

Perez, Lori

From: Patrick W Barrett III <jbrealtyllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 1:20 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Huang, Yi-An; Denise Jillson; Jason Alves; Patrick Magee; Michael Monestime; City Clerk; Joan Pickett; Carrie Pasquarello; Ayesha Wilson; Doug Brown; Cathie Zusy; Joe McGuirk
Subject: Policy Orders 192, 193, 194, 195, and 196

Mayor Siddiqui and Cambridge City Council,

Hope you are all enjoying the Fall and getting ready for Halloween. There are a few items on tonight's agenda that raised an eyebrow and some concerns. I hope the Council has an ear to hear to them:

PO 192:

It is difficult to ascertain the purpose of this order. One of the biggest issues mixed use development has is the servicing and support buildings require when they house multiple uses. Typically a plan is submitted to CDD for approval (hint: maybe start there?) Loading and trash services are of the utmost importance and unlike most residential districts these tasks are foisted onto private property owners to pay for (along with our increased tax base) because the City of Cambridge demands it. This is a difficult ballet of sorts between loading trucks delivering goods people use everyday and navigating traffic exacerbated by the multimodal decisions this Council has made. Our own studies on loading zones has a TBD denotation beside it. I get it ... doing stuff is hard and no one is going to vote a #1 for the person who worked on loading zones. However I think we should turn that TBD into something more substantial. Further, trash services are run by a handful of private contractors whose prices seem to go up by 10-30% annually but whose behavior is less predictable. There are very few places in Harvard, Porter, and Central Sq to gently navigate this need. Generally contracts give a time and date of service and within a few hours of these contract terms these trucks do in fact arrive. However given all of the complexities of navigating our exacerbated streets-scape this is and will remain an imperfect system. For people complaining about noise in these districts have you thought about applying any standard of construction for the buildings they live in? Dan Totten just single handedly wrote and passed the AHO 2.0 amendments surely some of you thought, since AHO 2.0 is targeted at our loudest districts, that some STC rating ought to be applied for this housing. Dan cannot do it all friends. As you continue to build in mixed use districts this issue will continue to crop up. As this council further terraforms the city to meet the needs of Google employees I hope you consider some of the basic things that make a building work. This order should be withdrawn and redrafted so it makes sense and doesn't further embarrass this council or the people who voted for you.

*** I would also point out that the largest contributor to street noise is the City of Cambridge itself. The City's inexplicable commitment to a contractor like Gioioso boggles the mind. They come early, they're incredibly disruptive, they broke a high pressure gas main on river street and let it blast for hours, they dumped gasoline all over the street, they smashed a sewer line with a Cambridge water main, they cause multiple water main leaks requiring a near constant digging and re-digging up the road. If the private sector managed a project like the City does they'd be run out of town.

PO 193

Ah yes the hunt for broadband equity. I wonder when it will fall out of fashion to use poor people and minorities as political ballast to justify any and every position imagined by this Council. Since it is too much to ask, at least for now, for you as a legislative body to stop using people this way, can we at least get a general accounting of all the spending this Council has committed to over the past session? I understand how tech employees want a faster way to connect to world of warcraft but I fail to see how we should be spending 100's of millions of taxpayer dollars to achieve this. I know we call it "free cash" but it isn't exactly free and draining this fund for everything will have consequences for bond rating

Attachment: Patrick W Barrett III Policy Orders 192_193_194_195_and 196 (COM 2158 #2023 : A communication was received from Patrick W

and how we are able to source debt. If you haven't taken a peak the current interest rates are at a 23 year high. The adults in the room should be sounding at least a cautionary alarm.

PO 194

"Miniature Liquor Bottles" aka nips are something of a concern. In Central Sq alone the BID picks up tens of thousands annually. Supreme Liquors is the only liquor store in Central Square that sells them. They open at 8am and in my opinion are the biggest drug dealer in the Square. Over the years I've lobbied for limitation on sales or changing hours from eight am to maybe 11? To date I've heard everything from "drunks need their alcohol" to the latest "there is no issue." This city has a reality problem and one that cannot be solved by dancing around issues, but you so love to dance. An outright nip ban may have a similar positive effect that it had in Chelsea, but last I looked Chelsea and Cambridge have some differences that ought to be acknowledged. Further, a ban across the board because we cannot hold a few bad actors accountable is not how policies should be considered.

PO 195

The hits keep rolling. I know many of you long for higher office. To that I say go for it! Today! A single use plastic ban in Cambridge alone is not sound policy. How would you regulate Amazon, Target, and other big box e-commerce stores? If you look at the legislative history of this council every decision from bike lanes to this latest request seems to be handing this City over to large corporations, institutions, and has resulted in the gutting of local businesses. You blame land owners but in reality your policies are making the world a better place for Google Execs almost exclusively. Plastics are terrible and there should be some action, but for Cambridge to go it alone brings the hammer down, yet again, on those least able to bear it.

PO 196

This policy order I like. Can we get a similar order for River St and Western Ave? Residents for years have complained about the fast moving vehicles and trucks that zip down these streets. To date no action.

Lastly, I read a recent article in the Globe about eight women complaining about harassment. Is there a reason why no formal inquiry has been made?

CC: Clerk & Manager
 CC: Business Associations
 CC: Potential New Guys that Aren't Terrible

Happy Halloween,

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