

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following person as a Constable With Power for a term of three years, effective the first day of January, 2015: Martine X. Wong.
2. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 15-91, regarding a report on whether fire hydrant markers are needed during the winter months.
3. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 15-18, regarding a report on renaming the Area IV Youth Center as the "Dr. Robert and Janet Moses Youth Center."
4. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to an appropriation of the Fair Housing Assistance Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$42,800 to the Grant Fund Human Rights Salary and Wages Account (\$31,800) and the Travel and Training Account (\$11,000) which will be used to cover a portion of the salary of an Attorney-Investigator, who works on cases from the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP).
5. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to the transfer of \$21,000 from the General Fund Traffic Department Salary and Wages account to the Traffic Department Travel and Training account (judgment and damages) to cover current and anticipated medical services/prescription costs and a lump sum settlement cost for an employee injured during the performance of their work duties.

CHARTER RIGHT

1. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$3,300,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Department Extraordinary Expenditure Account for the Citywide Planning process. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Toomey on City Manager Agenda Number Twenty-seven of Oct 19, 2015.]
2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City departments to draft a Home Rule petition that would allow Cambridge to establish a Job Creation and Training linkage fee to be managed by a Cambridge Jobs Trust. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Cheung on Order Number Two of Oct 19, 2015.]
3. That the scheduled Oct 26, 2015 roundtable meeting on citywide planning be designated a "special meeting" and that the City Manager is requested to coordinate with the appropriate departments to record, broadcast, and live-stream the scheduled Oct 26, 2015 "special meeting" to discuss citywide planning. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Toomey on Order Twenty-two of Oct 19, 2015.]

ON THE TABLE

4. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 15-60, regarding a report on restaurant employee parking. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Toomey on City Manager Agenda Number Twenty-five of Sept 21, 2015. Placed on Table on motion of Councillor Toomey on Sept 28, 2015.]

5. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 15-107 and Council Order Number 54, dated 9/21/15, regarding the minimum wage. [City Manager Agenda Number Six of Sept 28, 2015 Placed on Table on motion of Councillor Mazen.]
6. That the Council go on the record to state that the second Monday of October henceforth be commemorated as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Cambridge, in recognition of the indigenous people of America's position as native to these lands, and the suffering they faced following European conquest of their land. [Order Number Fifteen of Oct 19, 2015 Placed on Table on motion of Vice Mayor Benzan.]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Transmitting communication from Richard C. Rossi, City Manager, relative to proposed amendment to the Living Wage Ordinance. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Nov 16, 2015.

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from the Suzanne Vargo, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 149 Norfolk 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.
2. An application was received from Tanjore Indian Cuisine, requesting permission for an awning at the premises numbered 18 Eliot Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department, Historical Commission and abutters.
3. A zoning petition has been received from the Friends of MAPOCO, to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance by a new sub-district of the Massachusetts Avenue Overlay District along Massachusetts Avenue between Porter Square and Cambridge Common.
4. An application was received from the Boston Ballet, 19 Clarendon Street, Boston, requesting permission to hang twenty-three temporary banners on electrical poles on in Harvard Square. These banners will promote the Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker. The temporary banners will be hung from Nov 23 to Jan 4, 2016. Approval has been received from the Electrical Department.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Alison Field-Juma, 363 Concord Avenue, regarding the feasibility study of the Alewife Station/Bridge Platform Project.
2. A communication was received from Arthur Strang, transmitting opposition to the four sandwich board signs for Harvard Square Eye Care.
3. A communication was received from Michael F. Walker, 284 Sidney Street, transmitting support for the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.
4. A communication was received from Hasson Rashid, 820 Massachusetts Avenue, regarding homelessness in Cambridge.
5. A communication was received from Christopher Cassa, transmitting very strong support for protected, separated bike lanes as described in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.

6. A communication was received from Lisa Martell, transmitting very strong support for protected, separated bike lanes as described in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.
7. A communication was received from Timothy Sutherland, transmitting strong support for the protected bike lanes proposed in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.
8. A communication was received from Mashaal Sohail, transmitting very strong support for protected, separated bike lanes as described in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.
9. A communication was received from Tom Hall, 515 Green Street transmitting support for protected, separated bike lanes as described in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.
10. A communication was received from Sebastian Akle, Harvard University, transmitting support for proposed separated and protected bicycle lanes which were described in the Cambridge Bicycle Plan.
11. A communication was received from Robert J. LaTremouille, regarding massive destruction commencing of hundreds of trees and of animal habitat on Memorial Drive between the BU and Longfellow Bridges.
12. A communication was received from John Pitkin, VP, Green Cambridge, regarding climate adaptation should include support for refugees from Syria.
13. A communication was received from Jack Mahoney, transmitting thanks for the thoughtful and meaningful resolution adopted by the City Council on behalf of his mother, Mary E. Mahoney.
14. A communication was received from Claudia Viglione, transmitting thanks for the City Council's deepest sympathy on the loss of her mother, Gina Viglione.
15. A communication was received from Kim Courtney and Xavier Dietrich, regarding a package store with an invalid liquor license.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Wishing Cambridge Art & Frame a Happy 7th Anniversary and congratulating Andy Montone on his 7 years of doing business in the City of Cambridge. Councillor Toomey
2. Resolution on the death of Thomas J. O'Connor Jr. Councillor Toomey
3. Resolution on the death of Paul A. Boudreau. Mayor Maher
4. Congratulations to Eva Martin Blythe on the occasion of her 8th anniversary as Executive Director of the YWCA Cambridge. Councillor Simmons
5. Congratulations to Nicola Williams on being named a Cambridge Food Hero. Councillor Simmons
6. Best wishes to Stacey King in her new position as Assistant Director of MPH Field Practice at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Councillor Simmons
7. Happy 100th Birthday wishes to Floyd Freeman. Councillor Simmons
8. Resolution on the death of Merrill Bacon. Councillor Simmons
9. Condolences to the family of David Gittens. Councillor Simmons and Vice Mayor Benzan
10. Recognition of Christopher M. Mattei Esq. for his dedicated service to the State of Connecticut and The United States of America. Councillor Carlone

11. Urge all residents to honor the men and women who have defended our country as well as those who are serving by celebrating Veterans' Day. Councillor McGovern
12. That the City Council go on record commending the Brattle Theater and the organizers of the Independent Film Festival in Boston on their commitment to bringing great works of art into the Cambridge community. Councillor Cheung

ORDERS

1. That the City Council go on record in support of expanding access to Comprehensive Genomic Profiling tests to Medicare patients in Cambridge and nationwide. Councillor Toomey
2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Cambridge Police Department and other appropriate City personnel to address the concern related to motorists ignoring traffic signs and signals at the intersection of Sherman Street and Rindge Avenue and Raymond and Walden Streets and to determine what measures should be taken to increase enforcement of the traffic signs and signals in these areas. Councillor Simmons
3. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the appropriate City personnel to address the safety concerns in Harvard Square to determine what measures should be taken to increase pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular safety. Councillor Simmons
4. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to investigate the feasibility of installing solar panels on suitable City-owned rooftops. Councillor Cheung
5. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the Community Development Department and other appropriate City departments to determine the feasibility of establishing an online database of "problematic landlords" modeled upon the databases of Chicago and New York, to determine what the criteria for establishing this designation would be, and to report back to the City Council on when such a database could be up and running in a timely manner. Councillor Simmons
6. That the City Manager is requested to confer with Public Works and Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to evaluate traffic calming methods to prevent motorists from making long turns in the Speedway lot. Councillor Kelley
7. That the City Manager is requested to consult with the Department of Public Works and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation on ways to improve the safety of pedestrians at the intersection of Fresh Pond Parkway and Brattle Street. Mayor Maher
8. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Solicitor, draft a response regarding the attached Open Meeting Law complaint for the City Council's consideration, so that the draft response may be considered and voted on by the City Council at its next regular business meeting of Nov 9, 2015. Mayor Maher
9. That the Housing Committee of the City Council is requested to schedule a hearing with the Cambridge Housing Authority to address security issues by reviewing existing security procedures and, where necessary, propose changes in related security issues. Councillor Kelley

10. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Purchasing Department and other appropriate City personnel to report back to the City Council on what specific efforts are made to purchase goods and services from locally-owned, Cambridge-based businesses, and to evaluate whether additional measures can be taken to ensure that the City considers turning to local businesses whenever possible. Councillor Simmons, Vice Mayor Benzan and Councillor Cheung
11. That the City Council go on record expressing support for the Treasury Department's and Senator Warren's demand for Congressional action addressing the crisis in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and that the City Council go on record urging U.S. Congress to make the necessary amendments to the current United States Bankruptcy Code to help the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico begin resolving its financial crisis and finding long-term solutions to its Medicaid programs. Vice Mayor Benzan

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Dennis J. Carlone, Chair of the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee for a public hearing held on Oct 6, 2015 to discuss Sustainable Transportation and the Transit Strategic Plan.
2. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk transmitting a report from Councillor Leland Cheung, Chair of the Health and Environment Committee for a public hearing held on Oct 8, 2015 to discuss the City's work towards implementing municipal procurement and energy aggregation.
3. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Nadeem A. Mazen, Chair of the Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee for a public meeting held on Oct 20, 2015 to discuss coordinating local resources to provide housing and services for incoming refugees from the Syrian Civil War.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk, transmitting an Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Kim Courtney and Xavier Dietrich, 955 Massachusetts Avenue #259, Cambridge, regarding the Minutes of the City Council meeting of Aug 10, 2015.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Nov 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Nov 12

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on a petition by the Planning Board to amend Section 13.10 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance so as to change the development controls applicable in the Planned Unit Development at Kendall Square (PUD-KS) Overlay Zoning District. The majority of the PUD-KS District is occupied by the Volpe Transportation Systems Research Center operated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Click here to view the petition. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 16

5:30pm Roundtable/Working Meeting between the School Committee and the City Council. No public comment. No votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Nov 17

5:30pm The Public Safety Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss the rodent problem. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Nov 18

10:00am Economic Development and University Relations Committee (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 6.000 to create a new Section 6.24 Carsharing Provisions that will create a definition and general provisions for Carsharing and will allow the limited use of parking spaces. Click here to view the petition. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Nov 19

2:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on a petition filed by Patrick W. Barrett III, et al. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance by amending Article 2.000 ("Definitions") and Article 4.000, Section 4.22 ("Accessory Apartments"). Click here to view the petition. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

7:00pm The City Council will conduct a public hearing to discuss a request from Normandy Real Estate Partners and Twining Properties to make available for disposition approximately 1,042 square feet of City owned land know as Coolidge Place, which is an eight foot wide public way that connects Massachusetts Avenue to the city-owned Municipal Parking Lot #6 on Bishop Allen Drive. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 14

5:30pm Roundtable/Working Meeting to discuss Transportation Issues. No public comment. No votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 4

10:00am CITY COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 25

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Mar 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 4

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 11

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Apr 25

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Precision medicine is an emerging model within the healthcare field that seeks to reduce costs and improve patient outcomes by tailoring therapies to the unique characteristics of each patient; and

WHEREAS: Comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) is a new diagnostic test available to cancer patients that precisely identifies the underlying changes in a patient’s DNA or RNA that are causing cancer cell growth; and

WHEREAS: CGP is generally used for desperately ill patients with advanced cancer diseases, making the need even more urgent for Medicare coverage of a diagnostic tool that can identify all available treatment options quickly and accurately; and

WHEREAS: CGP enables physicians to consider the use of targeted therapies that are often more effective at treating cancer and leave patients with fewer side effects, and result in lower costs and better outcomes; and

WHEREAS: CGP will help the field of oncology transition to a precision medicine approach; and

WHEREAS: Foundation Medicine, Inc. (FMI) is a biotechnology company based in the City of Cambridge, employees approximately 400 people, performs CGP tests in its Cambridge lab, and provides the only CGP test currently commercially available; and

WHEREAS: The regional Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), National Government Services (NGS), must approve CGP tests before they can be covered by Medicare, and although other regional MACs have approved CGP tests, Medicare patients nationwide cannot receive coverage until the regional MAC for FMI’s Cambridge laboratory, NGS, approves Medicare coverage guidelines for cancer patients that include coverage for CGP; and

WHEREAS: Greater than 80% of all Medicare recipients across the country with non-small cell lung cancer present with Stage IIIb/IV disease at initial diagnosis, and it accounts for more than 70% of all deaths among lung cancer patients over the age of 65 possibly including our families, friends, and neighbors, who would access and benefit from CGP soon after it is covered; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in support of expanding access to CGP tests to Medicare patients in Cambridge and nationwide; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record requesting that NGS expedite its Local Coverage Determination review and establish Medicare coverage for CGPs.

O-2 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Residents have recently alerted the City Council to a number of motorists ignoring traffic signs and traffic signals at the intersection of Sherman Street and Rindge Avenue, the stretch of road from Wendell Street to Shepard Street (particularly around Massachusetts Avenue), and the intersection of Raymond Street and Walden Street, and this disregard of traffic rules places vehicles and pedestrians at great safety risk; now therefore be it ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Cambridge Police Department and other appropriate City personnel to address the above concerns, to determine what measures should be taken to increase enforcement of the traffic signs and signals in these areas, and whether additional safety measures must be implemented, and to report back to the City Council and the public in a timely manner.

O-3 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Residents have alerted the City Council to a number of recent collisions and near-collisions between cars and bicycles or cars and pedestrians in the center of Harvard Square, mainly occurring in the area between the Out of Town News structure and the Harvard Coop building, with traffic heading toward Porter Square; and

WHEREAS: This large intersection has a number of faded bicycle lines on the pavement and a faded line indicating where vehicles should stop during a red light, and some residents have voiced concern that the lack of bright, distinctive street markings have led to confusion as to right-of-way and where vehicles should be stopping during red lights; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the appropriate City personnel to address the above concerns, to determine what measures should be taken to increase pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular safety in this section of Harvard Square, and to report back to the City Council and the public in a timely manner.

O-4 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is concerned with both improving the quality of its residents’ lives and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS: The City Council recently adopted a “Net Zero” action plan, part of which included the City’s goal to reduce wasteful energy use in the pursuit of lower carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS: Installing solar panels provides an alternative source of energy that does not contribute to increasing levels of carbon in the atmosphere and falls in line with the City’s “Net Zero” goals; and

WHEREAS: The City owns a number of buildings which could potentially host solar panels that would help generate energy from a carbon neutral source; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to investigate the feasibility of installing solar panels on suitable City owned rooftops and report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-5 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: Members of the City Council, via constituent casework, and via direct interactions, often become aware of certain landlords that engage in harassing and abusive behavior toward their tenants, or who routinely violate the basic obligations of the tenant-landlord relationship; and

WHEREAS: Despite the fact that City Councilors may gradually accumulate knowledge of these specific bad actors, there does not exist any viable mechanism for distributing this information in a way that can alert potential renters to steer clear of these problematic landlords, or to sign a lease at their own risk; and

WHEREAS: Municipal governments in Chicago and in New York have established online databases and watch-lists of landlords to be wary of, and these governments are providing a public service to potential renters, giving them important information that can help them make informed decisions prior to signing a lease and potentially sparing them from years of difficulty and distress; and

WHEREAS: The vast majority of landlords in Cambridge are decent, upstanding individuals who either work for professional housing management companies, or are renting out their privately owned apartments to those that wish to live there, these fine individuals should be able to distance themselves from the handful of bad actors, and establishing such a public database would be one new method of creating such a distinction; and

WHEREAS: Creating such a public database in Cambridge would be in the best interests of the thousands of residents who rent their homes, it would ease the caseloads of the local legal organizations that are overburdened with potentially avoidable tenant-landlord disputes, and it would be in the best interests of the Cambridge community overall; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to consult with the Community Development Department and other appropriate City departments to determine the feasibility of establishing an online database of "problematic landlords" modeled upon the databases of Chicago and New York, to determine what the criteria for establishing this designation would be, and to report back to the City Council on when such a database could be up and running in a timely manner.

O-6 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: The current approach for northbound traffic into the Speedway gas station at 2055 Massachusetts Ave allows for fast, angled turns into the lot; and

WHEREAS: Vehicles coming in such a manner pose a hazard to other drivers, but particularly to pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS: From 2010 to 2013, the Cambridge Police Department reported 11 accidents at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Blake Street 4 accidents at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Hadley Street, and an additional 6 accidents at 2055 Massachusetts Avenue, making 21 accidents in one block, of which 7 involved a bicyclist; and

WHEREAS: In addition to those accidents that are reported, there are countless other near misses that go unrecorded; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with Public Works and Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to evaluate traffic calming methods to prevent motorists from making long turns in the Speedway lot; and be it further

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

O-7 Nov 2, 2015

MAYOR MAHER

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to consult with the Department of Public Works and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation on ways to improve the safety of pedestrians at the intersection of Fresh Pond Parkway and Brattle Street and to report back to the City Council with any findings and recommendations.

O-8 Nov 2, 2015

MAYOR MAHER

WHEREAS: The City Council is in receipt of an Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Kim Courtney and Xavier Dietrich, 2 Ware Street which appears under Communications and Reports from City Officers Number One; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Solicitor, draft a response regarding the attached Open Meeting Law complaint for the City Council's consideration, so that the

draft response may be considered and voted on by the City Council at its next regular business meeting of Nov 9, 2015.

O-9 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Crime in Cambridge is a concern for the whole community, particularly for residents who because of age or ability are more vulnerable than others; and

WHEREAS: Senior residents in many of the Cambridge Housing Authority apartments have expressed concern for the security measures of their buildings; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Housing Committee of the City Council be and hereby is requested to schedule a hearing with the Cambridge Housing Authority to address security issues by reviewing existing security procedures and, where necessary, propose changes in related security issues.

O-10 Nov 2, 2015

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR BENZAN

COUNCILLOR CHEUNG

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge, as a large consumer of everything from office products to catering for official banquets, functions, and receptions, has the capacity to positively impact the local economy by supporting local businesses and turning to said businesses when making purchases for official City functions and purposes; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has focused on this issue in the past, most recently in a Council Order introduced on June 27, 2011, and questions remain as to the City's working policies and practices in this regard; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Purchasing Department and other appropriate City personnel to report back to the City Council on what specific efforts are made to purchase goods and services from locally-owned, Cambridge-based businesses, and to evaluate whether additional measures can be taken to ensure that the City considers turning to local businesses whenever possible; and be it further
ORDERED: That the City Council formally goes on record in urging the Purchasing Department, and all City departments, to take pains to make purchases that are used for official City business wherever and whenever possible, from locally owned Cambridge based business in order to better support the local economy.

O-11 Nov 2, 2015

VICE MAYOR BENZAN

WHEREAS: In the 1960s, Puerto Rican communities began moving into the City of Cambridge; and many of these residents worked the blue-collar jobs in our City's factories that once started Cambridge in order to provide a better future for their families; and
WHEREAS: Over years, the Puerto Rican community has become an invaluable asset to our City's economic progress, history, and culture; and

WHEREAS: The Puerto Rican Community is well known for being dedicated small business owners, remarkable students, outstanding employees, distinguished parents, and dedicated public servants; and

WHEREAS: Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States shortly after the Spanish-American War under the Treaty of Paris of 1898; and

WHEREAS: On Mar 2, 1917, the U.S. Congress enacted the Jones-Shafroth Act, granting American citizenship to Puerto Ricans, which allowed them to be drafted into U.S. military service; and

WHEREAS: The Jones-Shafroth Act, also exempted Puerto Rican bonds from federal, state, and local taxes, regardless of where the bond holder resides; and

WHEREAS: In 1973, the Government Puerto Rico began to use debt to balance its budget as well as to repay and refinance older debt; and

WHEREAS: Four decades later, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is approximately \$72 billion in debt with hedge funds, mutual bonds, and other investors; and

WHEREAS: Since 2006, the economy in Puerto Rico has shrunk by 10 percent, shed more than 250,000 jobs, closed over 150 schools, and reached poverty rates of 56 percent among children and 45 percent among adults; and

WHEREAS: Since 2009, the Government of Puerto Rico has passed pension reforms, furloughed Government employees, cut expenditures, and significantly raised its taxes; and

WHEREAS: Despite drastic actions by the Puerto Rican Government, the island is rapidly becoming insolvent and will exhaust all of its emergency measures by the end of 2015; and

WHEREAS: Bond holders are not willing to negotiate with Puerto Rican Government, instead, they are asking Puerto Rico to increase its taxes, eliminate state-sponsored healthcare, layoff teachers and continue foreclosure, cut pensions, privatize public ports, reduce support to the University of Puerto Rico in order to pay its debt; and

WHEREAS: The severe economic struggles in Puerto Rico are forcing residents to flee; in 2014, 84,000 people left the island and a total of 300,000 in the last decade; and

WHEREAS: In the past, countries or cities facing similar circumstances have either reached out to the International Monetary Fund or filed for bankruptcy through the Chapter 9, Title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code to workout reasonable debt reductions and payment plans; and

WHEREAS: According to U.S. Federal Law, the Territory of Puerto Rico cannot exercise either of these since it is neither a country nor a U.S. municipality, leaving the fate of the 3.5 million American citizens on the island at the mercy of Puerto Rico's lenders and hedge fund investors; and

WHEREAS: On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 the U.S. Department of Treasury proposed the Roadmap for Congressional Action, outlining four immediate steps to address the crisis of Puerto Rico: (1) Provide tools for Puerto Rico to comprehensively address its financial liabilities; (2) Enact strong fiscal oversight and help strengthen Puerto Rico's fiscal governance; (3) Provide a long-term solution to Puerto Rico's historically inadequate Medicaid treatment; (4) Reward work and support work; and

WHEREAS: The Treasury Department proposed an extension of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to the Puerto Rican municipalities, asked that the island's debt is addressed in its entirety, and urged for U.S. Congress to pass a legislation forcing creditors to the negotiating table, in the same way any American city or any country can do; and

WHEREAS: On Thurs, Oct 22, 2015, Cambridge resident and United States Senator Elizabeth Warren demanded the Treasury Department to utilize the same creativity to resolve Puerto Rico's debt as it did to aid the banks during the financial crisis; and

WHEREAS: Senator Warren supported the Treasury's plan requiring Congressional action, stressing the importance of an amendment to Chapter 9 of the United States Bankruptcy Code; and

WHEREAS: The lives and wellbeing of the 3.5 million American citizens living on the island are also the U.S. Congress's responsibility; and without immediate Congressional action, a solution to the financial crisis in Puerto Rico will not be achieved; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record expressing support for the Treasury Department's and Senator Warren's demand for Congressional action addressing the crisis in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record urging U.S. Congress to make the necessary amendments to the current United States Bankruptcy Code to help the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico begin resolving its financial crisis and finding long-term solutions to its Medicaid programs; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this policy order resolution to Congressman Michael E. Capuano, United States Senator Elizabeth Warren, United States Senator Ed Markey and United States Treasurer Rosa Gumataotao Rios on behalf of the entire City Council.