

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$921,062 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund, Emergency Communications Extraordinary Expenditures account to procure a new Records Management System (RMS).
2. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$11,712.78, received from various donations to the Council on Aging, to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to support services for Cambridge Seniors, including support for the new virtual platform for instruction.
3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of new Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$551,448 to the Grant Fund Human Services Salary and Wages account (\$57,294) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$494,154) which will be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless, will support shelter operating costs and provision of essential services to homeless persons outside of a shelter setting, and will support the administration of this grant.
4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) grant in the amount of \$15,000 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which are used annually to supplement fuel assistance payments.
5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance grant funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$112,119.46 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$95,118.25), Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$15,401.21), and Travel and Training account (\$1,600.00) which will be used for costs related to the Carey Men's Permanent Supported Housing Program operated by the Multi-Service Center.
6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a grant from the Museum of Science to the STEAM Initiative in the amount of \$34,000 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to provide professional development training and to purchase STEAM related supplies for Early Childhood and Out of School Time educators around STEAM content.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-24, regarding a report on the distribution of gator bags.
8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-49, regarding a report on restrictions on signage specific to retail establishments that sell e-cigarettes and other vaping devices.
9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-15, regarding a report on the feasibility of limiting the number of Saturdays and holidays any one developer can be permitted for any one construction project.
10. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-22, regarding a report on working with the Inspectional Services Department to increase the fines for absentee property owners who continue to have violations stemming from rodent infestation.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. An application was received from Charles Doty, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 810 Main Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. No response has been received from the neighborhood association.
[CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL OCT 19, 2020]

ON THE TABLE

2. Green Energy Analysis Zoning Amendment. [TABLED ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR CARLONE IN COUNCIL OCT 5, 2020]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections. [PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE]
4. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the City of Cambridge Law Department to review the above changes to the language of the Domestic Partnerships Ordinance and report back to the Council. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JULY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPT 14, 2020]
5. Order to amend the rules of the Cambridge City Council. [THIS ITEM WAS ADOPTED ON SEPT 14, 2020. PURSUANT TO RULE 36B OF THE CITY COUNCIL RULES IT MUST BE APPROVED ONCE MORE PRIOR TO ENACTMENT.]
6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a response to Policy Order O-13 of Oct 5, 2020, regarding a draft Truck Safety Ordinance.

[PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL OCT 19, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOV 9, 2020]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from The Smoke Shop BBQ Restaurant, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 8 Holyoke Street, approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Paula Yetman, regarding Cambridge Brands Curb Cuts.
2. A communication was received from Robert J. Tremouille, regarding City Council claims of concern for the Charles belied by the City Council's record, the poisoning of the Charles, massive vegetation and animal harm, and sought outrages in the 190 Rebuild.
3. A communication was received from The Reghitto Family, thanking the City Council for their resolution for William (Bill) M. Reghitto.
4. A communication was received from Jayms Battaglia, regarding letter of non-opposition from the University Lutheran Church Congregational Council of 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge in terms of the business of Blue Enterprises application for business.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the City Council go on record congratulating Virginia B. Johnson on the release of Hillbilly Elegy and celebrating her work as a costume designer, small business owner, and community member here in the City of Cambridge. Councillor Toomey
2. Congratulations to Erinn Pearson and Christopher Breedy. Councillor Simmons
3. That the City Council go on record congratulating Andrew White on her historic appointment as President and CEO of Naveo Credit Union. Councillor Toomey
4. That the City Council go on record congratulating Dr. John Goodson for celebrating 45 years of dedicated service as a primary care physician. Councillor Toomey
5. Resolution on the death of Michael Sheehan. Councillor Toomey
6. Resolution In Recognizing Clergy Appreciation Month. Councillor Simmons
7. Resolution on the death of David P. Kennedy, Sr. Councillor Toomey

ORDERS

1. That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Denise Cosby for a suitable dedication in the vicinity of Blackstone Street and River Street in honor of her late son, Justin Cosby. Councillor Simmons

2. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department and other relevant City personnel to establish a plan that will allow for greater outreach to women-and-minority-owned businesses, technical assistance to these businesses in applying for financial relief, and a clear plan to ensure that those small businesses that have not yet received financial assistance be granted every opportunity to access any future City funding should it be made available, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner. Councillor Simmons
3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to raise this issue with the appropriate representatives of the Cambridge Crossing buildings, and with the appropriate representatives of the Governor's Office, to ensure that these businesses are not in violation of any current statewide Covid-19 protocols. Councillor Simmons
4. That the City Council adopt a municipal ordinance to reduce or prohibit campaign donations from donors seeking to enter into a contract, seeking approval for a special permit or up-zoning, seeking to acquire real estate from the city, or seeking financial assistance from the city. Councillor Carlone, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan
5. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Solicitor to draft Ordinance language to prohibit the use of tear gas in Cambridge. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui
6. That the City must work with all major housing providers to eliminate or reduce the filing of evictions during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Oct 26

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

Wed, Oct 28

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss the Real Estate Transfer Home Rule Petition. (Sullivan Chamber - televised)

Mon, Nov 2

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

Mon, Nov 9

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

Thurs, Nov 12

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the PUD-CDK District Zoning. (Sullivan Chamber - televised)

Thurs, Nov 19

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the KSURP Zoning Ordinance Amendment. (Sullivan Chamber - televised)

Mon, Nov 23

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

Mon, Nov 30

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

Mon, Dec 7

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

Mon, Dec 21

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

Mon, Dec 28

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

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Oct 26, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

ORDERED: That the Executive Assistant to the City Council confer with the Dedication Committee to consider the request from Denise Cosby for a suitable dedication in the vicinity of Blackstone Street and River Street in honor of her late son, Justin Cosby; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward this order to the Dedication Committee for their review and approval.

O-2 Oct 26, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: On September 14, 2020, the [City Council passed a policy order](#) asking that the City Manager "...establish a means of providing technical support to marginalized, underrepresented business owners in applying for and obtaining the critical funds from the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund Grant and Loan program..." and from any other programs offering financial assistance to local businesses that have been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: While it has not yet been determined whether the City of Cambridge will initiate additional financial assistance measures to help our hardest-hit businesses, the City should nonetheless have a plan in place to help those women-and-minority-owned businesses with learning about, applying to, and accessing any additional funding programs in the event that they are established; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department and other relevant City personnel to establish a plan that will allow for greater outreach to women-and-minority-owned businesses, technical assistance to these businesses in applying for financial relief, and a clear plan to ensure that those small businesses that have not yet received financial assistance be granted every opportunity to access any future City funding should it be made available, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-3 Oct 26, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: It has come to the City Council's attention that numerous "[party buses](#)" – the sorts of luxury buses filled with flashing, multicolored lights, dance music, and interior bars, and typically rented out by groups of people to safely shuttle them between bars and other establishments for special occasions – have recently been spotted driving and in out of the Cambridge Crossing area; and

WHEREAS: In normal times, utilizing such buses would be legitimate ventures, yet these vehicles have been spotted packing in large groups of people who are often unmasked, not practicing social distancing, and potentially helping to spread Covid-19 throughout the Cambridge community; and

WHEREAS: While it is understandable that people wish to go about their lives, congregate with their friends, and celebrate special occasions, we are continually reminded by our public health officials and by our governor that our community must remain vigilant in practicing good hygiene, social distancing whenever possible, and wearing of masks to prevent a wider outbreak of the Covid-19 illness, and utilizing the services of party buses at this time would appear to be jeopardizing the City's efforts to contain this outbreak; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to raise this issue with the appropriate representatives of the Cambridge Crossing buildings, and with the appropriate representatives of the Governor's Office, to ensure that these businesses are not in violation of any current statewide Covid-19 protocols; 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-4 Oct 26, 2020

COUNCILLOR CARLONE**COUNCILLOR NOLAN****COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER****COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN**

WHEREAS: The perceived influence of money in politics leads to public mistrust of government on a federal, state and local level; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Charter gives the City Council strong influence over development, and campaign donations from applicants give the perception, whether real or imagined, of favoritism; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of this proposed ordinance is to put the onus of campaign contribution accountability on potential donors and not target individual elected officials; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council unanimously approved a policy order on June 10, 2019 requesting that the City Manager instruct the City Solicitor to provide guidance on an ordinance to reduce or prohibit campaign donations from donors with business dealings with the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: No such guidance was provided to this date; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council deliberated numerous times on the importance of campaign finance laws with no meaningful legislation adopted; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council adopt a municipal ordinance to reduce or prohibit campaign donations from donors seeking to enter into a contract, seeking approval for a special permit or up-zoning, seeking to acquire real estate from the city, or seeking financial assistance from the city; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager instruct the City Solicitor to read the proposed ordinance and provide feedback on implementation; and be it further

ORDERED: That the ordinance language below be referred to the Ordinance Committee for deliberation and discussion.

AN ORDINANCE TO LIMIT AND MONITOR CAMPAIGN DONATIONS BY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING FINANCIAL REWARD FROM THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Definitions.

(x) Applicant means a person who has filed an application with the City of Cambridge or any city-related agency in any of the following situations:

(x) Seeking to enter into a contract;

(x) Seeking approval for a special permit, zoning change enhancing permittee value or approval of a planned unit development;

(x) Seeking to acquire real estate from, or dispose of real estate to, the city or any city-related agency; or

(x) Seeking financial assistance from the city.

(x) City-related agency means all departments of the city, as well as any authorities and quasi-public corporations that receive appropriations from the city.

(x) Contractor means a person who has entered into a contract with the city or any city-related agency. (x) Contribution means a donation of money or of in-kind goods and services as further defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55, Section 1.

(x) Financial assistance means any grant, loan, tax incentive, bond financing proceeds used to purchase land or fund expenses for improvements made to land or real estate, or other form of

assistance that is realized by or provided to a person in the amount of \$50,000 or more through the authority or approval of the city or a city-related agency, including, but not limited to, tax increment financing aid, district improvement financing aid, industrial development bonds, or community development block grant aid.

(x) Contract means a signed written contract in excess of \$25,000 for goods or services to which the city or a city-related agency is a party, except where the agreement is required by law to be awarded pursuant to a competitive bidding process under applicable law, or where the agreement constitutes a sole source procurement under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 7.

(x) For the purposes of this Ordinance, a "Business Entity" whose contributions are regulated by this ordinance means: (i) an individual including the individual's spouse, and any child/children; (ii) a firm; corporation; professional corporation; partnership; limited liability company; organization; association; and any other manner and kind of business entity; (iii) any person who owns 10% or more of the equity or ownership or income interests in a person or entity and their spouses and child/ children; (v) any person, subcontractor, subsidiary, corporation, firm, partnership, limited liability company, organization or association who has received or infeasibly acquired the right to receive, from a person, more than \$50,000 in compensation or income of any kind (including, by way of illustration, and not limitation: wages, salaries, sums paid to independent contractors, benefits, dividends, profit-sharing, pension contributions, deferred contributions, stocks, stock options or gifts, or special permits, variances or zoning changes that may impact an applicant's personal or professional finances) in any twelve (12) month period prior to the award of, or during the term of, a contract or zoning decision subject to this ordinance and (vi) all persons who are an "affiliate" of a Business Entity.

(x) Zoning change enhancing permittee's(?) value means an increase in allowed density or height, a reduction in setbacks or parking, or an expansion of allowed uses.

PROHIBITION ON AWARDING PUBLIC CONTRACTS, PERMITS AND ZONING CHANGES TO CERTAIN CONTRIBUTORS

(x) To the extent that it is not inconsistent with state or federal law, the City of Cambridge and any of its elected officials, departments, instrumentalities, purchasing agents or appointed committees shall not enter into any agreement, approve permits, zoning changes enhancing value, or otherwise contract to procure "professional services" and/or banking, insurance or other consulting services (herein after "Professional Services"), nor "extraordinary unspecified services" and/or media, public relations, lobbying, consulting, building permits, zoning changes and/or management services (hereinafter "Extraordinary Unspecified Services") from any Business Entity if such Business Entity has solicited or made any Contribution to a candidate, candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any candidate for elective municipal office in Cambridge in excess of the threshold of \$200.00 per year within one calendar year immediately preceding the date of the contract or agreement.

(x) No Business Entity who submits a proposal for, enters into negotiations for, applies for permits or zoning changes or agrees to any contract or agreement with the City of Cambridge or any of its

departments or instrumentalities, for the rendition of Professional services or Extraordinary Unspecified Services shall knowingly solicit or make any Contribution to (i) an existing elected official, candidate, candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any candidate for elective municipal office in Cambridge, or (ii) to any Cambridge political action committee or political party committee or (iii) any PAC between the time of first communication between that Business Entity and the municipality regarding a specific agreement for Professional Services or Extraordinary Unspecified Services, (definition needed?) and the later of the termination of negotiations or rejection of any proposal, or the completion of the performance or specified time periods of that contract, agreement, permit or zoning change.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE

No Contribution or solicitation of contributions made prior to the effective date of this Ordinance shall be deemed to give rise to a violation of this Ordinance.

CONTRACT RENEWAL

No contract subject to this ordinance may be renewed, extended, or materially modified unless the resulting renewal, extension, or modification would be allowable under the provisions of this ordinance if it were an initial contract.

Mandatory disclosure for applicants.

- (x) Before the city may enter into any contract with an applicant, the applicant must file a complete mandatory disclosure form with the contracting entity.
- (x) At the time that an applicant seeks approval for a special permit with site plan review, zoning change or approval of a planned unit development, as those terms are defined in the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, with respect to new construction or renovation in excess of 15,000 square feet, the applicant must file a complete mandatory disclosure form with the board hearing the application.
- (x) At the time that an applicant submits a bid or submits a response to a request for proposals in connection with the acquisition of real estate owned by, or disposition of real estate to, the city or a city-related agency, the applicant must file a complete mandatory disclosure form with the city agency seeking to dispose of or acquire the property. If the applicant is otherwise seeking to acquire real estate from, or dispose of real estate to, the city or from a city-related agency, then the applicant must submit a complete mandatory disclosure form prior to obtaining title to such real estate.
- (x) At the time the applicant files an application for financial assistance, the applicant must file a complete mandatory disclosure form with the city agency that would provide such financial assistance.
- (x) Such mandatory disclosure form shall be open to and available for inspection by the public. Such form shall be signed under the pains and penalties of perjury by the applicant and shall include the following information:
- (x) The name, address, email address, telephone number of the applicant/beneficiary/agent and of all of its principals, chief executive officer, president, chief financial officer, treasurer, chief operating officer, chief procurement officer, directors, or persons performing similar functions, or shareholders in excess of ten percent and managing agent to the extent applicable;

(x) All contributions made by the applicant during the 12 months prior to the application to any person who was a candidate for elective office of the City of Cambridge by stating the name of the person who made the contribution, the candidate who received the contribution, and the date and amount of each such contribution. For purposes of this article, elected office of the City of Cambridge shall mean the mayor, city council, and school committee of the city. Contributions made before the adoption of this article are not required to be disclosed on this form.

- (x) The names, business addresses and phone numbers of all subcontractors/development team members that the applicant intends to use on the contract and the amount or percentage to be paid to such subcontractor.
- (x) A certification by the applicant that if the applicant is awarded the item that is applied for under subsections (x), (x), (x), or (x) above in this section, that the applicant and anyone attributed to the applicant or any subcontractor used on the contract shall not make any contribution in any calendar year in an amount in excess of \$200.00 to any individual incumbent or to any individual candidate for elective office of the City of Cambridge for the next four calendar years following the award of the item, or for the duration of the term of any contract, whichever is longer.

- Eligibility.

- (x) No applicant shall be entitled to obtain the award of any of the items applied for as referenced in section xxxx if such applicant, including those who would be attributed to the applicant under section xxxx above or any subcontractor used on a contract, has made a total contribution of more than \$200.00 to any individual candidate for elected office of the City of Cambridge or incumbent in either the calendar year of the application or the calendar year preceding the application, provided, however, that the restriction of eligibility with regard to contributions made prior to the year preceding the application shall not apply to any contributions made in the calendar year preceding the adoption of this article and shall only go forward beginning with the year of adoption of the article. No contribution made prior to the effective date of this article shall be deemed to give rise to a violation or penalty under this article.
- (x) No contract may be renewed, extended, or materially amended, unless the resulting renewal, extension, or amendment, would be allowable under the provisions of this article if it were an initial contract.

- (x) The applicant and anyone attributed to the applicant and any subcontractor/development team members used on the contract shall not make any contribution to any incumbent or to any candidate for elective office of the City of Cambridge in excess of \$200.00 per year for the next four calendar years following the award of the item, or for the duration of the term of any contract, whichever is longer.

- Penalties.

The city shall deny the award of any contract as sought by an applicant if it is found that an applicant made a material misstatement on the mandatory disclosure form or if the applicant fails to comply with the provisions above. If a contract is awarded, it shall be a material breach of the terms of any contract where an applicant which is a party to such contract made any contribution in violation of this article. For all other violations, the applicant shall be fined for each violation of this article in accordance with

section xxxx The enforcing authority shall be the ethics commission or auditor.

- Refund of contribution.

An applicant may cure a contribution which violates this article if, within 30 days after the date on which an applicable office of campaign and political finance report is required to be filed which contains a contribution in violation of this article, the applicant requests a refund in writing from the candidate or incumbent who received the contribution, and within 30 days of the request, the applicant receives a refund of a contribution from the incumbent or any candidate for elective office in the City of Cambridge, or political committee for such incumbent or candidate.

Notwithstanding the above, if there is a contribution in violation of this article, the candidate or incumbent shall refund the contribution within 30 days of receipt of a request for refund, provided that funds are otherwise available in the campaign account of the candidate or incumbent. This article shall be interpreted and applied consistent with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Effective date.

This article shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

O-5 Oct 26, 2020

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: The use of tear gas in warfare has been prohibited by international law since the 1925 Geneva Protocol banned its use along with other chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS: Tear gas continues to be used against civilians in the United States, including as recently as this year against protesters in [Boston](#), [Philadelphia](#), and [Washington D.C.](#); and

WHEREAS: Exposure to tear gas can cause immediate chemical burns, allergic reactions, and respiratory failure in people with preexisting respiratory conditions like as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) [according to the American Lung Association](#); and

WHEREAS: [According to the Centers for Disease Control](#), long-term effects of tear gas can include glaucoma, cataracts, and breathing problems such as asthma; and

WHEREAS: Tear gas is not included in the Cambridge Police Department's list of Approved Less-Than-Lethal weapons in its current [Policy & Procedures](#) document; and

WHEREAS: As civilians continue to be tear gassed at protests for racial justice around the country, the Cambridge City Council should seek to codify in law the City's prohibition on the use of this chemical weapon to ensure the permanency of current policy in Cambridge and to demonstrate a model for other municipalities; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Solicitor to draft Ordinance language to prohibit the use of tear gas in Cambridge; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the City Council by November 23, 2020.

O-6 Oct 26, 2020

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: Possessing any record of an eviction filing can present a serious barrier to a potential tenant's success in securing housing; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of fault, outcome, or underlying basis for a court filing, the fact a potential tenant was a party in an eviction or housing case may give a property owner reason to reject the tenant's application; and

WHEREAS: There should be alternate opportunities for resolution within the eviction process before an eviction filing; and

WHEREAS: Facilitated discussions between property owners and tenants can reduce evictions and lead to solutions that are beneficial for both parties, particularly when combined with wraparound supports such as housing and financial counseling; and

WHEREAS: One of the recommendations from the Tenant Displacement Task Force was for the City to facilitate a partnership between its major housing provider entities, such as CHA, Just A Start, Homeowner's Rehab, and other management companies serving Cambridge renters, with the goal of reducing the number of actions taken against tenants that result in eviction-related court filings; and

WHEREAS: In cases when a housing entity must take legal action against a tenant, it is most often on account of non-payment of rent and does not result in a physical eviction but any eviction-associated court filing, regardless of outcome, can be a long-term liability for a renter and may prevent a tenant from securing necessary housing in the future; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Housing Authority has already started an Eviction Project, looking at how the entity can reduce filings for non-payment of rent; and

WHEREAS: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is potential for many unavoidable eviction filings; and

WHEREAS: The City must work with all its major housing providers and reduce the number of actions filed; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That this policy order be referred to the Housing Committee for discussion on ways to engage our major housing providers in reducing or eliminating eviction filings during the public health crisis.