



OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

2021 NOV -8 PM 12:14

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Heather Last Name: Hoffman

Address: 213 Hurley Street

City: Cambridge State: MA Zip Code: 02141

Phone Number: (617) 354-7354 Ext.

Email: heather.m.hoffman.1957@gmail.com

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any):

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

☒ City/Town ☐ County ☐ Regional/District ☐ State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Cambridge City Council

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation:

Date of alleged violation: 11/1/21

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

The agenda made available to the public for the November 1, 2021, Cambridge City Council meeting was missing the contents of three listed items:

1. a request for permission for a temporary banner across Ames Street, and Broadway 26 lights poles announcing Welcome back/Now Open, Contemporary Art Museum at MIT, MIT List Visual Arts Center from October 2021 until February 2022--an entirely different application for an event that happened nearly two years ago was attached
2. the committee report for the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee for its meeting on July 15, 2020 to conduct a public hearing to discuss the timeline, scope, and budget of the Tobin/Vassal Lane School Project, including updates on the Armory property, and how it fits into the long-term plan for all school buildings in the City to accommodate expected enrollment changes over the next 10 to 20 years and to receive an update on the legislative office plans--nothing was attached
3. the committee report for the Housing Committee meeting on June 3, 2021 to conduct a public hearing to discuss inclusionary zoning preference/eligibility, and how the new state-level Housing Choice law will affect zoning in Cambridge--nothing was attached

Despite my having told the Council in public comment at the start of the meeting about this failure, they proceeded to deal with all three of these items. The City Clerk made the correct application for the first one available to the Council but not to the public. They were going to vote on it, but it was postponed to the next meeting when Councillor Zondervan exercised his charter right. The two committee reports were never made available to the public, but they were nonetheless accepted and placed on file. I have no idea if they were even made available to the members of the Council.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

I would like the Council to address these items properly, including giving the public an opportunity to comment on these items, at a future public meeting, as soon as possible, and I would like the Council to agree in writing that it will not commit any similar infractions of either the Open Meeting Law's public notice rules nor the Council's own rules regarding public notice and the public's opportunity to be heard going forward.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

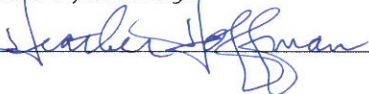
The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____



Date: _____



For Use By Public Body

Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO

Date Received by AGO: