculley, re: City Council Sept 29, 2025.
17. Kavish Gandhi, re: PO#2.
18. Louise Venden, re: PO#2 from 9/29/25 meeting.
19. Margaret Ann Brady, re: Public Comments.

20. Maritza Soto, re: PO25#131 - PO#2 – Social Housing.
21. Masato Kocberber, re: Solar Protection Zoning Tradeoffs.
22. Norman Daoust, re: support for PO25#131, social housing.
23. O. Robert. Simha, re: Corrected copy of letter to the Long-Term Planning Committee.
24. Sarah Block, re: Bakal zoning petition - please reject AND add some additional bike racks for CRLS and the library.
25. Steve Garafalo, re: Support for PO25#131 on social housing for Cambridge.
26. Steve Wineman, re: Social Housing.
27. Suzanne Blier, re: Old and New, Roof Tops to Tunnels - Sept 29 City Council Meeting.
28. Young Kim, re: Request for Funding Clarification – CSO MassAve4 Project.
29. Nonie Valentine, re: Thank you.
30. Young Kim, re: Request for Policy Order on Mass Timber Moratorium.
31. Young Kim, re: PB Open Meeting Violation Complaint Submitted.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences on the death of Richard “Big Rick” Howe. Councillor Toner
2. Condolences on the death of William L. Ronchetti. Councillor Toner
3. Condolences on the death of Sergio Marquez. Councillor Toner
4. Condolences on the death of Kenneth S. Neal. Councillor Toner
5. Condolences on the death of Nora Joan Darrah. Councillor Toner
6. Condolences on the death of James F. Doucette. Councillor Toner
7. Condolences on the death of Kate S. Frank. Councillor Toner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on Tues, Sept 30, 2025 to discuss 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. The Committee voted favorably to forward the proposed amendments to Cambridge Code of Ordinance 6.08.10 (“Regulation of vicious dogs”) and proposed language for “Kennel License” to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading. [[text of report](#)]
 - A. An Ordinance has been received from Interim City Clerk Paula M. Crane relative to Dangerous Dog Ordinance 6.08.010 Ordinance. (ORD25#14)

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#126)
2. A communication was received from Commissioner Elow Cambridge Police Department, transmitting a memorandum regarding compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance (Section 2.129.060), which mandates that a statistical breakdown of ICE interactions with the Cambridge Police. (COF25#127) [[text of report](#)]

HEARING SCHEDULE

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 Oct 6, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: On September 10, 2025, the City announced that [environmental testing at Gold Star Mothers Memorial Park](#),

conducted as part of a court renovation project, revealed confirmed contamination in multiple areas of the park, including the playground and recreational zones; and

WHEREAS: The contaminants identified, which are consistent with historical uses of the site and/or urban fill, have resulted in the closure of the entire park for public safety until soil remediation can be completed; and

WHEREAS: This situation has understandably raised significant concerns among families and other residents about soil safety in parks across Cambridge, particularly in other playgrounds frequented by children; and

WHEREAS: Residents are seeking clarity on how and when soil testing is conducted, what contaminants are being tested for, what thresholds determine whether remediation is necessary, and what proactive measures the City is taking to ensure that similar hazards are not present in other City parks and playgrounds; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Health, and any relevant environmental consultants to provide a comprehensive report to the City Council, in a timely manner, detailing:

- The full testing protocols used at Gold Star Mothers Park, including metrics, thresholds, and contaminants screened;
- The timeline and strategy for full-site testing and remediation at Gold Star Mothers Park;
- Whether other parks and playgrounds across Cambridge have undergone soil testing in recent years, and if so, the dates, locations, and results of such testing;
- The City’s current policies or best practices regarding routine soil testing in public parks, including frequency, scope, and public notification procedures; and
- Any recommendations for establishing a clear, citywide standard for environmental testing of playgrounds and other parklands going forward.

O-2 Oct 6, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR WILSON
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: October is recognized as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*, a time for communities across the nation to come together in solidarity with survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and to raise awareness of the ongoing impacts of abuse; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge, through its *Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative*, has been steadfast in its commitment to honoring survivors, educating the public, and working to create a safer, more compassionate community for all; and

WHEREAS: The *Annual Domestic Violence Vigil* provides an opportunity for survivors to share their experiences, for colleagues and community members to listen and learn, and for the City to reaffirm its dedication to supporting those affected by domestic and gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS: This year's Vigil will be held on Wed, Oct 8, 2025, at 5:30pm at Cambridge City Hall, and will include anonymous submissions as well as survivor speakers whose courage gives voice to the realities of abuse; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in recognizing October 2025 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* in the City of Cambridge, and in encouraging all residents and City staff to attend the *Annual Domestic Violence Vigil* on Oct 8, 2025, to show support for survivors, to deepen their understanding of the challenges faced, and to join in the City's efforts to foster a community free from violence.

O-3 Oct 6, 2025

COUNCILLOR WILSON
MAYOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Black Girl Day Off is observed annually on October 11th across the United States as a day for Black women to pause from their daily responsibilities and focus on their emotional and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS: This day recognizes that Black women are disproportionately impacted by chronic stress and face higher risks of heart disease, breast cancer, and other serious health conditions; and

WHEREAS: The observance was created in 2020 by Tomeka Casonova to encourage Black women to make their health a priority and to draw attention to the connection between long-term stress and poor health outcomes; and

WHEREAS: Black Girl Day Off also raises awareness of the unique challenges and traumas faced by disadvantaged, oppressed, and disenfranchised individuals, and underscores

the need for compassionate and culturally competent mental health providers; and

WHEREAS: Mental health is among the most neglected aspects of health worldwide, with nearly one in four people expected to experience a mental health condition in their lifetime, yet too many still lack the resources and support they need; and

WHEREAS: The day calls for breaking the stigma surrounding mental health in African American communities, empowering Black women to seek care, and inspiring greater awareness and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS: Through activities that center rest, healing, and community, Black Girl Day Off affirms the vital role of Black women as leaders, caregivers, and pillars of strength while also recognizing their right to restoration and self-care; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record recognizing October 11, 2025, as Black Girl Day Off in the City of Cambridge and encourage residents to honor the spirit of this day by supporting the health, wellness, and empowerment of Black women and girls in our community.

O-4 Oct 6, 2025

COUNCILLOR ZUSY
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR TONER
COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: The Neighborhood & Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee held a public hearing on September 25, 2025 to discuss Institutional Use Zoning; and

WHEREAS: The Committee was supportive of realigning Cambridge and State zoning regulations; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant staff to ensure that the zoning code relating to Institutional Use Regulation is in compliance with State law and once that zoning is in compliance, continuing the discussion with institutional partners and Community Development Department (CDD) staff about how best to safeguard that institutional development works within the broader context of the City's development.

O-5 Oct 6, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR WILSON
COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: Neighbors and community members have raised concerns about safety and public health related to the paths and public facilities near the Alewife MBTA station headhouse; and

WHEREAS: Public areas like the Russell Field sports complex, Linear Park and the Minuteman Paths, playgrounds, and the MBTA station and plaza are important

for recreation, transit, leisure, and should be able to be enjoyed by everyone; and

WHEREAS: Many children use the area unattended and are sometimes out of view of adults; and

WHEREAS: All community members deserve safe and clean public amenities, and dangerous or antisocial behavior such as lighting campfires, littering, and open drug use can have an undue impact on all residents; and

WHEREAS: The area can be especially difficult to maintain due to cross-jurisdictional demands of the MBTA, DCR, and the City of Cambridge, and ongoing construction projects in the area and abandoned equipment can also exacerbate conditions; and

WHEREAS: City staff have been working with state officials to address concerns about safety and public health in the area; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments, state agencies, and the property owner IQHQ to provide an update on efforts to maintain cleanliness and safety in the area as well as report back on how the area might be made safer for children; 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-6 Oct 6, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: The Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell Youth and Community Center in West Cambridge was built as both a community and youth center, available to residents of all ages; and

WHEREAS: The Community Center contains athletic and educational spaces that could be available to all age users, and a community function room; and

WHEREAS: This combined solution of a community and youth center in one building expands the reach of the community center's mission and provides an opportunity to link generations; and

WHEREAS: Neighbors have had discussions on how to better utilize the space, including meeting with City staff about the need for more equitable geographic distribution of opportunities for seniors to gather; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to consider a plan to better utilize the Russell Youth and Community Center; 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.