

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of 2,040,086.98 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund School Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund the Amigos School roof replacement project. (CM23#252)

MSBA ORDER

BE IT ORDERED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AS FOLLOWS:

That the City of Cambridge appropriate the amount of two million forty thousand and eighty-six dollars and ninety-eight cents (\$2,040,086.98) for the purpose of paying the costs of replacing the roof on the Amigos School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"). The Amigos School is located at 15 Upton Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Amigos School, a pre-K to grade 8 Spanish-English dual language immersion school, was originally built as the Daniel Webster School in 1853, with subsequent additions in 1873, 1885 and 1910. In 1938 the building became a Works Progress Administration Project with all but the 1910 northwest building addition being demolished and a new three-story modern brick addition added to the southeast. A one and half story addition was also built at the rear of the building to house a gymnasium. The last major renovation of the building which included roof replacement, occurred in 1983, 40 years ago. The building serves approximately 425 students and 72 employees. The existing gravel ballasted EPDM roof will be replaced with a new TPO membrane roof, which is a current standard for roof replacement throughout the district, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Cambridge may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"). To meet this appropriation, the Cambridge City Council is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City of Cambridge acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the City of Cambridge incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Cambridge. Any grant that the City of Cambridge may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) thirty four point sixteen percent (34.16 %) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Cambridge and the MSBA.

2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$8,325,000, from Free Cash to the General Fund Department of Public Works

Salary and Wages account, which will replenish funds that were used for the "friendly" eminent domain taking of a parcel located at 41 Bellis Circle. (CM23#253)

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of Vinita Bhaskar as a member of the Committee on the Public Planting for a term of two years. (CM23#254)
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointments and reappointments of the following persons to the Conservation Commission. Reappointments: Purvi Patel and Erum Sattar. Appointments: Patricia Carney, Angela Zhong, and John Leo. (CM23#255)
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Policy Order #23-147, regarding a report on whether change in language to the CSO is necessary to enable installation of permanent, seasonal, and/or temporary outdoor dining and pop-ups alongside separated bicycle lanes consistent with Cycling Safety Ordinance that address concerns about the current situation. (CM23#256)
6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the establishment of an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund. (CM23#257).

Agenda Item Number 6 Oct 16, 2023

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING AN OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND BE IT ORDERED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AS FOLLOWS:

That in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, there is hereby established a stabilization fund, which shall be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund. Funds appropriated to and held by the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, including any interest earnings thereon, shall be available to be expended according to the requirements of the Opioid Settlement agreement including the provision of programs and strategies designed to support and promote: Opioid use disorder treatment access; support for people in treatment and recovery; connections to care; harm reduction; meeting the needs of justice involved individuals; support for pregnant and parenting individuals and their children; and prevention.

7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,903,731.64 from Free Cash to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund. The \$1,903,731.64 appropriated to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund is the only the appropriation from Free Cash attributed to Opioid Settlement funds and will be used to fund specific future projects, per requirements of the settlement agreement, which will require separate individual appropriations by the City Council. (CM23 #258)
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 23-23 which clarifies the state law on zoning petition signature

requirements to ensure clarity and lawful deliberation in the future. [[response from Acting City Solicitor Megan Bayer](#)](CM23#259)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the License Commission and other relevant departments to prepare recommendations on regulations that would ban or limit the sale of nips in Cambridge. [Charter Right – Toner, Oct 2, 2023] (PO23#177)
2. That the City Manager is requested to reaffirm the city's commitment to renovating the schoolhouse at 105 Windsor Street as a top priority following the completion of the Central Square lots study. [Charter Right – Simmons, Oct 2, 2023] (PO23#178)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. An Ordinance has been received from City Council, relative to Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) amendments. (Proposed Ordinance #2023-7) [Passed to 2nd Reading, Sept 11, 2023; Amended Sept 18, 2023; Amended Further Sept 18, 2023; Eligible to be Ordained; Expires Oct 29, 2023] (ORD23# 7)
4. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to 2.76.020 enacted is to protect the human rights of all the residents of the City Protect Family Inclusion and Relationship Diversity [Passed to 2nd Reading, Oct 2, 2023] (ORD23#8)

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application from MIT Lit Visual Arts Center requesting permission for a (35) Thirty-Five temporary banners Ames Street, Memorial Drive to Main Street, Ames Street, Main Street to Broadway, Broadway, Ames Street to Third Street, Third Street, Broadway to Main Street, Main Street, Third Street to Broadway announcing MIT Visual Arts Center and Contemporary Art from October 2023 through April 2024. (AP23#52)
2. An application from Mike Tokatlyan, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 22 White Street; 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. (AP23#53)
3. An application from Central Square Theater requesting permission for a (12) twelve temporary pole banners along Massachusetts Avenue from Essex Street to Sidney announcing Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show from Oct 13, 2023 through Dec 10, 2023. (AP23#54)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication from Young Kim, regarding Proposed Affordable Housing Overlay Projects in the Pipeline.
2. A communication from Young Kim, regarding Cambridge Continues to misinform the public - When will it stop!
3. A communication from Torbjørn Ose, regarding Opposing East Cambridge Historical Neighborhood Designation.
4. A communication from Toni Lee de Lantsheere, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.

5. A communication from Tim Logan, regarding Letter of opposition to the East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District the attachment would not open.
6. A communication from Tim Inocente, regarding Signed Opposition Letter!.
7. A communication from Thomas Meek, regarding Cambridge Continues to misinform the public - When will it stop!.
8. A communication from Tara R. Greco, regarding Garden street proposed changes.
9. A communication from Sylvia Fine, regarding Linear Park Restoration.
10. A communication from Susan Cory, regarding Support for Paul Toner's Bicycle lane Improvement on Garden St.
11. A communication from Richard Goldberg, regarding Returned mail see transcript for details.
12. A communication from Rebecca and Bryan McLaughlin, regarding Letter 4 Requested No Vote to EC-NCD - 134 3rd Street.
13. A communication from Rebecca and Bryan McLaughlin, regarding Letter 3 Requested No Vote to EC-NCD - 104 Sciarappa St.
14. A communication from Rebecca and Bryan McLaughlin, regarding Letter 2 Requested No Vote to EC-NCD - (119 Sciarappa Street).
15. A communication from Rebecca and Bryan McLaughlin, regarding Letter 1 Requested No Vote to EC-NCD - (119 Sciarappa Street).
16. A communication from Pattie Heyman, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.
17. A communication from Pat Fina, regarding Support for MLK Plaza Proposal at Tonight's City Council Meeting.
18. A communication from Martina Monteiro, regarding 911 Emergency Call Box.
19. A communication from Margery Davies, regarding PLEASE VOTE TONIGHT FOR Policy Order #1 and Policy Order #2 concerning the new BEUDO Amendment New commercial institutional buildings net zero by 2030.
20. A communication from Linda Moussouris, regarding Cambridge Continues to misinform the public - When will it stop! Please clarify map definition of 'Partial Construction'.
21. A communication from Judith Parker, regarding Garden Street.
22. A communication from Jonathan Rushfirth, regarding Neighborhood Conservation District.
23. A communication from John Pitkin, regarding My public comment on POR #6 dogs in Joan Lorentz Park in City Council meeting for the record.
24. A communication from Jeanne Koopman, regarding My opposition to the Winn Development's proposed road and tunnel under a new housing complex in Walden Square.
25. A communication from Janos Fulop, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.
26. A communication from Gerald Bergman, regarding City Council agenda regarding 105 Windsor St. October 2 mtg.
27. A communication from Ethel Delgado, regarding Support Policy #4.
28. A communication from Ethan Frank, regarding Policy Order 158 Yay more solar panels.
29. A communication from Doug Brown, regarding Cambridge Continues to misinform the public - When will it stop!

30. A communication from Carol Agate, regarding We can do both.
31. A communication from Bryan McLaughlin, regarding Requested No Vote East Cam. Neighborhood Conservation District (EC-NCD).
32. A communication from Bryan Doran, regarding NCD Ordinance Update.
33. A communication from Brett Jacobs, regarding support of two-way Garden order.
34. A communication from Ben Fox, regarding Street cleaning.
35. A communication from Ann Gillis, regarding Policy #4.
36. A communication from Amy Waltz, regarding choosing a consultant to update the ZWMP.
37. A communication from Diane Martin, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.
38. A communication from Marty Bakal, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.
39. A communication from Belinda Morse, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.
40. A communication from Susan Adams, regarding Please save the trees with the Linear Park redesign.
41. A communication from Cathie Zusy, regarding Don't redesign Linear Park. Just fix it up!
42. A communication from Elizabeth Coxe, regarding Don't redesign Linear Park. Just fix it up!.
43. A communication from Ausra Kubilius, regarding VOTE NO on the NEW AHO.
44. A communication from Dan Phillips, regarding In support of AHO amendments.
45. A communication from Jaime Lindell, regarding SUPPORT Restore Linear Park policy order.
46. A communication from Shannon Canavin, regarding Support for AHO amendments.
47. A communication from Nancy E. Phillips, regarding the AHO amendments.
48. A communication from Eve Carr, regarding Linear Park Restoration.
49. A communication from Nike Tirman, regarding 10132023 - TRAFFIC HAZARD – 50 Garden Street - PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT.
50. A communication from David Chilinski FAIA, regarding Support AHO Amendments.
51. A communication from David E. Sullivan, regarding Please support AHO Amendments.
52. A communication from Charles Franklin, regarding Public Hearing Property Tax Comments.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Judy Vellucci on her retirement from the City of Cambridge. Councillor Toner, Councillor Simmons
2. Congratulations to Cambridge Police Lieutenant Stephen Sennott on the occasion of his promotion. Councillor Toner
3. Congratulations to Cambridge Police Lieutenant Frederick Leung on his recent promotion. Councillor Toner
4. Congratulations to Cambridge Police Sergeant Mark Clavette on his recent promotion. Councillor Toner
5. Congratulations to Cambridge Police Sergeant Simon Valentin on his recent promotion. Councillor Toner

6. Thanks to Mary White for her contributions to Cambridge. Councillor Toner
7. Speedy Recovery wishes to Roslyn Shoy. Councillor Simmons
8. Congratulations to Amigos da Terca on Their Annual Dinner/Dance on Oct 7, 2023. Councillor Toner
9. Condolences to the Family of Dr. Marcella Mazzarelli. Councillor Simmons
10. Congratulations to Harvard Economics Professor Claudia D. Goldin on winning the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons
11. Congratulations to the Benjamin Banneker Charter School on its achievements. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toner
12. Resolution on the retirement of Steven A. Cohen from the City of Cambridge Planning Board. Councillor Carlone
13. Resolution of the retirement of Hugh Adams Russell from the City of Cambridge Planning Board. Councillor Carlone

ORDERS

1. Policy Order re Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui (PO23#179)
2. That the City Council go on record recognizing October 2023 as National Women's Small Business Month. Councillor Simmons (PO23#180)
3. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate staff to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the overall state of the Moses Youth Center building. Councillor Simmons (PO23#181)
4. That the City Manager is requested to conduct a thorough assessment regarding the feasibility, costs, and benefits of replacing the existing community notice boards on the front lawn of City Hall with one or two digital signs. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toner (PO23#182)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with the Law Department, the Finance Department, and any other relevant departments to investigate potential mechanisms to support Cannabis Business in Cambridge. Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern (PO23#183)
6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to create a dedicated page on the City of Cambridge's website listing all community-based organizations providing services in The Port neighborhood. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Toner (PO23#184)
7. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish an American Freedmen Commission. Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui (PO23#185)
8. That the City Council schedule a roundtable on Mon, Nov 13, 2023, from 3pm-5pm to receive an update from the City Manager and relevant departments on the Central Square City Lots Study. Mayor Siddiqui (PO23#186)
9. That the City Manager is requested to work with DPW to restore Linear Park by re-using the existing award-winning design, to create, publish and implement a climate

resilience-based maintenance plan and minimize the embodied carbon of the project by re-using, wherever possible, the existing lamps and lamp posts. Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toner, Councillor Zondervan (PO23#187)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Housing Committee held a public hearing on Apr 13, 2023 to continue the discussion of potential amendments to the Affordable Housing Overlay district as outline in the Nov 21, 2022 Policy Order adopted by the City Council. [\[text of report\]](#)
2. The Economic Development and University Relations Committee held a public hearing on Sept 27, 2023 to discuss the report and update on the City of Cambridge Disparity Study. [\[text of report\]](#)
3. A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Ordinance Committee was held on Wed, Oct 4, 2023, to discuss changes to the Municipal Code of the City of Cambridge relative to Chapter 5.50, Cannabis Business Permitting. The Committee approved a motion that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Law Department, the Finance Department, and any other relevant departments to investigate potential mechanisms to support Cannabis Business in Cambridge, including but not limited to: not collecting the local tax on Cannabis product sales, refunding some of the rent that was paid while awaiting a Special Permit, and limiting the number of stores that are allowed and report back to the City Council by Nov 20, 2023. The related policy order is on this agenda. The Committee voted to send the proposed ordinance language, as amended in Committee to the Full City Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading. [\[text of report\]](#)
4. A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Ordinance Committee was held on Tues, Oct 10, 2023. The Committee approved a motion to send the Zoning Ordinance Petition relative to hen keeping to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading. [\[text of report\]](#)

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication from Diane LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF23#172)
2. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee. (COF23#173)

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Oct 16

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Oct 17

2:00pm The Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee and the Health and Environment Committee will hold a joint public meeting from 2:00pm–4:00pm to discuss the relationship between the city and the Cambridge Health Alliance including a review of the operations and budget of the Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance annual contract with the City of Cambridge, legal options for structuring the public

health board, and other ways to best serve the community's public health needs.

Mon, Oct 23

5:30pm Roundtable/Working City Council Meeting to receive an update from the City Manager, relevant departments, and community partners on Central Square.

Tues, Oct 24

5:30pm The Charter Review Committee (Zoom only)

Wed, Oct 25

3:00pm The Health and Environment Committee will hold a public meeting from 3:00pm–5:00pm to discuss, review, and evaluate the Zero Waste Master Plan and plan reports and updates, and to discuss possible ways to further reduce waste in Cambridge including exploring how the city might eliminate single-use plastics including but not limited to nips, bottled water, and utensils.

Mon, Oct 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Oct 31

12:00pm The Finance Committee will hold a public hearing from 12:00pm–2:00pm to discuss two status updates: Participatory Budgeting and on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in Cambridge.

Mon, Nov 6

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Nov 7

5:30pm The Charter Review Committee (Zoom only)

Mon, Nov 13

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Nov 14

12:30pm The Transportation and Public Utilities Committee will hold a public hearing from 12:30pm–2:30pm to discuss bicycle ridership and bike lane usage data.

Mon, Nov 20

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Nov 21

5:30pm The Charter Review Committee (Zoom only)

Mon, Nov 27

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Dec 5

5:30pm The Charter Review Committee (Zoom only)

Mon, Dec 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 18

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Tues, Dec 19

5:30pm The Charter Review Committee (Zoom only)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the City of Cambridge continues to support and stand with all those whose lives have been touched by this terrible disease, all those who have lost a loved one to this disease, and all those who are working on curing this devastating disease; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing October 2023 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light City Hall up in pink for no less than one week in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

O-2 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Women entrepreneurs and small business owners play a vital role in the growth and prosperity of our nation, contributing significantly to innovation, job creation, and economic development, and that is certainly true in the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing and celebrating the achievements and contributions of women entrepreneurs not only honors their hard work and determination but also encourages future generations of women to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams; and

WHEREAS: October has been designated as [National Women's Small Business Month](#), a time to celebrate the achievements of women business owners and the positive impact they have on our communities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record recognizing October 2023 as National Women's Small Business Month and in extending its heartfelt appreciation and support to all women entrepreneurs and small business owners for their vital contributions to our community and the nation as a whole; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record encouraging all residents to support and celebrate women-owned businesses throughout the month of October and beyond.

O-3 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The Moses Youth Center on Harvard Street is a valuable community asset that serves many Cambridge residents and offers essential services to our youth; and

WHEREAS: Recently, the City Council has been made aware of increasing concerns and observations about the Moses Youth Center falling into disrepair; and

WHEREAS: The safety, functionality, and appearance of community facilities like our youth centers are of paramount importance to our residents, and timely assessments and necessary repairs can prevent more extensive damage and higher costs in the future; and

WHEREAS: It is the City's responsibility to ensure that all its facilities, including the Moses Youth Center, are in a state that upholds the City's commitment to excellence and safety and that are inviting places to members of the public; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate staff to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the overall state of the Moses Youth Center building, evaluate its immediate and long-term repair and upgrade needs, promptly make the necessary repairs, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-4 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has long utilized two large community notice boards situated on the front lawn of City Hall to disseminate information regarding special events, community celebrations, tax season reminders, and similar such notices to the public; and

WHEREAS: These notice boards require physical updates and replacements that are created off-site, often resulting in one-time use materials and necessitating manual labor for each change, and the process of updating these boards can be time-consuming and may delay the timely communication of important information to the community; and

WHEREAS: Modern digital signage technology offers a more visually appealing and efficient means of communicating various types of information to the public, digital signs are capable of displaying dynamic and diverse content that allow for a more engaging and informative experience for the community, and digital signs can be updated promptly with relevant news and updates, ensuring that the community is well-informed in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS: Embracing digital signage technology will represent another step toward modernizing the City's public communication infrastructure, and provide us with additional ways to provide information to a greater swath of people; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to conduct a thorough assessment regarding the feasibility, costs, and benefits of replacing the existing community notice boards on the front lawn of City Hall with one or two digital signs capable of performing the same functions while offering enhanced aesthetic appeal, operational efficiency, and timely communication; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-5 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: The Ordinance Committee held a public hearing on Oct 4, 2023 and voted favorably that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Law Department, the Finance Department, and any other relevant departments to investigate potential mechanisms to support Cannabis Business in Cambridge, including but not limited to: not collecting the local tax on Cannabis product sales, refunding some of the rent that was paid while awaiting a Special Permit, and limiting the number of stores that are allowed; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Law Department, the Finance Department, and any other relevant departments to investigate potential mechanisms to support Cannabis Business in Cambridge, including but not limited to: not collecting the local tax on Cannabis product sales, refunding some of the rent that was paid while awaiting a Special Permit, and limiting the number of stores that are allowed, and report back to the City Council by Nov 20, 2023.

O-6 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: The Port is a resource-rich neighborhood within the City of Cambridge, boasting a wide array of community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide invaluable services including tutoring, food pantries, childcare, and after-school programs; and

WHEREAS: Despite the abundance of services offered, there is currently no known centralized repository of information about these CBOs and the services they provide to the residents of The Port, and the lack of such an information hub can lead to a lack of awareness among residents about the extent of services available to them, and may contribute to unnecessary calls for additional services of a similar nature; and

WHEREAS: A dedicated page on the City’s website, listing all CBOs providing services in The Port neighborhood (along with their contact information and links to their websites), would serve as a one-stop, at-a-glance resource for residents, distinct from “Find It Cambridge” due to its neighborhood-specific focus and its placement on the City’s website; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to conduct a comprehensive survey of the community-based organizations operating within The Port neighborhood to gather detailed information about the services they offer; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to create a dedicated page on the City of Cambridge’s website listing all CBOs providing services in The Port neighborhood, along with their contact information and links to their websites, in an easy-to-navigate, at-a-glance format for the benefit of The Port residents; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-7 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: Due to the [historic harm of slavery](#) which has existed since the establishment of the City of Cambridge, a racial caste system identifying people by the construct of race has been utilized – historically, the City has recognized Black residents by various terms based upon race, and it has failed to recognize formerly enslaved people as American Freedmen (known as such since the establishment of the [Freedmen’s Bureau in 1865](#)); and

WHEREAS: “American Freedmen” should properly be acknowledged and understood as the surviving descendants of chattel slavery within the United States who have subsequently been forcibly miscategorized by the federal, state, and local government as Black Americans, African Americans, Colored, or Negro community; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of these historical harms and many others, the City now must begin to take the necessary steps to redress harm from gross violations of human rights stemming from loss of sovereignty amounting to multigenerational ethnic erasure through reparative justice and transitional justice, recognizing and referring to Black Americans that are descendants of chattel slavery within the U.S. as American Freedmen, and as this is done, it must be noted that today within the city of Cambridge, as documented in the [FedBoston reports](#), the wealth gap stands at \$8 per American Freedmen resident, \$12,000 per Caribbean resident, and \$247,000 per white resident; and

WHEREAS: To better understand how to end institutional and systemic harm from occurring, the City must begin to normalize transitional justice as defined by international law according to the United Nations by establishing an American Freedman Commission, which shall be responsible for (1) providing harm reports on the lasting effects of slavery within Cambridge (2) examining pathways to redress harm from gross violations of human rights stemming from loss of sovereignty against American Freedmen and their descendants in Cambridge (including recommendations of transitional justice policies brought forth from former and current Cambridge residents through a truth and reconciliation process as approved by the Chair of the Commission) (3) providing public education on transitional justice and reparations as defined by international law according to the United Nations to the City (including all public officials, current

and former residents, and state and federal public officials whose district covers the City of Cambridge), and (4) providing a defining framework of reparative justice for the City; and

WHEREAS: The American Freedman Commission shall be considered a department of the City, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof, the Chair of the Commission shall be considered the Department Head, and the American Freedmen Commission shall be under the direct control of the Chair, who shall be responsible to the City Council and City Manager pursuant to Chapter 43 Section 105; and

WHEREAS: The salary of the American Freedmen Commission shall be paid such salary by power of the Chair of the American Freedmen Commission subject to approval of the City Manager pursuant to Chapter 2.62.020, and additional Commissioner positions may be added as necessary by the Chair; and

WHEREAS: The American Freedman Commission shall assess the City’s actions to date to address the continued impacts of gross violations of human rights stemming from loss of sovereignty of American freedmen via written harm reports, which shall be based upon the effects of gross violations of human rights on American Freedmen and their descendants (these effects shall include, but not be limited to: enslavement, racial terror, political disenfranchisement, housing segregation, separate and unequal education, medical apartheid system, racism in environment and infrastructure, pathologizing of Black families, control over creative cultural and intellectual life, stolen labor and hindered opportunity, an unjust legal system, mental and physical harm and neglect and the racial wealth gap from 1619 to present), and they shall be developed through a community engagement model with residents and community members engaged in each phase; and

WHEREAS: The Commission shall be tasked with making recommendations for reparations, including proposals for the form and amount, via a written report developed by a collective of residents and community members engaged throughout the entire process (a deliberative effort must be made to engage current and former residents in this process during this phase), the City shall ensure that the Commission has available all necessary tools to engage community members for this endeavor, and in making final recommendations, the Commission shall address, among other issues, each of the following:

- (A) How the recommendations comport with international standards of remedy for wrongs and injuries caused by the City, that include full reparations and special measures, as understood by various relevant international protocols, laws, and findings.
- (B) How the City will offer a formal apology on behalf of the people of Cambridge for the perpetration of gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity on American Freedmen and their descendants.
- (C) How Cambridge laws and policies that continue to disproportionately and negatively affect American Freedmen as a group and perpetuate the lingering material and psychosocial effects from loss of sovereignty can be eliminated.
- (D) If any harm is discovered outside of the American Freedman community, the Commission shall pass this report to the Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship as well as any other commissions, departments, and public officials pertaining to the city of Cambridge.
- (E) How the injuries resulting from matters described in this subdivision can be repaired and how to provide appropriate policies, programs, projects, and recommendations for the purpose of repairing the injuries.

(F) How, in consideration of the Commission's findings, any form of compensation to American Freedmen within the City of Cambridge is calculated.

(G) What form of compensation should be awarded, through what mechanisms, and who should be eligible for such compensation.

(H) How, in consideration of the Commission's findings, any other forms of rehabilitation or restitution to American Freedmen are warranted, and what form and scope those measures should take; and

WHEREAS: The Commission shall be comprised of a minimum of 5 people, with a maximum of 15 people (with 100% from the American Freedmen community), members shall be a combination of grassroots community organizers, historians, genealogists, members of civil rights and/or reparatory justice organizations, those with expertise in public education, expertise in public and mental health and the racial health gap that exists in Massachusetts, expertise in the history of American slavery and anti-Black institutional discrimination and systemic racism in the city of Cambridge, young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who have demonstrated a commitment to reparations advocacy, and a minimum of one member who shall have expertise in constitutional law; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cambridge be amended to establish an American Freedmen Commission as per the attached; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish an American Freedmen Commission within 60 days of adoption of the attached Ordinance, to Examine the Status and Wellbeing of the City's American Freedmen, to recruit members of this Commission from within and throughout the Cambridge community, to establish a clear mission statement and timeline for the work of this Commission, and to report back to the City Council on this matter prior to Dec 18, 2023.

Chapter 2.131 - American Freedmen Commission [Modeled on Chapter 2.76 - HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION]

2.131.010 - Definitions.

1. "Cambridge Residents" shall mean: persons who have established residency in the City of Cambridge, legal or otherwise, including immigrants, citizens and people who were born and or raised in whole or in part in Cambridge.
2. "Transitional Justice" shall mean: Adequate, effective and prompt reparations to redress gross or serious violations of international human rights law, including but not limited to enslavement, genocide, racism, land theft, denial of healthcare, denial of housing, denial of economic opportunity, mass incarceration and other historical, systemic and ongoing injustices perpetrated by the State against Cambridge Residents.
3. "Chattel Slavery" shall mean: the practice of enslaving and owning people as property, including their descendants, starting in the 14th century, and ending in the 19th century.
4. "American Freedmen" shall mean: persons who were freed from Chattel Slavery in the United States, and their descendants.

2.131.020 - Establishment and Purpose

- A. There shall be a Cambridge American Freedmen Commission consisting of no less than five and no more than fifteen members, at least 85% of them identifying as American Freedmen.
- B. The Commission shall be considered a department of the City, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof. The

Executive Director of the Commission shall be considered the Department Head.

C. Commissioners shall be paid a stipend.

D. The Cambridge American Freedmen Commission shall work with the City Manager and/or their assistants, including the Chief of Equity and Inclusion, and other Departments to implement Transitional Justice for Cambridge Resident American Freedmen. The Commission will investigate and report on the historical, systemic and ongoing harms done to American Freedmen by the State (Federal, Massachusetts and Cambridge governments), and identify adequate, effective and prompt reparations.

E. The City Manager, through the Office of Equity and Inclusion, shall have the power to issue additional regulations to facilitate and further the work of the Commission.

1 Modeled on Chapter 2.76 - HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Addendum to the Truth and Reconciliation Policy Order

The following links were used in helping establish the basis for the Truth and Reconciliation policy order

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/cambridgehistory>

[https://www.cambridgema.gov/-](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/citymanagersoffice/monumentsadvisorycommittee/Slavery_and_its_Aftermath_in_Cambridge.pdf)

[/media/Files/citymanagersoffice/monumentsadvisorycommittee/Slavery and its Aftermath in Cambridge.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/citymanagersoffice/monumentsadvisorycommittee/Slavery_and_its_Aftermath_in_Cambridge.pdf)

<https://cambridgeblackhistoryproject.org/>

<https://historycambridge.org/articles/history-cambridge-has-a-new-partnership-joining-with-slave-legacyhistory-coalition/>

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/cambridgehistory>

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB490&showamends=false

[https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121/report#:~:text=The%20final%20report%20surveys%20the,in%20AB%203121%20\(2020\)](https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121/report#:~:text=The%20final%20report%20surveys%20the,in%20AB%203121%20(2020))

<https://www.boston.gov/equity-and-inclusion/task-force-reparations>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-state-organizations-a-to-z>

<https://www.amherstma.gov/3625/African-Heritage-Reparation-Assembly>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/senate-and-constitution/14thamendment.htm#:~:text=Passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20on,laws%20C%E2%80%9D%20extending%20the%20provisions%20of>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/transitionaljustice/reparations#:~:text=This%20refers%20to%20measures%20to,as%20well%20as%20affected%20communities.>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/transitional-justice>

O-8 Oct 16, 2023

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

ORDERED: That the City Council schedule a roundtable on Mon, Nov 13, 2023, from 3pm-5pm to receive an update from the City Manager and relevant departments on the Central Square City Lots Study.

O-9 Oct 16, 2023

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR TONER

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge Community Development Department Transportation Division is redesigning Linear Park by widening and straightening the already "AASHTO" compliant shared path, which design would approximately double the paved area, would require excavating, moving, and replacing the elegant

lighting fixtures (unnecessarily generating waste and pollution), and could endanger over eighty (80) mature trees; and

WHEREAS: Linear Park has received four (4) Landscape Design awards and was designed (in part) by Deneen Crosby who has lived in North Cambridge for many years, received the 2018 “Women in Design Award of Excellence” from the Boston Society for Architecture, and, with her company, designed Magazine Beach Park; and

WHEREAS: There is interest in the community in amending the plan by restoring it instead of a major redesign and path widening proposed by the city, as evidenced by a petition signed by over 230 Cambridge residents; and

WHEREAS: On Aug 7, 2023, the council passed [Policy Order 2023 #136](#) requesting that the City Manager “determine whether there are opportunities to minimize new or additional pavement and encourage using permeable surfaces in public and private construction throughout the city”; and

WHEREAS: On Sept 13 2021, the council passed [Policy Order 2021 #164](#) requesting that the City Manager “will go out of their way to prevent the removal of significant trees on City property”; and

WHEREAS: The Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) 2020 – 2025 Action Plan states:

1. Our first priority must be to remove fewer trees unnecessarily;
2. To extend the lives of our trees through improved management practices;
3. Redesign streets and sidewalks to make room for more trees;
4. Add (not remove) trees to parks;
5. Add new parks;
6. City Council with the City Manager and various departments are all to participate in the UFMP implementation; and

WHEREAS: With 2023 again setting global heat records, and an emphasis on equity and social justice in every city decision, the city should provide cooler and shadier routes for people who have no choice but to use the MBTA buses at Rindge Ave and at Massachusetts Ave or the Red Line at Alewife and Davis stations; and

WHEREAS: Sound climate policy mandates minimizing the embodied carbon of all projects, which means re-using existing materials as much as possible, and minimizing destruction of trees, which sequester carbon in their bodies and through the soil; and

WHEREAS: Climate Change makes it increasingly difficult to preserve existing mature trees or to successfully grow additional trees as evidenced by recent droughts and anticipated future extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS: Safety on the multi-use path, is critical, and would not be compromised by a slight widening instead of major redesign, since the path has been successfully shared for over 35 years between pedestrians, bicycles, and all users, and safety, is enhanced by the traffic calming supplied by the current curves and its width that matches the Somerville and Belmont paths; and

WHEREAS: The plans for linear park call for a 14 foot wide path (plus 2 feet on either side of stone dust), a dramatic increase from the current 10.5 foot width, and which is the widest width within [state guidelines for shared use paths](#) of 10-14 feet and a width of 10-12 feet in an urban area where open space is scarce, seems adequate; and

WHEREAS: The path needs to be repaired and maintained, but dramatically increasing the paved area, combined with planned tree removal and tree damage, will lead to additional heat island effect impacts; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with DPW to restore Linear Park by re-using the existing award-winning design, including retaining the existing pavement

footprint, or consider making the entire path non-pavement as some other multi-use paths are, and using wood chips/mulch instead of stone dust to provide extra space for pedestrians, with the top priority being to extend the life of all existing trees using all best practices; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with DPW to create, publish and implement a climate resilience-based maintenance plan for Linear Park that would protect and enhance the tree canopy by, at the minimum, restoring the irrigation system, de-compacting the soils, amending the soils, and blocking short-cuts within the Critical Root Zone of the trees; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with DPW to minimize the embodied carbon of the project by re-using, wherever possible, the existing lamps and lamp posts, and keeping them in their existing locations, and by taking all other possible actions to minimize waste and reduce embodied carbon.