



FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

5:30 PM

Sullivan Chamber

The Finance Committee will meet to receive an overview and update on funds received from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5:50 PM
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alanna Mallon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Timothy J. Toomey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE, CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 01, 2021

5:30 PM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Welcome everyone. I call this meeting of the Finance Committee to order. The call of the meeting is to receive an overview and update on funds received from the state and local fiscal recovery known as the American Rescue Plan Act Grant. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, adopted by the Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the city is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of the Cambridge City Council.

And indeed tonight is a hybrid meeting with some members of the council and public here and others joining us digitally. To watch the meeting, please tune into Channel 22 or visit the Open Meeting Portal on the City's website. Today's meeting, as I said, will be conducted in a hybrid format. Members of the public may participate remotely or physically appear in the chamber to provide public comment.

If you would like to provide private - public comment, please go to www.cambridgema.gov/publiccomment to sign up. We will not allow any additional public comments sign up after 6:00 PM, that is in 30 minutes. We will take the roll call of members present, and with that, all of today's

votes will be by roll call. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Present.

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Present & Audible

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present & Audible

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Absent.

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Present & Audible

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey Jr. - Absent.

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present & Audible

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present.

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present.

Present - 7, Absent - 2.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The agenda for today is first open remarks by the Finance Committee Co-chairs, followed by brief comments from the Mayor on a memorandum she has shared with us. Then we will have an overview of state and local fiscal recovery grant by the city staff, Mr. Kale, Ms. Kincaid, **and** Mr. Jennings. We will then seek public input and comment through public comment and finally, at the end of the meeting, we'll have a discussion of next steps and the process.

Um, during the last review of the discussion, there

will be an opportunity to clarify anything presented by city staff, uh, if there are pertinent questions. But the goal today is to share what the city has done, what -- how they've set up the process, and to hear from many non-profits and people in need, um, to hear their thoughts and input. And as you'll hear in the city presentation, there will be, uh, an important opportunity to present in written form some thoughts that different groups might have, and then to get feedback.

So with that, uh, Councillor Simmons, have you joined us? No. Councillor Simmons said she might be a little late, so I'll go first. We're all excited about, um, today's meeting. Uh, it's a rare opportunity to get such large sums of money to help bring members that were poorly impacted back to greater health. And, um, we will have a unique opportunity to spend that over the next few years. I did want to share with everybody that BU has put, Boston University has published, uh, findings from the 2021 Menino Survey of Mayors.

And the Menino Center, of course, is at -- at Boston University, and over 120 Mayors were contacted, actually responded after being contacted. And four and five Mayors,

80% plan to use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for transformative aims on housing, homelessness, infrastructure, and equity. And, um, their -- some of their concerns, actually most were concerned about the long-term health on residents mental health and learning loss among young people.

Um, I won't go more into this, but again, this is an exciting opportunity. If, uh, Co-Chair Simmons has not been able to join us yet. Um, I'm going to ask the Mayor to summarize, uh, her memo that she sent to us today. And it's informative and I think it might be helpful to have, uh, an idea of what other cities are doing and, um, and move from there. Perhaps we can learn from each other. Mayor, are you available?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Uh, yes. Uh, Mr. Chair. I, I'll just -- I'll be brief, but, uh, really the goal to provide, um, some of that information was just to show there's a range of community processes that are taking place, that will take place. Uh, I think cities, uh, across the country are in the same boat that we are, um, and I think it's great that we have an ideas form on, and we have a website, uh, and I -- I think that, um, there's more that

can be done, um, around what a process looks like.

I -- I know that you and I and others have talked about, okay, does this make -- does this make more sense than a series of finance meetings? Um, or does it, you know, or can we combine a number of things based on best, uh, useful frameworks from various cities? Um, you know, I've provided examples, you know, from Boston, from Detroit, from Buffalo.

There's a handful, but this just shows kind of the range, um, of what's possible. I think to your earlier point, this is, uh, a unique opportunity, uh, and it's, uh, a chance to really be innovative, be transformative, uh, and so I look forward to hearing from even public comment today, what ideas folks have and I think then the next step is really on, you know, how we -- how we go about, um, a -- a kind of a longer term process into spending, uh, this money.

So I'll stop there and, uh, we'll make sure everyone has a copy. I think there was a issue with Minute Track, uh, and so that's why, um, it -- it may not be up right now, but we'll make sure everyone has the, uh, this brief, uh, memo of examples. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mayor. Um, it -- it's a good well thought out memo. So we're going to proceed with, uh, well, I was going to say with the city presentation, but if -- if Councillor Simmons can join us, we'll also give her an opportunity to state her thoughts. So I'm going to suggest that, um, Mr. Kale, Ms. Kincaid and Mr. Jennings begin their presentation.

I should also add that the Co-chairs, uh, met with, um, the three who will be presenting earlier this week, and we've been in con -- and, and, uh, connection through emails about process and there's a good amount of information to share and an openness to get this right and I -- I appreciate that. Mr. Kale.

DAVID KALE: Thank you, Mr. Co-chair. Um, Naomi. Great. Thank you. Um, this presentation and other documents that we will be discussing, uh, is included on the webpage. Uh, if you go to the city's webpage, and go onto departments, under the City Manager's Office, projects and initiatives, there is a tab there called American Rescue Plan Funding.

If you click on that, um, basically you will be able to go to the webpage and, um -- um, in -- in that webpage,

there is, um, uh, useful documents and resources, which provides not only this tonight's presentation, um, but also, uh, listing of, uh, projects, um, that have been, uh, reviewed as well as source documents in terms of compliance and reporting, as well as a, uh, request form that we will be discussing.

In addition to that, uh, we've established an email address, uh, so that folks can email us their request form if they would like, um, and provide us any other information. So, uh, the two links to the webpage are listed on the screen, as well as the email address. And again, if you go to the city's webpage under the City Manager's Office, under projects initiatives, the ARPA, um, link will be there for you to, uh, access. Uh, in terms of next slide, Naomi, thank you. Great, thank you.

Um, again, as you, um, mentioned, Mr. Co-Chair, uh, tonight, um, we will provide an overview, uh -- uh, of where we are. I have with me tonight the Assistant Finance Director, Michelle Kincaid, and our budget director Taha Jennings, and, uh, Betty Lyons, who's been assisting, uh, with us in terms of, uh -- uh, providing, uh, support and resources to, uh, help manage this significant grant.

Um, and again, we will have, uh, as you noted, time for public comment, which we're very eager to hear from the public and we have provided vehicles for them to provide us, uh, their input, uh, through the, uh, request form that is on the webpage, and that we will explain as we move through the, um, presentation.

Um, in addition to that, I would just note that we have, um, tried to be very inclusive in our outreach in times of, uh, business associations and neighborhood associations, and asked our non-profit coalition to send out the notice of the meeting, as well as, uh, the com -- Cambridge Community Foundation and, uh, in-house listings to the community development and non-profit listings that we have. So, um, uh, again, hopefully they will have access, uh, to tonight's meeting and, uh, provide us information.

If not, we'll continue to go to the webpage to receive updates. Next slide, please. Again, um, we are very fortunate because we have received \$65 million in direct support. Um, we've also just have received, uh, a notification that in addition to the direct support to the city of 65 million, we are going to receive, uh, another

\$23 million in funding, uh, through our allocation to the counties within Massachusetts.

So we will have a total of \$88.1 million, uh, to spend, uh, to support, uh, the tenants of the, um, ARPA, uh, funding and to, uh, provide relief, uh, or COVID recovery initiatives. Um, the city manager will be coming forth to the City Council with a grant appropriation for this additional funding of \$23 million, uh, so that we can have the total appropriation, uh, um, allocated. Um, in addition to that, uh, the school department has received, uh, \$8.6 million in separate funding from ARPA funds that they have, uh, been awarded.

So, uh, the good news is we have \$88.1 million in total, uh, to spend on the city side. Next slide, please. Uh, and again, we covered this at our last meeting. Generally, there are four, for no better technical word, buckets of -- of money, uh, for which we can spend money. And then within that, there's detailed allocations or, uh, expenditure categories that, uh, tie into these overall arching, um, categories.

And again, to respond to the public health emergency, uh, or -- or its negative economic impacts. Again, uh, this

is the category where we are, uh, funding either vaccine clinics or testing clinics, providing food and supplies, uh, for, uh, our homeless population shelters, um, and the like. Um, and then the next category is to support essential work by providing pay or grant to essential workers and again, uh, this is a category that, um, potentially allows, uh, within the guidelines of -- of, uh, of the grant to, uh, look at, uh, non-public employees, um, to provide additional, uh, assistance in terms of, uh, uh, essential pay for essential workers.

Um, the next category is to support the provision of public services impacted by revenue declines. Um, again, the city, uh, did have a negative impact, uh, on revenues that, uh, were not received by the city. Um, over the summer in the fall, there's been, uh, several revised calculations of what the city's impact was in terms of, um, impacted revenues. Um, and, uh, the city has a calculated amount of approximately \$10 million, uh, that is under this umbrella, uh, for, uh, impacted revenue declines.

In addition to that, um, the last categories to support necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband. And again, I think, uh, when we get to the slide

of, uh, um, various possibilities. We've already allocated money, uh, to support the, uh, broadband, uh, um, initiative that was brought forth a few weeks ago to the council of over 400,000 thousand dollars and, uh, it's not yet in the, um, uh, categorization yet, but again, there is, uh, potential funding for the pilot program with the Cambridge Housing Authority.

So, again, in addition to that, there are some key initiatives that, uh, are, uh, displayed for the water department. So those are the four overarching categories. And then within, uh, those categories, there is specificity, uh, in the appendix that we've attached to this presentation that we went over before, uh, at our last meeting. That has, uh, over 30, I think it's 38 individual characterizations that we have to tie to, uh, to make sure that we're in compliance and, uh, that we can report off as, uh, we continue to do that.

Um, the next slide, please. Um, so this is a, um, a summarization of, uh, our resources of \$88.1 million. Um, and this summarizes the areas, and maybe Naomi you can make it a touch bigger, but maybe you can't, but it's in the presentation of about the categories of where we have spent

money. Um, we've, um, committed project funding of about \$4 million, uh, uh, to support our, um, um, uh, shelter at the Spalding Hospital, uh, to provide, uh, meals and, um, to provide sewer testing and mental health services.

Um, in addition to that, uh, we have, uh, provided funds for that \$4 million to, uh, support the broadband consultant of 465 and, uh, administrative costs to help, uh, support our reporting and compliance, uh, initiatives as part of the grant, um, as well as for services to dispo -- disproportionately impacted, uh, communities of, uh, 602,000. So again, in total, we've spent, uh, or committed \$4 million for a variety of initiatives to support the City Council, uh, initiatives and priorities.

In addition to that, we've been working with the departments to provide them information about the ARPA grant, and we have, uh, received, um, recommendations from our departments, uh, that fit within the parameters of the grant. Um, and then we're in the process of making sure that those recommendations, uh, specifically meet the expenditure criteria that, uh, are listed in the appendix.

And, um, uh, that below is a summary of, uh, in categories of public health negative economic impact

services, uh, to disproportionately impacted communities, infrastructure and provision of government service administrative. Uh, those recommendations that are under review, uh, totals \$23.8 million, so between the two, um, we basically have, um, recommendations and commitments of, uh, \$27.8 million, but that leaves another 60 million that is available for, um, further allocation.

So again, I think we've been trying to work with our departments to, uh, have them review, uh, the requirements of the grant and to have them submit recommendations, uh, that, again, meet the tenants of the grant, but also meet the priorities of the City Council. Um, and again, that listing, uh, in -- in more details on the webpage. Next page, please.

TAHA JENNINGS: Um, through you, Mr. Co-chair. I just want to reiterate some of the things we went over previously regarding the timeframe associated with the grant funds. So costs are eligible that were incurred, um, after March 3rd, 2021. Um, and we are -- we have until December 31st, 2024 to, you know, come up with, uh, projects to commit funds to. Um, and again, we still have to abide by all the reporting requirements, um, associated

with that. Um, in addition to that, we have until December 31st, 2026 to actually spend the funding.

Next slide, please. Um, and although we have a lot of discretion in terms of how funds are used, there are some uses that are explicitly, um, ineligible, uh. For these funds, um, satisfying, uh, federal matching fund needs, uh, we cannot use the money for that. Uh, we cannot use the funding to provide premium pay for Teleworking employees, um, and we cannot use the funds, uh, to, you know, um, support our -- our pension liabilities or -- or pay off debt or towards any reserve funds, including free cash. So we can't put the funds towards those uses. Next slide.

MICHELE KINCAID: Through you Councillor Dennis J. Carlone. Um, basically the next slide is saying, um, we need to report accurately. Um, over the last, uh, better part of the last three months, we have spent lots of time researching and documenting many of the compliance and reporting requirements. We have hired an outside consultant to help us to set up templates to make it easier for, um, the departments and whoever the grantees who are going to get the, uh, monies to be able to report to us.

Um, but accurate reporting is essential in order to

avoid, um, issues in the end. We, um, when we accepted the grant, the grant, uh, the assumption is that we will abide by the federal grant requirements and detailed reporting procedures. Although the discretion on the use of the grant is very broad, we still have to document, um, our rationale for using this in the -- in -- in spending it on a project, um, and how it actually has a COVID hook.

How it pertains to, um, you know, the -- the COVID-19, um, health emergency, and, um, the implications of that and how it on the, um, people that have suffered from that, we have to prove that these projects are going to help to relieve that. Next slide, please. In order for us to report as, um, the city of Cambridge to the federal government, we also need to put reporting requirements in for the departments who come up with projects for the grantees who we, non-profits and who -- whoever else we give grants, um, to follow so that they can provide us with the information that is needed to report to the federal government. Next slide, please.

DAVID KALE: So what we've been, um, able to do is for -- for, uh, tonight's meeting and for, uh, future, um, um, interactions with the City Council and the public is to

develop a template to identify potential projects or potential ideas and, uh, Naomi, if you could maybe bring up the actual form, that would be appreciated. Thank you. Um, so again, this form is, uh, on our webpage.

Um, it is, uh, uh, PDF Writeable, so basically you can fill in the information and save it and send it to us, uh, through the email. Um, again, uh, if we, uh, again, go to project ID information, uh, again, uh, we're asking for contact information, uh, if you would like to provide that, but also if we need to get a hold of you, uh, your email and your cell phone and name, that would be appreciated. Uh, a small description about the project idea and, uh, how you would, uh, what your project is and how it address, uh, the impacts of COVID.

And then down below, under B, again, trying to fit, um, that idea within the overarching, um, four categories that we talked about before. Uh, check one of those boxes, and again, uh, if possible. And, um, on the next page, um, four questions that basically will, um, allow us to, um, identify further information, uh, with regard to the proposal or the idea that we would ask you to answer if, uh, to the best of your ability. Um, and then, um, down

below is a, um, background information just about the, uh, um, uh, ARPA funds.

So again, this is on the webpage under our ARPA webpage, and it's, um, uh, a form that, uh, is, um, under, uh, what, uh, under community project ideas and there's a red icon that says, uh, view form that will come up and as I said, it, uh, will allow you to type in the information and then you can, uh, email it, uh, to us, um, and that we will then able to collect that. And again, um, uh, the council is, uh, as we have further discussions and more ideas come upfront, uh, basically council's more than welcome to use that vehicle as well as members of the public.

Again, um, we have, um, met with our departments. We have a few more, um, departments to review, so, uh, in addition to what we have, uh, listed, uh, possible recommendations that we will, uh, have some more ideas as we, uh, get further information, uh, from some of the departments that, uh, have, uh, recently submitted their ideas. Uh, and then Naomi, if you go to the, uh, next page, information resources, again that everything that we have talked about in the past or currently is on our webpage,

uh, so feel free to go there.

And then as part of the document that's on the webpage, uh, we have an appendix section that basically, uh, list all the, um, expenditure categories and then the subsets of public health and negative economic impacts in, uh, supporting, uh, impacted communities, uh, infrastructure, premium pay, and the like. So it just gives you, you a sense of how we have to match the ideas, uh, to specific categories, and then how we have to make sure we're in compliance and how we have to report that.

But it's all good because I think we've gone through this process, uh, with, uh, some of our departments and we've been able to, um, uh, get on a path to be able to identify projects, uh, that we feel meet the, uh, guidelines of the grant, as well as meeting the, uh, priorities of the City Council and we welcome continued feedback from the public and the City Council. So that concludes our presentation and, um, thank you very much.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you very much for the update in the presentation. We are going to go to public comment, and then we'll have time for questions and a discussion by the council and staff on next steps. But

since the focus of this meeting is to gain public input, um, I might want a -- a, I should add that we've gotten a - - a number of emails, um, from interested, uh, neighborhood leaders, non-profits, and other groups, um, and they will be included in the meeting notes, um, so we will have a reservoir of -- of questions and answers that, uh, we will work on.

So I'd like to go to public comment, except, uh, that's right. Uh, Councillor Simmons, my Co-chair, has been able to join us. She had, um, an appointment that she, uh, had to meet and as, uh, Councillor would you -- Co-chair would you like to share some thoughts of yours before we go to public comment?

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: Just briefly, uh -- uh, Co-chair, Carlone, first of all, thank you for, uh, Co-chairing this or chairing this meeting this -- this evening. This is just so important an opportunity for us to hear from the community at large about what, first of all, what the ARPA funds mean, how they can be spent, and how the community can participate. Uh, I'm sure you mentioned it, but it's worth saying again. We have been meeting with the finance folks, um, at the city department.

We've been meeting ourselves, just trying to put together a way that we can be sure that our community knows about this money, how it can be spent, what it can be spent on. So that presentation was -- was wonderful. Thank you very, very, very much. And I'll, you know, to David Kale and the finance department for putting the presentation together and hopefully the cla -- clarifying for members of the public what these ARPA funds are, what they can and cannot be used towards.

And so I want to thank everyone who's tuning in to learn more about the funds, um, and to share their thoughts with us on how these funds might be used. I also appreciate that tonight's hearing is really our attempt, you know, in earnest to hear from the members of the community on their thoughts about the funds and put their questions forward and -- and we will find ways to get back to them. And I suspect we, there're going to be a lot of -- a lot of information.

As you said, Mr. Chair, we've gotten numerous emails. I think I've got something, uh, from our Mayor as well and so I just look forward to getting, to hearing and really sitting back and just listening front to the community

about what their thoughts about our, what -- what clarifying questions they might need. So thank you, Mr. Chair. Yield the floor.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Co-Chair. So we're going to begin, uh, the public, uh, comment period. There are 14 people who have signed up and uh, the first speaker is Duane De Four, followed by Catherine Carr Kelly. Duane, your -- your time is now you have three minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Duane De Four, address not provided, Executive Director of Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, stated that impact of funding on sexual violence survivors and requested to support the funding to this community. Suggested to allocate at least \$500,000 for survivors and prevention programming for schools in Cambridge.

Catherine Carr Kelly, address not provided, Executive Director of Central Square Theater, stated that the arts and culture sector is a major driver of the Cambridge economy. The sector generates \$175 million per year and supports more than 6,000 jobs. Artists and cultural organizations have suffered a loss of \$30 million in

revenue due to COVID-19. Said that Create Cambridge respectfully request to be part of the funding conversation going forward.

Ronit Barkai, address not provided, Assistant Director of Transition House, emphasized requirement of more funds for survivors of domestic violence.

Elena Sokolow Kaufman, address not provided, managing director of the Cambridge Non-profit Coalition, urged city leaders to focus on equity and aid to disproportionately impacted populations and communities.

Kristen Anderson, address not provided, the founder of Save the Alewife Brooks, was concerned about water quality and flooding. Insisted Cambridge's Finance Committee to allocate federal ARPA CSO funding.

Damon Krukowski, address not provided, supported Save Alewife Brook and raised the issue of sewage that is being directed to the city of Cambridge. Also supported councillors on Finance Committee for their work on environmental issue.

Kathy Suzy, address not provided, representative of Magazine Beach Partners, hoped that some ARPA funds will be used to promote public health at Magazine Beach Park.

Clara Fraden, Deputy Director of Planning and Development at the Cambridge Housing Authority, advocated to use some of the remaining \$60 million for the creation and expansion of supportive housing services across the city. Also stated that this is an excellent opportunity to address long-term public health inequities.

Sage Carbone, DHSP employee and a volunteer of Cambridge City Growers and Green Cambridge, talked about food security, and insisted that by allocating more funding, the City Manager will begin the necessary work to empower residents to grow their own food.

Valerie Bonds, address not provided, spoke about economic disparities suffered by all races. Also insisted that money allocation should be directed towards social services rather than city agencies.

Tina Alou, 113.5 Pleasant Street, Director of CEOC-Cambridge's Anti-Poverty Agency, stated that funding should be utilized who has been hit hardest during COVID in regards to food insecurity, housing stabilization, and education. Strongly stated to consider using ARPA fund to initiate additional guaranteed income programs to reach more residents.

Jay Leslie, Chief Information Officer of Cambridge Housing Authority, emphasized to use ARPA funds to improve digital equity in the city of Cambridge by supporting improved broadband access for low income residents.

Carol O'Hare, address not provided, spoke about the use these funds to eliminate unsightly useless pavement and turn it into green treed recreation and relaxation space in the City.

Lois Josimovich, representative of Mass Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, spoke about the health and social services that they provide to their communities including immigrants, was very concerned about the next year funding.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Uh, thank you for speaking from the heart. Uh, council members, we have a person who, uh, did not sign up by 6:30, who would like to speak, Eric Granebaum and I'd like to, uh, move that we allow him with a vote

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

On suspension rules to allow Eric Grunebaum to, to, uh, speak during public comment.

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey Jr. - Absent.

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Yes- 8, No- 0, Absent - 1. Motion Passed.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Eric. Um, you have the floor. You have three minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eric Granebaum, address not provided, spoke about access to green space and Heat Island Relief as important determinants of public health. Also echoed that funds should be utilized to create new green space adjacent to affordable housing developments, and improve air quality, shade, access to nature.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. And with Eric's comments, uh, we conclude the lists that we have. Um, and I believe we have to move and vote to close public comment

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: On that move to move to close public comment. Mr. Co-chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey Jr. - Absent.

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Yes -8, No- 0, Absent - 1. Motion passes.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Um, so we have 50 minutes to, uh, further discuss this.

We're not going to be able to get everything and tonight

the goal was to hear from the public and the council, um,

but we will have another meeting, uh, as soon as we can.

Uh, it might be in December, my guess is it will be in

January, but we could do it in December. The

recommendation or the notion that the Mayor brought up of

perhaps having a broader number of meetings, I'm certainly fine with and I -- I know my Co-chair would be too. Um, so I'm going to, uh, begin this discussion with the Vice Mayor, and, uh, and then we'll go around the list of people who've raised their hand. Vice Mayor, you have the floor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a point of information. You said we had 15 minutes left in this, uh, meeting, and I believe we started at 5:30, so are we ending at 7:00 or 7:30?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: 7:30 and, and 50 minutes.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay. I thought you said 15.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: You -- you have 50 minutes. No, I'm kidding.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, um, wasn't planning to go first. I just wanted to clarify the time, but now that I have the floor, thank you to the city, um, for the presentation and for working, um, diligently on the website and some of these, uh, submission forms and ideas, I had a couple of -- I had a couple of thoughts.

One, um, I fully support, uh, the Mayor's memo, which outlines several cities that I think we could look to for real community participation, um, and transparency around their ARPA funding.

Um, Boston, Detroit and Buffalo seem to be, uh, having a really, uh, community driven process around, um, some real needs of -- of using this ARPA funds, as you've heard from many of the non-profit organizations that, um, have dealt with vulnerable populations pre pandemic, but certainly over the last two years that there's a tremendous amount of need, um, in those communities and in those organizations and having a broader conversation about how we want to use these \$60 million, I think is certainly warranted.

Um, I like the idea that Boston had, um, a coordinating committee to really actually hold these meetings, hold a space on the website. Their website is very, very transparent about what projects are being funded and being considered, um, you know, I think that is, well, we'll hear from the rest of my colleagues whether or not they think that that's a -- an option going forward but I think the greater amount of transparency and -- and

community, uh, coordination, the better.

I -- I know that in June of 2021, there was a memo from the city manager around some items that, um, the city staff and departments combined with City Council goals and priorities had put together. Uh, and on them, you know, there was a list of items that some of them are on the city presentation, some of them aren't. But I keep looking at those list -- that list of priorities as feeling like that's a good guiding document.

So I -- I want to remind us all that that happened in June and that we should be all looking at that. I want to lift up and support a few things that I heard tonight that I'm in full support of us using, uh, these ARPA funds. For one is an expansion of the universal basic income pilot that we started here, uh, in -- in September of this year for 130 families.

That is working tremendously well, although we -- we did here tonight that there's -- there was a -- a greater need in the community and this certainly, uh, the ARPA funds could be used for that. Housing, homelessness, um, food insecurity certainly and then the arts and, um, impacted businesses. I think we are still really struggling

in this community.

Um, particularly those impacted businesses, restaurants, our arts communities that really had to close down in March of 2019 and -- and are still struggling to recover. Our arts community just pretty much opened their doors very, very recently so, um, and then lastly, I'll say one of the, my, the things -- things that was on the June 21st memo that we have been discussing, and I know Boston has been discussing, is this idea of fair free transit and buses.

And that's something that, um, you know, Boston is using \$8 million worth of their ARPA funding to, um, to -- to do three fair free bus lines. It was just voted on by the Boston City Council today. Their finance department seemed to see no issues with using ARPA funds for fair free buses. I think we, you know, getting people back onto public transportation, um, is -- has to be a -- an imperative and using ARPA funds, um, I think is the way to go.

So I'll just wrap up by saying those are sort of the -- the hierarchy of things that, uh, I'd like to see us think about, but really call up, call out and support the

idea of having a much more community based, a much more transparent process, um, than what I think the city has proposed and put together on the website. So I'll yield the floor at this time, Mr. Chair, to my colleagues, but I just wanted to share those thoughts. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Vice Mayor. Uh, Councillor Marc C. McGovern is next, followed by Councillor Patricia M. Nolan. Councillor Marc C. McGovern.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Uh, thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for, uh, the presentation and to everyone who, uh, who called in. Um, you know, clearly there's, uh, as the vice Mayor stated, there's no shortage of, uh, need or great ideas, um, uh, you know, in terms of allocating that this -- this funding, um, and I agree really with everything that -- that people called in about, um, you know, certainly there's a, I'm chairing the Mayor's task force on homelessness right now.

There's going to be recommendations coming up from there where we're going to be asking for funding for, for different things short and long term and, um, there's, you know, certainly a lot of the non-profits who are already doing, uh, tremendous work that you're going to need

support. Um, you know, want to follow up on the vice Mayor's comment around transparency and I apologize.

I was one of those folks who didn't get the, um, I didn't get the memo from -- from the Mayor so, um, I'm not, I didn't have the opportunity to read that. But, um, you know, I keep thinking back a couple years back, the manager may remember, uh, I was finance chair and we did a neighborhood by neighborhood tour to talk about the city budget, the budget process, what -- what, uh, allocations were out there and then to listen to people, uh, suggest ideas as to how, um, different things that they wanted to see in the budget.

So, um, you know, maybe doing something like that again, where the finance chairs and the -- and the -- and the city managers and others can visit, you know, every neighborhood in the city and have community meetings right in the neighborhoods, uh, in our, uh, public housing buildings. Um, you know, really to, I think we think we do a tremendous job with our community outreach around participatory budgeting, um, we -- we hear from young people, we hear from people from all over the city, um, and so I think there's a model, you know, in place.

You know, let's, let's put, you know, any of the, if we -- if we ever get back to having, you know, sort of, uh, the, the River Fest and fairs and -- and Danny Heat Park and all those kinds of things, you know, putting tables up and, and really getting out there, um, you know, in the community and hearing from people, I think that's going to be vital. Um, you know, we certainly want people to be confident in the decisions that are made.

We don't want something like we often see in DC where, you know, there's an earmark for some program buried on page 500 of a -- of a document that nobody sees or understands and it's, you know, it, it wasn't discussed publicly. We want people to be confident in how we're doing this because even with \$81 million, we're probably not going to be able to do everything that we're going to want to do and so people need to really feel good about, um, you know, the process and how we reached our decisions.

Um, one thing that Ms. Bonds had mentioned, uh, in her public comment that reminded me of something, um, you know, I really hope that we use this -- these funds to not necessarily do new things because I think there's a lot of things going on now that are really good that we could

support more so I'm not saying that has to be new initiatives, um, but really not to spend the money on things that we should already be funding in other mechanisms.

I -- I think to a, I remember Councillor Patricia M. Nolan may remember this, that a couple years ago there was a participatory budgeting, uh, um, suggestion that we use PB money to buy desks for one of our elementary schools and I thought, if our elementary schools needs desks, why aren't we buying them new desks? Why are -- why does someone have to go through a PB process to -- to fund that?

Um, you know, I think of the -- the, uh, you know, the work, the consultant for municipal broadband, we asked for that to be funded long before this money was available and yet we're using \$400,000 of that money to fund something that, you know, we should have been funding anyway. Uh, and that's \$400,000 less that -- that -- that we have.

So, I -- I really think it's, I -- I really want this money to be used in -- in really creative ways that makes tangible differences in people's lives and addresses the inequities that existed long before COVID and are going to exist long after, um, you know, we -- we, and then lastly,

Mr. Chair, um, I have one question, but I do also want to say that, um, you know, the other thing we have to consider in this is that this money does run out at some point, right?

We're either going to spend it all, or we have to, you know, I think 2026 was on that slide where it all has to be expended. So if we're going to do things like new positions and new programs, we have to make sure that we're also going to be able to fund, uh, those things after this money is done. We don't want to start something that's really successful and great and then turn around in four years and say, oh, gee, now we have to stop doing it because we -- we don't have the money.

So we've got to, you know, that has to be part of this consideration, um, but it's a tremendous opportunity. And I guess my question, Mr. Chair, um, sorry for taking so long, is, um, are there ways that we can think about, um, stretching this money in terms of, um, you know, partnering with, whether it's getting matching funds, uh, on different things?

Are there other grants or -- or other funding mechanisms that are out there at the state level, the

federal level, the private sector, where we can partner and really kind of stretch this 81 million out even more, uh, and make it an even larger pot? Is that something we're allowed to do under this, or?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Good question, Councillor. Mr. Kale.

DAVID KALE: So, in the presentation on page seven, that is one of the restrictions is, uh, satisfying federal match fund needs.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Cannot do.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: No. You can't match it but you can use those funds, say you want to build a, um, home, you know, some housing for homeless, and there is someone, uh, let's say just asat is -- is starting the funding, but they need additional funds for, um, you know, to -- to -- to make it happen. We can use some of these funds, they wouldn't be matching, they would be going toward the project for homeless.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So they could be part of a larger project funding wise?

DAVID KALE: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So in essence, yes,

Councillor?

DAVID KALE: Yes.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Yeah, no, that's -- that's something we should, I mean, that would be great if we can, you know, stretch that, uh, even more. So, um, I know we're going to have more meetings on this. Thank you to the finance Co-chairs and everyone. Um, you know, I think, again, great opportunity, um, and, you know, let's do everything we can to make sure we're hearing from as many people most directly impacted, um, uh, and who will most hopefully benefit the most from -- from these funds. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll yield.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: And -- and very good suggestion about reaching out like you did previously. Um, so Councillor Patricia M. Nolan is next followed by Councillor Zondervan, and then the Mayor, Councillor Patricia M. Nolan, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you Chair Cardone, and thank you to the city and all my colleagues, um, for this presentation. And hosting the meeting like everyone else, I'm very excited to be in this position for, um, discussing the \$88 million, um, through this federal

funding.

I want to start by saying I loved hearing from everyone in the public, and it demonstrated for me exactly what it is that the Mayor's memo talked about, which is the importance of having a robust process to reach out into the community, to involve people, to have their ideas be brought forth, to encourage them, to give them a true seat at the table and input because the range of, uh, suggestions that were presented, covered, uh, such a, uh, a large swath of the city and of our needs, that it was really important for us to hear that and obviously, there's many, many more that we should be hearing and could be hearing if we engage in the kind of process that the Mayor's memo laid out.

I'm very grateful to have those very specific ideas from those three cities. For those of you listening who haven't read it, it's available publicly, and it -- it -- it just gives us a model and again, let's build on best practice. Um, as, uh, Councillor McGovern mentioned his task force on, uh, on housed community will be coming forthwith recommendations.

The Climate Crisis Working Group has been working

through a number of recommendations, also, many of which will require funding in order to do them well, and addressing the environmental justice issues that come along with any kind of addressing of climate crisis. Um, one of the ones mentioned in public comment, which is the combined sewer overflow, um, clearly is -- is rising up, um, as a -- as a desperate need for the city.

I'd be curious as to whether that's just something we should be taking care of anyway, because it is something that affects, um, so many people in our city, not just in -- in Arlington. Um, I want to also highlight what, uh, vice Mayor Mallon said about using some of the funds as Boston is for freeing the tea.

She had talked this morning at a meeting about the importance of us addressing the need for a clearly defined and staunch support for public transit, um, the broadband, uh, extension, which we have all supported, uh, time and time again, uh, glad that the feasibility study is underway, but as it's been pointed out, the feasibility study would've been funded anyway.

If we are going to use some of these funds for expanding broadband, um, let's make sure that we are

building on work that's already been done and that we are able to accelerate what we would've been able to do anyway as a city. Um, I -- I -- I think my question, which may not be able to be answered right now, is I want to understand how it is that we can ensure that there will be a robust public process that the community will have a say and to understand it and ensure that the council will be asked to ultimately be voting on these.

I know we voted to accept the overall grant, but as was seen with the Boston City Council having to approve the \$8 million in funding for the free buses, is the expectation correct that we would be presented with some options and it would be the council's ultimate decision on how to spend those funds or, um, or -- or how is it that we can understand our role in this process so that we -- we are all in sync and -- and -- and there -- there won't be any confusion about that.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Mr. Kale, can you answer that?

DAVID KALE: I think we're at the beginning of this process where we, as I mentioned, we send out several hundred emails to a variety of, uh, stakeholders. Obviously

we will continue to do that. Um, I think the manager made a commitment to, um, keep the City Council, um, in the process and I think that we've provided, um, information on the web and in weekly digest updates about how the recommendations that we received have, uh, uh, been applied to the grant.

And, and so I think the, I don't believe as we appropriated the money before that, we envision the City Council voting on individual items, but in fact, participating in discussion on how the funds would be targeted to be spent.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, let's, uh, if I could, uh, just put in for a second councillor, we certainly approve the budget, and this is a form of the budget, so I don't fully understand that. Um, I know we don't want to get into an individual project amount of money, you know, 400,000 versus 4 million on every project being proposed but that I -- we have to talk about that because that -- that further at another time. But that's, feels very odd to me, and I know a number of Councillors that wouldn't agree, and I think we have to think about that. Thank you, Council. Did you want to add something

else, Councillor Patricia M. Nolan?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Uh, thank you Carlone. Uh, no, I -- I'm with you. I would've, I -- I would expect that there would be some additional, uh, council action, um, to be taken both in -- in -- in being very clear and, uh, in forming the outreach process to the public as well as really deliberating over the use of the funds. But I -- I yield back and -- and eager to hear the other comments. Thank you and thanks for hosting this.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you for the comments. Uh, Councillor Zondervan is next, followed by Mayor Siddiqui. Councillor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Um, first of all, I want to add my voice to the request that we do get a vote. I -- I understand that procedurally, we have already, um, appropriated the funds, but that doesn't prevent us from getting a vote on how it's going to be spent and it doesn't have to be, you know, dollar by dollar, but there could be a spending plan that's presented up to us, similar to the budget that we could then vote on and this is not part of the budget as I understand it.

So -- so we wouldn't have any other votes on -- on how the money spent, uh, otherwise. Um, I think we should spend the money to directly benefit the black community, which has been disproportionately impacted by COVID. I love all the suggestions that we heard in public comment and -- and I'm glad that we have this process so that we can, uh, get direct input from the -- from the public.

I have my own long list of suggestions, which I won't share right this minute, but -- but there are two that I do want, um, bring to the forefront. One is to create more housing for the homeless and I think, you know, we -- we just heard, um, about one project that's -- that's already on the way that could use some support but I'm also thinking about, you know, what additional projects can be undertaken in the next three years that will allow us to create some, uh, additional housing for folks who are experiencing homelessness.

And then the other one is around providing mental health, um, care, which I believe is permissible and there's, uh, guidelines as I understand them and I think that's a really crucial, um, piece of the puzzle that -- that we really need to address immediately, um, to -- to

help people through this pandemic. Um, and like I said, there's -- there's many more, but I -- I assume we'll have more opportunities to -- to work through that list. So thank you Mr. Chair and -- and thanks to the staff for this helpful presentation.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor for your comments. Uh, the Mayor is next, followed by council Sabrina Wheeler. Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thank you. I had a clarifying question, uh, for the finance team, the 400 -- the 400K for admin costs, is that projected over, you know, the 2016 date or 2024 date? What's the -- what's the timeline on that?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Mr. Kale or Ms. Kincaid?

DAVID KALE: So we -- when we met in July, we talked to the council about the fact that because of the complexity of this grant and the, uh, complexity of the request that we would receive -- we would want to make sure that we, even though I think we have significant expertise in house, that it would be wise to, um, engage into an outside consultant to help us with the compliance and with

the reporting, because this is, again, uh, not only is a complicated, it changes weekly. So we have engaged KPMG to do that and Michelle, the length of the contract for the first tranche is for how long? I believe it. I believe it is-

MICHELE KINCAID: Goes through the -- the duration.

DAVID KALE: Is it -- is it a year or is this a multi-year contract?

MICHELE KINCAID: It's a multi-year contract.

DAVID KALE: So it -- it -- it -- it -- it is more than one year in terms of the allocation.

MICHELE KINCAID: Thanks. Yeah, I just wanted to clarify that. Uh, and then, you know, I think I agree with a lot of what's been said and, um, love a lot of the ideas that the, um, public, some members of the public have provided, um, you know, I'm -- I'm wondering about the -- the form and once someone submits it at this point, who's looking at that form? Um, can you just clarify that for -- for everyone

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Through you um, um, Mr. Co-chair. Uh, the form will, the city Clerk has been added to the distribution list, and, uh, obviously the folks at

this table are on the, uh, permissions to look at those email submissions.

MICHELE KINCAID: Okay. So it's the finance team and the city manager?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: City manager, and the city Clerk is on, uh, has been added to that distribution list.

MICHELE KINCAID: Okay. Uh, yeah, and I think what I'll just add is, uh, I -- I think the -- the whole point of my memo is just to, you know, provide some frameworks and I think where we go from here, I think we can put our heads together whether I like the idea that Council McGovern throughout around some, um, neighborhood meetings or whatever process we want.

I think we should have some further discussion to clarify the council's role, uh, and then, um, what a community engagement process could look like, whether that's through the Finance Committee or some other, um, avenue. Um, so I'll stop -- I'll stop there. Uh, I think that's all. Thanks.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mayor. Um, Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler. And then if my Co-chair

wishes to have a, uh, a comment, I will go to her.

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair through you. Um, and thank you to the staff for this presentation, which is helpful. Um, I -- I had one, uh, quick follow up question, and apologies if this was, uh, covered in the presentation. I, um, may have just missed it, but the, uh, rules for the ARPA funding, uh, as it relates to the Massachusetts Anti Eighty Amendment.

I'm -- I'm thinking of, uh, things like the Rise program, but also other programs. Are we constrained by the, the Anti eighty Amendment, um, with this ARPA funding, or is there more flexibility?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Mr. Kale? Good question, Mr. Kale.

DAVID KALE: We will re-verify that, but my initial reaction is that, uh, the Anti Eighty Amendment does not go away regardless of the funding source but we -- we will re-verify that but my sense is -- is that does not, this -- these funds don't negate the Anti Eighty Amendment.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: All right. Thank you, um, Councillor.

COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER: Thank you. That's, um, helpful and that would be helpful to -- to have an opinion on, um, and then just, uh, uh, a couple points that other Councillors have brought up. It would be, uh, great to see some of this funding used, uh, for fair free buses, uh, at a time where, you know, public transit, uh, has been really affected by the pandemic and, uh, traffic has, uh, still been, you know, a big issue in Cambridge. Um, would like to see some of the funding go there, as other municipalities are talking about.

Um, and then on the question of, you know, council involvement, um, you know, would like to -- to see the council have a vote on the specific appropriations within this and in addition to this sort of general, uh, input, um, when we had, you know, made the vote, um, a few months ago, that was something I had -- had pushed for, was to not appropriate it all at once um, uh, if there is a way to -- to have, you know, a more determinative council input here, there as the elected body of the city, I think that would be, um, really important. Um, but thank you again for this presentation and I'll yield back.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Uh, Vice

Mayor, did you want to add something?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Uh, no. I, if -- if we're going back around, I'd like to.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yeah, we're almost there.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Uh, Councillor Simmons, did you wish to add any final thoughts? Any thoughts?

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: Yes, please.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please do.

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: Yes, please. And, uh, Councillor Carlone, Co-chair, Carlone, you've done ex -- extraordinary job. Thank you so much for your work in -- in chairing this meeting. This is a great opportunity for us to discuss and inform our community about the ARPA funds and the possibilities.

I, uh, thank you Madam Mayor for the, uh, memo relative to what other cities and towns are doing, but particularly Boston. And to that, and I know it's been mentioned about having some sort of advisory committee, really for some sort of working group, and I think that's a

stellar idea.

But what's very important to all of us, I believe, I mean, we talked about transparency and we talked about the black community, but we can't, if -- if we're really going to be intentional about reaching out to the African American community, which I am a member, or being transparent, which is important, then we have to do some things a little bit different than we usually do.

And what do I mean by that? Whether it's ARPA funds or our own money, we have to provide opportunities for better access. So how do we do that? So if we do put together a, um, sort of advisory or whatever it, um, whatever that model looks like, it's not going to work for some of the groups of individuals and I'm -- I'm not going to say marginalized because it's -- it's a really bad name and, but for people that do not ordinarily respond to the methods and the ways that we are accustomed to using.

So to that end, it may not be ARPA funds, it may be dugged down in our own pockets, but we do have to find a way to make sure we're reaching further and deeper as we continue to have these conversations because we don't want to be in a place where someone says to us, gee, I would've

applied had I known. And I'm not talking about the people that show up too enough. I'm not talking about the proactive people,

I'm talking about the reactive people. So how do we reach that? So this has been an extraordinary meeting. Um, I hear from my Co-chair who, you know, I'm beginning to see so much I'm going to stop taking as a tax deduction, that we are going to continue to find ways to reach out to the community.

So as we continue to have this discussion, I am asking this City Council, maybe we have to do it by way of policy order and again, I'm not looking for us to use our funds. I'm saying to put our own money where our mouth is, let's us -- let us, uh, walk the talk and we have to find ways through our community engagement teams, through our parent advisories, from our community based organizations but then some because our community based organizations are not terribly representative as, and I looked over the list, I said, some of these people I know haven't talked to a person of color in years.

So how do we find ways to make sure that we make sure that we reached as many individuals possible? So I'm -- I'm

pleased about this conversation. Thank you Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler asking about the Anti Eighty question because that was a question of mine. I think some very important questions were raised. I'm very appreciative to the coalition, um, under Joyce Sokolow that sent that letter about what they would like to see do.

Uh, we want to make sure that we continue to put the message out exactly like we've been putting, this is what - - what the money is, this is when we have to spend it, this is how we can spend it, how do you want to see us participate? Again, the advisory committee is important, but it's not going to be enough.

So I want to make sure that we, and I can do this by policy order, but I think it's important that we know and we act as though we know that using the ways that we always use to reach the people are not going to be sufficient. But this is very good start. I hope that we're going to have more conversations about this. Great job, Mr. Chair. I yield the floor.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Uh, thank you Madam Co-chair, and, uh, I think we all agree with your comments. Um, um, before I go to the Vice Mayor, I have a very

specific question. We heard about Magazine Beach, we heard about Jerry's Pond. Um, I've been advocating for more open space since we have half of what the average city has per capita and, uh, and I'm talking about in locations where it's very, much, much lower than that in the city.

Do you feel, and I realize you've not studied this, uh, kind of infrastructure. Is that eligible, uh, from a health point of view, from an economic point of view, from a equity point of view, at least initial reading on that?

DAVID KALE: Um, I'm going to, I don't want to violate the rule that we set for ourselves here today to respond to generic ideas to see if they're available for funding. I think clearly the rules and regs and the FAQs does reference potential open spaces but again, it has to be in an area that is going to serve the disadvantaged.

So it isn't a yes or isn't a no, it's doing a case by case to see what the specific proposal is and to see if it fits within the criteria of expenditures and meets the, um, reporting right criteria that it satisfies the needs of the COVID relief. Um, so, um, I don't want to give you an answer that's incorrect, but I think as we get specific, uh, proposals, that would be one thing.

Again, I would also say that the federal law doesn't, or the grant doesn't negate the process of how you acquire land and again, um, uh, that is a complicated process so even if you have the money, finding a piece of property that is available for the city to enter into an agreement, um, is not a simple task as I know, you know,

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Agreed. But I'm encouraged by your response, nevertheless. Thank you. Uh, Vice Mayor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Uh, thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to go back to the Anti Eighty Amendment and I'm, I guess I'm surprised to hear that federal dollars are encumbered by the state Anti Eighty Amendment. I'm just looking on Boston's, um, authorized projects, you know, we've -- we've heard, you know, across the country that people are using their ARPA funding to do universal basic income pilots or -- or expand their universal basic income pilots, which is essentially giving money to people.

Um, I'm just looking on their -- their dashboard. One of their projects is eligible Boston households can apply for up to a \$1,000 in cash aid funding until funding is

exhausted for, um, folks that, you know, need cash assistance, right? There's eviction assistance. There's -- there are a lot of projects that are happening in other communities where ARPA funding is being used to do direct cash assistance, uh, to residents.

So I guess I am surprised to hear you say that these federal dollars will be encumbered by the state -- state Anti Eighty Amendment, because that's not what I'm seeing from people who are already allocating their dollars. So I look forward to hearing, uh, a definitive answer, uh, at our next meeting.

Um, but I did have a question in terms of, you know, the -- there are two big bills that just, or one big bill that just passed Congress, the infrastructure bill and the build back better bill that, um, hopefully will have the votes to move forward, we're all crossing our fingers, but many of the projects, um, that we may have been discussing might be covered under some of these other bigger bills that we won't have to use the ARPA funding for.

When you think about, you know, the sewers or, uh, bus priorities, um, or universal pre-care, I'm just looking at some of the items that were on the June 21st memo. Some of

the things that people are talking about tonight might be in those -- those bills.

How -- how will we think about, um, I guess maybe is that part of the consultant's job or is that the job of, of Ms. Kincaid and the finance team to say, well, gosh, we did decide this for our project through the ARPA funding pro -- process, but now it looks like we have money through the infrastructure bill and then, like, how would we then reach back out into the community, um, to solicit different ideas?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: We -- we were on a call with Senator Warren last week, and obviously she had talked about some of the vehicles for which funds will be available to local municipalities. And it may be a grant process where you have to apply, it may be an allocation methodology from the state level. I think the devil in those details hasn't quite been flushed out, so I think we are learning more and as -- as we learn more, you are correct, how they dovetail to this ARPA funding and whether it allows us to use those vehicles to maybe fund some infrastructure.

Um, I -- I don't think we know yet because they're --

they're trying to figure out since the bill just passed, how it actually is going to be allocated and does the state basically control the distribution through a grant or a -- a straight allocation methodology and I -- I -- I think that clearly will be something that we will continue to be on top of and investigate to make sure that we take advantage of those funds to the extent that we can. So yes, you are correct, we will -- as we get guidance, we will factor that into this allocation.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Thank you. Mr. Chair. Just a follow up. I know, um, your team is heading into a heavy budget season for the next fiscal year, and I'm wondering about, I know, um, your team is often just very busy with that, is, I guess that was my question about the consultant. I know that a lot of this thing is in fox and it's fluid, is the consultant going to be helping us with additional staff time?

Given that your team is, like I said, going into a budget season, and this seems like it's a full-time job to handle what's coming from Washington, these ARPA funds, these community meetings, is the consultant -- is that going to cover it or -- or -- or do we need additional

staff in the -- in the budget office and the finance team?

DAVID KALE: So I -- I guess the purpose of using the consultant is to make sure that right from the get-go, we have the infrastructure on the compliance and reporting so that we're working smarter, not harder, and we don't want to file the required documents and find out we did it incorrect and we have to redo it. So we're trying to be efficient, um, with our time so that we do it correctly right from the get-go so that it'll -- it'll go through easily.

As I mentioned at the beginning meeting, we're very fortunate that, um, um, Ms. Lyons who, uh, uh, was the federal, uh, grants manager in community development, who has, uh, allegedly retired, uh, has been able to give us some hours, which have been cru -- crucial and I think one of the things you're trying to reconcile in all this process is, um, making sure that you have the hands-on deck that can make sure you can be effective. Just having hands on deck that really doesn't move the needle is not the way to go.

So I think we've been talking internally about how we use the consultant to make sure that we do things correctly

right from the get-go, um, and then how we use Betty and how we look at our staffing to see how we can organize this. I think if we are, if -- if we're efficient in what we do, it will be painful.

I will -- but I also will tell you, based upon the experience, um, that we had with the CARES and the FEMA allocations, which we're still working on, where they change some of the reporting requirements daily, um, that it's a struggle, but we're going to have to figure out how to do that because there is a level of intimacy of how we have spent this money and how it gets reported that can't be easily transferred to somebody who hasn't been part of that process. So I -- I appreciate your question and I appreciate the support.

I think we're clearly one of the first things that we did is to try to get some expertise, uh, to help us to make sure that we were not trying to figure out how you make this, uh, sausage, uh, from scratch. That, you know, like the consultant clearly has nationwide experience of how to do this and clearly is helping with strategies to fulfill the compliance and the reporting components of this grant. And obviously, if it gets to be, um, more cumbersome than

we anticipate, we will have to figure out how we get some qualified hands on deck.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll back

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please. Thank you, Vice Mayor. Um, excellent comments and, uh, very good response. So we know this is going to be a complicated effort. We know it's a great opportunity. This we heard from the public, we heard from the council, and certainly from the finance, uh, wing of the city. Um, uh, I, this is a great opportunity and we got a little guidance tonight and feedback.

I did want to say on the Anti aid, I know that, uh, a group of, uh, lawyers have begun looking at it on the outside and, um, and we will hear from them probably at the second meeting, is my guess. It's a little more optimistic, at least preliminarily, um, but we'll see. Uh, I want to thank, uh, everyone who's participated. I thought the presentation was extremely helpful, and it's a great beginning and I think the comment to reach out to the neighborhoods I totally support and I look forward to that. Um, unless the Clerk wants us to do anything.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Nothing. Move to adjourn.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes. But other than that, nothing else. So unless -- yes, please speak.

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: I was just saying move to adjourn. I'm -- I didn't mean to cut you off.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yeah, I, we were just going to do that but you beat us too Councillor. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: I can read your mind. I can beat your mind if I'm working with you so closely.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yeah, you did a good job, Mr. Clerk .

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll to adjourn.

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denis Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey Jr. - Absent.

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Yes - 8, No. - 0, Absent - 1. Motion passed.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Thank you
all. It was an excellent discussion.

COUNCILLOR DENIS E. SIMMONS: Thank you. Good night.

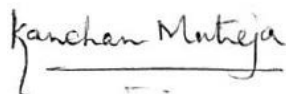
COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Good night.

The Cambridge City Council Finance Committee adjourned
at approximately 7:30 pm.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Kanchan Mutreja**, a transcriber for Datagain, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 20th day of January 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kanchan Mutreja". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature of Transcriber