

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-111, regarding a report on monitoring the efforts of Harvard and MIT with regard to wind data collection.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-124, regarding the zoning limitations for reuse of the Middlesex County Sullivan Courthouse at 48 Thorndike Street.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-123, regarding a report on the fee structure used for energy audits by the Cambridge Energy Alliance.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-135, regarding state budget cuts announced by Governor Patrick on Oct 15, 2008, to address a \$1.4 billion estimated FY09 state budget shortfall.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Civic Education Grant for \$144,887.00 funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$127,254.00), to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$17,246.00), and to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$387.00) in support of the Community Learning Center's Adult Civic Education Program.
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Cambridge Housing Authority Computer grant received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$60,316 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$58,336), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$1,500), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$480) which will allow the Community Learning Center (CLC) to provide computer classes for Cambridge Housing Authority residents at Jefferson Park and at 119 Windsor Street.
7. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$62,000 for the Center for Families Program Grant funded from the Massachusetts Department of Education through the Children's Trust fund to the Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$48,352) and to the Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$13,648) and will be used by the Center for Families to support family programs targeting parents of children up to six years, which include a variety of family support and parent education programs and resources.
8. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Massachusetts Formula Grant for \$84,945 funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$33,474), to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$49,711), and to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$1,760) and will be used to provide substance abuse prevention services for Cambridge seniors, transportation for Cambridge seniors to medical appointments and weekly food shopping trips.
9. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Pilot Classroom Quality Grant for \$80,500 received from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salaries and Wages account (\$7,922) and to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$72,578) to support services aimed at offering parent workshops, activities for children in the classroom, and professional development through workshops and complementary on-site coaching.
10. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-126, regarding a report on creating a safer intersection at Porter and Bedford Streets.
11. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$50,000 in streetscape enhancement funds from Harvard University to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account which were received in association with the Harvard Law School Northwest Corner Project and will be used for streetscape enhancements along Massachusetts Avenue between Wendell and Waterhouse Streets and will include trees and planters and street furniture such as seating, banners or signage to improve the pedestrian character and retail environment of this section of Massachusetts Avenue.
12. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-118, regarding a report on public drinking in the MBTA plaza at Porter Square.
13. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of a \$67,680 grant from the Federal Highway Administration and the Massachusetts Planning Organization (MPO), through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) to the Grant Fund Community Development Other Ordinary Maintenance account and will be used to continue the City's efforts to promote transportation options and encourage bicycling, walking and public transit, thereby improving the quality of life in Cambridge.
14. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-103, regarding the status of street and utility work in the vicinity of Putnam and Western Avenues.
15. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-132, regarding a report on the benches at Pacific Street park and the status of the park at Fort Washington.
16. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-129, regarding a report on assessing and collecting boat excise tax.

17. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 08-136, regarding a report on the reduction of state matching funds received by cities and towns which have adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Nov 18, 2004 for the purpose of considering proposed amendments to Chapter 2.74 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, the Police Review and Advisory Board Ordinance. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after Feb 14, 2005. [Four sections of the proposed amendment were passed to be ordained as amended. Ordinance #1284. The remaining proposed amendments to chapter 2.74 remain on Unfinished Business.]
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Numbers 06-87, 07-83 and 07-138, regarding the status of putting the City's self-evaluation on the website. [Charter Right exercised by Councillor Kelley on City Manager Agenda Item Number Sixteen of Dec 10, 2007. Dec 17, 2007 - Referred to 2008-2009 City Council as Unfinished Business on motion of Councillor Kelley.]
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an additional appropriation request and Loan Order regarding the CRLS renovation project. The question comes on adoption on or after Aug 11, 2008.

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Harvard Law Coop, requesting permission or a sign at the premises numbered 1678 Massachusetts Avenue. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutters.
2. An application was received from Jean Spera, requesting a curb cut at the premises numbered 12 Sciarappa Street said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical, Public Works. Approval has been received from the neighborhood association.
3. A zoning petition has been received from Lesley University, to amend the Zoning Map and Article 20.000 of the Zoning Ordinance by adding "Section 20.200 Lesley Porter Overlay District."

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Judy A. Maybin, transmitting thanks to the City of Cambridge for its caring and thoughtfulness to soldiers from across our nation.
2. A communication was received from Andy Griswold, Business Manager, Saint Paul Parish, transmitting gratitude to Charles Sullivan, Executive Director, Cambridge Historical Commission and staff for their assistance and support of the church exterior renovation work completed in the spring of 2008.
3. A communication was received from Sarah Galbraith, transmitting thanks to the City Council for the resolution of sympathy.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Marie G. (Barboza) Casey. Councillor Maher
2. Resolution on the death of Henry W. "Hank" Cyr. Councillor Maher
3. Resolution on the death of Francis G. Harrigan. Councillor Maher
4. Condolences to the family of Wilma Mumma. Councillor Maher
5. Thanks to the US Army Natick Research Design and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) for its important work and support of innovative renewable energy projects. Councillor Davis
6. Retirement of Rita Matos from the Cambridge Health Alliance. Mayor Simmons
7. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Cody J. Eggleston. Councillor Decker
8. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Heath K. Pickard. Councillor Decker
9. Resolution on the death of Lance Corporal Stacy A. "Annie" Dryden. Councillor Decker
10. Resolution on the death of Specialist Justin A. Saint. Councillor Decker
11. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Reuben M. Fernandez III. Councillor Decker
12. Resolution on the death of Private First Class Christopher A. McCraw. Councillor Decker
13. Resolution on the death of Sergeant Michael K. Clark. Councillor Decker
14. Resolution on the death of Specialist Geoffrey G. Johnson. Councillor Decker
15. Resolution on the death of Staff Sergeant Brian P. Hause. Councillor Decker
16. Resolution on the death of Specialist Deon L. Taylor. Councillor Decker
17. Thanks to the partners of the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund for their efforts to end homelessness and wish them best of luck for their upcoming HomeSweetHome event on Nov 14, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency. Councillor Davis
18. Best wishes to CitySprouts on their upcoming Flavors of Fall event on Nov 17, 2008 at the Regattabar. Councillor Davis
19. Speedy recovery wishes to John Moot. Councillor Davis
20. Congratulations to Susan Agger and Elizabeth Wylde as recipients of the 2008 Fresh Pond Stewardship Award. Councillor Davis
21. Congratulations to Ihsan Gurdal, owner of Formaggio Kitchen, for being honored with the medal of the French Order of the Merite Agricole. Vice Mayor Murphy
22. Declare Nov 9, 2008 as Hydrocephalus Awareness Day in the City of Cambridge. Vice Mayor Murphy
23. That the City Council go on record endorsing the Spring 2009 "Tree of Peace" dedication ceremony. Councillor Decker
24. Congratulations to Eva A. Millona on her appointment as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. Councillor Toomey
25. Urge all residents to honor the men and women who have defended our country as well as those actively serving by celebrating Veterans' Day on Tues, Nov 11, 2008. Councillor Kelley
26. Congratulations to Melissa Solar Arnold and Philip Baum on their recent marriage. Councillor Davis
27. Resolution on the death of Geneva (LeBlanc) Arseneault. Councillor Maher
28. Urge all residents to honor the memory of Sergeant Clifton Merriman by attending the program which will honor him

- on November 13, 2008 at noon at the Central Square Post Office. Mayor Simmons
29. Resolution on the death of Irene (McKim) Bouck.
Councillor Toomey
30. Resolution on the death of Joseph A. "Buddy" Camara.
Councillor Toomey
31. Congratulations to the Cambridge Pop Warner E Team on the occasion of winning the Baby Bowl. Councillor Toomey
32. Happy 50th Birthday wishes to Louis Joseph Bacci Jr.
Councillor Toomey
33. Congratulations to Toney Pereira on the Grand Opening Celebration of the Finagle-A-Bagel Bakery and Cafe at One First Street. Councillor Toomey
34. Congratulations to Jackie Ready and Kelly Bishop on their nuptials. Mayor Simmons
35. Resolution on the death of Anthony A. Corey. Councillor Toomey
36. Declare Sunday, November 16, 2008 as William Dafoe Day in the City of Cambridge. Vice Mayor Murphy

ORDERS

1. That the City Manager is requested to review the policy of filling tree holes with concrete with a view toward replacement of trees that have been removed or filling holes in a more environmentally friendly manner and that the Health and Environment Committee of the City Council hold a public meeting to review DPW policy on street well plantings and schedule for completion of the current list. Mayor Simmons and Councillor Maher **Amended**
2. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the Director of Environmental Health with the intention to promulgate a local public health regulation to regulate non-recombinant BSL 3 laboratories and prohibit non-recombinant BSL 4 laboratories within the City of Cambridge. Councillor Toomey
3. Dedication of the corner of James Way and Cardinal Medeiros Way in honor of Dennis Arruda. Councillor Toomey
4. That the City Manager and the Mayor work together to bring NSTAR representatives before the City Council for a special hearing during a City Council meeting. Councillor Maher
5. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on any City policies or regulations that may impact the feasibility of bike share programs in Cambridge. Councillor Kelley
6. That the City Manager is requested to update the City Council on the status of the report requested on the fatal pedestrian accident in Central Square. Councillor Kelley
7. That the City Manager is requested to update the City Council on the issues surrounding the radio antenna at 346-348 Concord Avenue. Councillor Kelley
8. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on the status of street work, and the barricades left in the street, on Columbus Avenue. Councillor Kelley
9. That the City Manager is requested to ensure that appropriate City staff look into the issue of the lights in the

- St. John's parking lot that are shining on adjacent property. Councillor Kelley
10. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City staff to have the stretch of road on Massachusetts Avenue just south of Putnam Avenue currently marked "No Parking" changed to "Parking for Harvard University Police Vehicles Only". Councillor Kelley
 11. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council as to the fiscal lessons from the budgets in the wake of the last recessions and implications for the next few budgets for Cambridge. Vice Mayor Murphy
 12. That the City Manager is requested to investigate the prospect of adding more benches at Fresh Pond Reservation. Councillor Davis
 13. That the City Manager is requested to work in collaboration with M.I.T. to take steps to add the land bordering Brookline Street to the current park land. Councillor Davis

14. Opposition to the closing of the Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center. Councillor Decker **Tabled - Maher**
15. That the City Manager is requested to communicate to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Cambridge legislative delegation the need to mitigate construction at the BU Bridge. Councillor Davis
16. That the City Manager is requested to contact Comcast with a view in mind of requesting a graph outlining the basic Comcast issued and channel changes related to the digital conversion. Councillor Davis
17. The Cambridge City Council would like the federal government to take a role in the implementation of digital conversion, specifically with the installation, programming, quality and compatibility of the converter boxes and the City Clerk is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation as well as to the Mass. Municipal Association. Councillor Davis

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Vice Mayor Brian Murphy and Councillor David Maher, Co-Chairs of the Ordinance Committee, for a meeting held on Sept 17, 2008 for the purpose of continuing to consider a proposal from Alexandria Real Estate Equities to amend the PUD-3A, PUD-4C and PUD-4B districts in East Cambridge.
2. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor David Maher and Vice Mayor Brian Murphy, Co-Chairs of the Government Operations and Rules Committee, for a meeting held on Oct 15, 2008 to sponsor a "World Cafe" a citizen participation event to enable a facilitated conversation about priorities that the City Council should consider in setting its goals.
3. A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Cable TV, Telecommunications and Public Utilities Committee, for a meeting held on Oct 21, 2008 to discuss the conversion to digital TV and other issues related to cable.
4. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Marjorie

Decker, Chair of the Civic Unity Committee, for a meeting held on Aug 14, 2008 to receive information about the Purple Hats Club at Roosevelt Towers and to determine whether this program could be replicated at the Senior Centers and at other multi-family residences where seniors live in Cambridge.

5. A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Sam Seidel, Chair of the Housing Committee, for a meeting held on Oct 8, 2008 for the purpose of receiving an update from the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) on recent developments and issues, and receiving from the Community Development housing staff a comparison of the CHA resident preference policy and the resident preference policy used in other city-funded affordable housing programs.

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Nov 3

1:00pm The Human Services Committee will conduct a public meeting to receive an update on the Transitional Jobs program. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Nov 5

2:00pm The Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee will conduct a working meeting to receive background information and to discuss Northpoint at the end of the meeting a tour of the site will be conducted. (344 Broadway 4th Fl Conference)

Thurs, Nov 6

8:45am Facilitated Goal and Training Retreat to determine the City Council goals for FY 2010. No public comment. (344 Broadway, 2nd Fl Conference)

Mon, Nov 17

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Nov 19

4:00pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on a petition from the City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance Sections: 20.88 and 20.810, Memorial Drive Overlay District. This hearing to be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

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

Mon, Nov 24

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 1

5:30pm Special City Council Meeting on biohazardous materials and laboratory safety in Cambridge. Public comment is welcomed. Meeting will be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Dec 9

5:00pm The Government Operations and Rules Committee will conduct a public hearing to consider the proposal to rename Plympton Street in honor of David J. Halberstam. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 15

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 5

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 12

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Jan 26

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 2

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 9

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Feb 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Nov 3, 2008 **Amended**

MAYOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: The presence of trees lowers street and sidewalk temperatures in summer months; and

WHEREAS: Shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs for local homes and buildings and help cleanse the air of diesel and dust particles; and

WHEREAS: Trees absorb carbon dioxide which helps ease the negative effects of greenhouse gasses; and

WHEREAS: Tree roots help hold storm water and tree leaves and roots filter particles from storm water, improving water quality in the soil; and

WHEREAS: Tree-lined streets encourage motorists to drive slower to create an aesthetic that increases the value of property in a tree-lined neighborhood; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to review the policy of filling tree holes with concrete with a view toward replacement of trees that have been removed or filling holes in a more environmentally friendly manner; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Health and Environment Committee of the City Council hold a public meeting to review DPW policy on street well plantings and schedule for completion of the current list.

O-2 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Environmental Health with the intention to promulgate a local public health regulation to regulate non-recombinant BSL 3 laboratories and prohibit non-recombinant BSL 4 laboratories within the City of Cambridge.

O-3 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Council dedicate the corner of James Way and Cardinal Medeiros Way in honor of Dennis Arruda; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Assistant to the City Council be directed to confer with the family regarding a suitable dedication ceremony and communicate with the Department of Public Works to arrange for the sign.

O-4 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR MAHER

WHEREAS: Cambridge residents throughout the city continue to experience a rash of utility outages; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager and the Mayor work together to bring NSTAR representatives before the City Council for a special hearing during a City Council meeting, preferably in November.

O-5 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Bike share programs have the potential to increase bike use in Cambridge and decrease auto use; and

WHEREAS: Any bike share program in Cambridge must also work in Boston to be successful; and

WHEREAS: Bike share programs often depend on advertising and placement of bike racks on visible and accessible public space to be successful; and
WHEREAS: Issues about advertising on public land and obstruction of public ways may impact how successful bike sharing could be in Cambridge; now therefore be it
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on any City policies or regulations that may impact the feasibility of bike share programs in Cambridge.

O-6 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to update the City Council on the status of the report requested on the fatal pedestrian accident in Central Square.

O-7 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: A radio antenna installed at 346-348 Concord Avenue has been interfering with local phone conversations, has rotated over neighboring properties and is making neighbors worried about both health effects from radio waves and the potential of the antenna falling on adjacent properties; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to update the City Council on the issues surrounding the radio antenna at 346-348 Concord Avenue.

O-8 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Ongoing construction on Harrison and Columbus Avenues seems to have stalled with depressions remaining in the street; and

WHEREAS: Neighbors are concerned that the construction project will not be completed this season; and

WHEREAS: The neighbors would like the work finished and the barriers in the street removed as soon as possible; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the status of street work, and the barricades left in the street, on Columbus Avenue.

O-9 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Lights from the parking lot at St. John's Church on Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge are shining on adjacent property; and

WHEREAS: This situation seems to be in violation of section 7.20 of the Cambridge Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS: Neighbors' attempts to address this issue with St. John's staff appear to have been unsuccessful; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ensure that appropriate City staff resolve this issue as expeditiously as possible.

O-10 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR KELLEY

WHEREAS: Harvard University Police vehicles continue to park in the "No Parking" area in the southbound lane of Massachusetts Avenue just south of Putnam Avenue; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Police staff and Parking Control staff have been unwilling or unable to prevent Harvard University Police vehicles from parking in this "No Parking" area despite formal requests to put a stop to this illegal parking; and

WHEREAS: Such illegal parking puts all law enforcement agencies in a bad light; and

WHEREAS: The illegal parking shows an embarrassing inability of the City to enforce its laws; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with relevant City staff to have the stretch of road on Massachusetts Avenue just south of Putnam Avenue currently

marked "No Parking" changed to "Parking for Harvard University Police Vehicles Only" to reflect the situation's reality.

O-11 Nov 3, 2008

VICE MAYOR MURPHY

WHEREAS: Massachusetts, like the rest of the country, is facing a significant recession; and

WHEREAS: Adjustments to the state budget in the amount of \$1.4 billion in the form of budget reductions and transfers from state reserves have already been made; and

WHEREAS: Many experts, including the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, estimate that additional budget reductions amounting to \$750 million or more will be required for this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS: It is likely that additional state budget reductions will be required for fiscal years 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge and Massachusetts have faced challenging budgets in the wake of other recessions such as in 1990 and 2002; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council as to the fiscal lessons from the budgets in the wake of the last recessions and implications for the next few budgets for Cambridge.

O-12 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Fresh Pond Reservation has been upgraded and beautified and is a popular destination for joggers, dog walkers, pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS: There are others who would like to sit and enjoy the natural surroundings while reading, resting or eating lunch but there are a limited number of benches in the park; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to investigate the prospect of adding more benches at Fresh Pond Reservation.

O-13 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: Pacific Street Park was created in collaboration with M.I.T. with a long-term goal that the park would extend from Sidney Street clear through to Brookline Street; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work in collaboration with M.I.T. to take steps to add the land bordering Brookline Street to the current park land.

O-14 Nov 3, 2008 **Tabled - Maher**

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) will close the, Cambridge Senior Center based, Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center on Dec 24th of this year; and

WHEREAS: Over the last two years this City Council has ask the CHA if this center would be closed as part of the CHA budget cuts and did not receive a satisfactory response; and

WHEREAS: Although it is understood that the CHA is facing serious financial difficulties, there is a need to question Earnest and Young's finding that closing this center will indeed provide the financial respite that the CHA budget needs; and

WHEREAS: This closing will force seniors, and others who currently receive services at the Senior Health Center, to use other CHA sites that are not as convenient or familiar; and

WHEREAS: Although the CHA says that it will offer shuttle services to the hospital, the Council has seen this type of shuttle offer before when other CHA services have been cut and found that the shuttle services are not consistent nor sustainable; and

WHEREAS: The limited access to health services due to the closing of the Senior Health Center may cause those currently served by the Health Center to postpone preventative health care measures resulting in the development of acute health problems, the treatment of which may increase the long term costs to the CHA; and

WHEREAS: It is clear that choices must be made to help the CHA stay fiscally solvent. However, short term cost saving measures should not be made to the detriment of community health and potential cost increases in the long run; and

WHEREAS: The CHA previously made cuts to women's services without community input and this City Council is concerned that the CHA's current budget cutting choices are happening without the input and consent of some of the City's most vulnerable residents; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council questions the sincerity and ethicalness of the Nov 6th CHA "Strategic Input Meeting," where the CHA is asking for community input after decisions have already been made; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council requests that the Alliance send notices of community input meetings to all patients at all of their community clinics; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record opposing the closing of the Oliver Farnum Senior Health Center; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record, once again, asking the CHA what additional clinics and services will be cut; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Cambridge Legislative Delegation, Governor Deval Patrick, and Congressman Michael Capuano, on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-15 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: The current situation at the BU Bridge is endangering the lives of bicycle commuters; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to communicate to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Cambridge legislative delegation the need to mitigate construction immediately as follows:

* Provide a makeshift lane for bicycles on the construction side of the bridge during daylight hours since bridge construction occurs at night; and/or provide bike lanes on both sides of the bridge now because although providing two lanes of traffic will inconvenience motorists, the current situation is endangering the lives of bicycle commuters; and

* Provide signaling, personnel or other mechanisms to calm motorized traffic.

O-16 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact Comcast with a view in mind of requesting a graph outlining the basic Comcast issues and channel changes related to the digital conversion.

O-17 Nov 3, 2008

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: The federal government mandated the conversion from analog to digital TV effective February 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS: Many problems in implementing the plan have revolved around the converter boxes; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council would like the federal government to take a role in the implementation of digital conversion, specifically with the installation, programming, quality and compatibility of the converter boxes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation as well as to the Massachusetts Municipal Association.