



# FINANCE COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

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**Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Sullivan Chamber**

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**The Finance Committee will conduct public hearings on the city and school budgets covering the fiscal period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.**



**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE**

COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS, CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

JUNE 2, 2020

9:00 AM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** The hour of the meeting, Finance Committee Meeting, having arrived, we will now call the meeting to order.

Our first order of business, I believe Mr. Clerk is-- let's make sure that all our--the--my colleagues on the Finance Committee are here, present, and they can hear the meeting. So I turn it over to you, Mr. Clerk.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Present

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Present

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Present

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present

**Present-7, Absent-2.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And would you please require, uh, inquire of the members if the meeting is audible to them?

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Councillor Mal, Councillor

Mallon, is the meeting clearly audible to you?

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Councillor Nolan, is the meeting clearly audible to you?

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Councillor, S, Sobrinho-Wheeler, is the meeting clearly audible to you?

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Councillor Zondervan, is the meeting clearly audible to you?

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Mayor Siddiqui, is the meeting clearly audible to you?

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Yes.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** The meeting is clearly audible to the, uh, members participating remotely.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll begin today's meeting with, uh, greeting of the call, after which we will read what departments have been pulled. We will then hear, uh, opening remarks from the chairs.

This meeting will--is scheduled to run from nine to five with a break from 12 to one.

I just, uh, as we did in the last meeting, each member should be prepared to ask two questions per department, they can certainly ask fewer.

We wanted to be concise, uh, to this afternoon--today, because we ha--we've called almost--every department has been pulled.

And so not to one keep departments that might be later in the queue here for a long time, being respectful to them and their families, uh, I would just ask us to be thoughtful in our questions.

And I know--I, I would respectfully ask us to resist the urge to ask procedural, uh, or operational questions and, and strictly keep our queries to budget related items.

That being said, I'm going to read the call.

The Finance Committee will conduct public, public hearings on the city and school budgets covering the fiscal period July 1st, 2020 to 20, 30, 2021.

The departments that have been pulled for today are, the Cambridge Health Alliance, Public Works, Water, Community Development, Historical Commission, Peace Commission/PRAB, Cable TV, Debt Service, Library, Human Services, Women's Commission I don't think was pulled. Was

that-- No.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** [inaudible 00:03:35].

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** So Women's Commission was pulled.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** [inaudible 00:03:38].

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Oh, I'm reading from the wrong list. Thank you so much. So let me start from-- Cambridge Health Alliance, Public Works, Water, Community Development, Historical Commission, Peace, P, Police Review & Advisory Board, Cable Television, Debt Service, Library, Human Services, Human Rights, Cherry Street, Cherry Street, Cherry Sheet, I can't see without glasses and a mask, City Overview Section, Financial Summaries Section, Revenue Section, Public Investment Section.

I would like to, um, I, I basically have given my opening remarks in that, that this is the city's budget we're going to hear from our city manager.

Um, I'm proud to Co-Chair, have the opportunity to Co-Chair this hearing with my colleague, Councillor Carlone.

I know I can say we have discussions that are so much different than all these other cities in town, of--all have been hit in a negative way by COVID-19, still that we are

able to run programs, not lay off folks, and hold our citizenry and our city in good fiscal, fiscal hands.

So that is a good thing to be able to do. Um, and so with that, I will leave--turn it over to my Co-Chair, Councillor Carlone, for remarks after which we will hear from our City--

No, before we hear from our city manager, uh, Councillor, would you move that we--IT has to be sent to the council with a negative recommendation, we did not do that. So if you wouldn't mind doing that.

And then the two departments that weren't pulled, which is women and, and one other that I'm drawing a blank on, and I knew it.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Women's Commission, Veterans' Services, and MWRA.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Women, Veterans', and MWRA. So, after your remarks, if you would not mind making that motion, sir.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Uh, thank you for the introduction, um, Madam Chair. I look forward to, uh, this

discussion every year because we can learn what's in the budget and, uh, more specific, uh, questions open up, uh, what the city's doing.

Um, so I thank you for that. And I do move on moving forward with the budgets as you requested.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. And Councillor Carlone moves that we forward IT with an unfavorable recommendation. So we'll take that first and then go back and take the other two. Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** On forwarding the IT Department budget to the full city council with an unfavorable recommendation.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes



Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Mr. Co-Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Madam Chair, uh, I'd  
also like to refer, um, Women's Commission, Veteran  
Services, and MWRA with a favorable recommendation.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-6, No-0, Present-1, Absent-2. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, thank you, Mr.  
Clerk. Is there anyone signed up for public comment?

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** I have no one signed up  
for public comment.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** If it pleases the Finance Committee, we can leave public comment open until 9:30, after which we can ask for a motion to close public comment.

Seeing no one signed up for public comment, at this time, I turn the floor over to our city manager and the finance team, Mr. Kale and Mr. Taha Jennings, for opening remarks. Mr. DePasquale, you have the floor.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. So first I want to thank the two chairs. These are tricky budget hearings when you're trying to do it virtual and have limited departments, and I really appreciate their leadership and asking the council to try to provide as many questions up front.

Uh, I thought we had a very productive first day of budget hearings. I know we have a full schedule today, so I'll be really brief.

I just want to really thank all the department heads, but primarily the budget team and the finance team.

Uh, when COVID-19 hit, we were pretty much finalizing this budget, and then we had to, as I stated earlier, really do it all over again.

And, uh, we've been able to prepare a budget that I think will meet the demands of our residents and still control taxes with certain uncertainties that'll be there.

Uh, as we know, the governor spoke yesterday about reopening's again, and hopefully, when this is all said and done, some of our revenues will come back to where we're hoping they were in the past.

But the reality is, in the FY '21 budget, there will be hits in--probably in state eight, in hotel, motel, and meals tax, and how we adjust to all of that is a factor.

And because of that, as we have stated earlier, there is no full-time positions fully budgeted, new full-time positions, but we will take a look at them as the year goes on.

So again, these are uncertain times, but I think we have a really good handle on where we are. I do think our financial position is unique to Cambridge, is--because of the strength of its position.

And as someone who sits in a lot of committee meetings with other managers and mayors, we are fortunate to be having the discussion we're having about delaying expansion rather than reducing current services.

So, I want to thank everybody and, uh, I think because of all the departments we have, I will turn it over.

One other thing I would say is, I do know some people like paper budget books, and even though we're online, if you really would like a book, even though the building's closed, uh, please call the budget office and we'll be happy to mail it out to you to get it to you right away. So books are available.

Uh, but if you really would like a book, we'd be happy. If you call Taha Jennings in the budget office, or the city manager's office, we'll be happy to mail one out. But they are online. So thank you and ready to go.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, thank you, Mr. DePasquale. Having heard from the city manager, um, we will go right into the departments that have been pulled for today's finance hearing.

The first one that was pulled is Cambridge Health Alliance. It was pulled by Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. And through you to the, uh, city manager and department heads.

Um, obviously, this pandemic has had a significant impact on our public health, um, response, and presumably would--that would be ongoing.

So how--is that factored into our budget for fiscal year '21, uh, as we anticipate this pandemic continuing, uh, in some form, perhaps for another year or two even?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, so we have a contract, uh, with the Cambridge Health Alliance, it's a seven-year contract. Uh, I think this is the fifth year.

Uh, so in terms of the budget, the contract is the same, however, I think, as I've stated many times, I'm, I'm also on the board of the Health Alliance and the finance chair.

So the Health Alliance itself is working on ways to balance this budget, and I know Assaad is on the phone, so I'm gonna ask Assaad to really go over some of the issues that we're looking at, at the Cambridge Health Alliance from a financial point of view. Assaad, are you there?

**DR. ASSAAD J. SAYAH, M.D.:** Yes. Uh--

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Thank you.

**DR. ASSAAD J. SAYAH, M.D.:** --uh, could you, could you hear me?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Yes.

**DR. ASSAAD J. SAYAH, M.D.:** Um, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Uh, thank you, Councillor Zondervan for your question. Uh, and, and the whole council, thank you for, uh, taking the time to, uh, to, uh, hear us.

Um, uh, the Cambridge Health Alliance as everybody knows, uh, has been, um, uh, working very hard to remain accessible to the whole community.

We, uh, we have done, uh, tremendous work, um, as far as managing this, uh, unprecedented time, uh, to the best of our ability.

And I think we've done very good, uh, in, in maintaining access and providing care to our communities at all levels.

Uh, a, and we continue to do so, uh, particularly in the, in the realm of testing, uh, and patient care and, and access.

Uh, to answer the spec, the question specifically regarding the budget, uh, like everybody else, uh, our goal right now is to provide care and provide the services, uh, knowing that, uh, there's a lot of unknowns moving forward regarding, uh, supplemental support, uh, uh, whether it is

from the state, federal government, or from the city, uh, and, uh, at the end of the day, uh, we are here to serve the community.

So, uh, you know, when the question comes up, uh, how are we gonna be able to afford this? Uh, today my answer is, we are gonna do the right thing. And so far, we've been able to do that and afford doing this.

Uh, regarding our ability to care for and pay our staffing, uh, we made a commitment very early that, uh, we will not, uh, furlough or, or, uh, let anybody go from our staff as long as folks, uh, are healthy and, and commit to coming to work and working and being redeployed.

And about 20% of our workforce have been de-- redeployed, uh, which means doing work that we're not com-- originally hired for in areas that we need them to do.

Uh, so, uh, so far, we are in the red, uh, just like everywhere else, uh, but we are hopeful that, um, with a lot of work moving forward in, uh, city and the state and the federal government support, uh, we will remain in the red, but, uh, not to a point where it's gonna affect our operations moving forward.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Dr. Assaad.

Councillor Zondervan, did you have a follow up or did you wanna hear from Claude Jacob?

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Hi. Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to get a better sense in terms of dollar figures, what it means that we are in the red, and what we are looking at for, for the next fis, fiscal year.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** And you're directing that to? I could--

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Let, let me jump in and then, excuse me, and then we can turn it up if that's--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I couldn't quite hear. And excuse me, Mr. DePasquale, I just got a text from my colleague, Councillor McGovern. Uh, he apologizes, but please let the record show that he will be late. You have the floor. Mr. DePasquale.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I, I just wanna make one thing clear. We are responsible for our agreement with the Cambridge Health Alliance. That's it.

Now, we obviously, uh, would be concerned about what they're doing, but we have a contract with them that provides for the Cambridge Health Department in that contract is \$7,450,000.



The Cambridge Health Alliance budget is a separate budget, completely not under the jurisdiction of the City of Cambridge.

So Assaad would be happy to update you on that, but that does not have ramifications directly on us. I do steer as the Finance Chair of that budget, but that is not a city budget. I just wanna make that clear. Assaad.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Dr. Assaad.

**DR. ASSAAD J. SAYAH, M.D.:** Yes. Uh, thank, thank you. Uh, thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Councillor. Uh, and, and, um, the, the organization, uh, our annual budget is, uh, close to \$700 million.

Uh, and I can tell you for the first, uh, two months of this pandemic, in March and April, um, because of a lot of, uh, circumstances including, including, uh, closing all, uh, elective procedures and visits, uh, and ramping up to meet this challenge, um, we were about, um, \$28 million, um, in the red, uh, in, in the last two months.

Uh, now we receive, uh, some support, uh, through the CARES Act, uh, e, everybody hears that from the federal government. Um, and there's been two cycles that we've received, and a third one that we are promised.

Uh, and for the first two cycle, we got about \$6.7 million. And the third cycle, we're still trying to figure out how much money that is, but that gives you an idea of where we are today.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Dr. Assaad. Do you have another question you'd like to ask Councillor Zondervan?

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** No. Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Is a, anyone else that would like to be heard on the Cambridge Health Alliance? Uh, there's no one in the queue. Hearing none--I see you're--I feel like you should say something, but then you talked all yesterday evening. So I'll give, we'll give you a pass.

Uh, having no further inquiry on Cambridge Health Alliance, I'd like to entertain a motion to say--to, to pass the Cambridge Health Alliance budget forward with a favorable recommendation on a, on a motion by my colleague, Co-Chair, Mr. Co, Councillor Carlone. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The next department to be pulled is Public Works. Public Works was pulled by my colleague Councillor Carlone, after which we'll hear from Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Toomey, and then Councillor Nolan.

So Councillor Carlone, I yield the floor to you.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

Um, commissioner, good to see you. Um, there's reference to climate change projects totaling half a million dollars, and I realized that, um, that list might change depending on conditions.

What, what does that include? I mean, we're all for

it, um, but if you could just give us a general overview, it would be appreciated.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, thank you very much, uh, councillor. Um, and so we, we've, um, requested \$500,000 in this year's budget, and we requested that in last year's budget and indeed the year before as well.

And we used the, uh, this funding, um, for a variety of different purposes. Um, we use it to update our Flood Viewer.

Uh, and that basically allows members of the community, people who are doing development to understand as to what the impact of climate change will be in terms of flooding, be it the 10-year event in 2070, or the 100-year event in 2070.

And so we up that on an annual bas--updated that on an annual basis, given--updated information that we're receiving from, um, um, our, uh, collaborators, uh, uh, in terms of, you know, just, uh, sea level rise, um, um, information.

And also recognizing that we're changing our infrastructure on a constant basis, be it the work that we're doing, um, in the port at the moment where we're

constructing a very large, um, underground storage system.

And so that has an impact in terms of reducing the amount of flooding in that area. And so we update those maps on that basis.

So that's just one area where we spend this money. We also spend it, um, to assist city council in the, um, resiliency zoning effort that's ongoing.

Obviously, there's a task force that's been in place for the last year, um, that is looking at issues associated with resiliency and zoning. And so we have a number of consultants and staff who assist in the analysis that's ongoing there.

And again, this is--a lot of this is very sophisticated analysis around modeling, be it in terms-- just climate change modeling and so on.

And so they assist us in terms of being able to properly inform the members of the task force and city council on that.

I think the other thing that's really important that council understands is that I think, you know, be it, the members of our Community Development Department, or indeed the Department of Public Works, um, have taken on, um, a

re, regional leadership level, um, in, in terms of some of the work that's being done.

Um, we are working with the Mr. Grover collaborative in terms of understanding to what extent green infrastructure in the Mystic River Watershed can assist in mitigating climate change impact.

We're also working with DCR and with the, um, uh, those Mystic River communities, looking at what we can do in terms of interventions, um, around the Amelia Earhart Dam. And again, I think we're providing significant leadership in that area.

We were the first community together with Mass Highway to begin to look at just modeling of sea level rise and surge events and what that might mean to our communities.

And so this, this money, um, allows us to be able to conduct that work and do it in a, in a very scientific, rigid and rigorous way. So, I, I dunno if that responds to your question.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** So, um, it's not literally a list of projects that you're building, it's staff implementation support. Okay. Thank you. That, that's why I asked. That seemed very low if it was literally

construction projects.

Um, we've often heard of the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan, but we know very little about it. And I realize we could look at the, the books, but I, I think, um, it would be helpful in a future meeting to discuss what are the priorities short term and long term.

And I mentioned this to the manager the other day, in part because we know there are many up zonings being proposed, and part of those up zonings could include, as a condition, some of these projects that you're looking at. Um, Fire, uh, Department, Maintenance is one that would be easy to do.

Um, so I'm just throwing that out as something that hopefully we can look at and understand, uh, those that are interested so that when we do get into rezoning, um, we can get value for that in return.

Uh, I'll stop there and I'll come back. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Carlone yields the floor. Our next councillor to speak will be Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, followed by Vice Mayor Mallon.

Please let the record show that Councillor Toomey is in attendant. Councillor Sobrinho, Sobrinho-Wheeler, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Thank you, uh, Madam Chair, through you. Um, I'm glad to see the Mattress Recycling Program, uh, is still here. I know the, uh, I believe the Public Works Department had set it up, um, with a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Um, if, uh, the grant has now, uh, run out, uh, which, uh, as my understanding, but correct me if I'm wrong, will the city may be funding the program on its own, uh, and will it be able to, to recycle the same quantity of mattresses?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. O'Riordan.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Through you, Madam Chair. Um, councillor, so you're correct that the Mass DP grant, um, will sunset. It'll sunset in January of 2021.

And so the money that's been provided in our operating budget this year, which is \$200,000, will be adequate to actually allow the program continue for the rest of the day, FY 21 Financial Year.



We, um, when we started this program initially with UTech, um, we thought that we may recycle the order of maybe two and a half to 3000 mattresses per year.

At this point in time, we're recycling about 5,000 mattresses a year, which is much, which is far beyond what we initially anticipated, but it's been a really successful program, and they're wonderful partners. I think everybody recognizes the significant core benefits that come along with working with UTech.

And so we're committed to that relationship, and we're committed to continue to finance this program through 2021. And our expectation is, of all, it's going well, that we'll move into '22 and continue to work with them as well.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Great. Thank you. I yield back.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor Wheeler--Co--Sobrinho-Wheeler. Councillor Wheeler, could, would you, uh, put forward a motion to close public, public comment?

The time of public comment being closed, is it 9:30? We've reached that time. Would you, uh, mind offering a motion to close public comment?

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Sure. Uh, a motion to close public comment.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** On a motion by Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler to close, clo, to close public comment. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

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

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Public comment is now closed. We'll now go to Vice Mayor Mallon, followed by Councillor Toomey. Vice Mayor Mallon, you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, um, to the commissioner. I have a couple of

questions and thank you to my colleague for asking about the UTech funding and, um, going forward into Fiscal '21.

I think this is an excellent program and I'm, I'm glad that we're still doing it. I know that, um, not only has it taken a bunch of our mattresses out of the landfill, but we've, um, supported a really critical, uh, workforce development program, um, at the same time.

So I have two questions. One, I brought up, you know, last week during, uh, the city manager's presentation around the small business recycling program, and that we are expanding this to 125 more small businesses this year.

Um, I think that's, uh, you know, it's nice that we are expanding this program. I think it's been a godsend for many of our small businesses, even pre-COVID and expanding it to 250 businesses total.

Um, this year is a good start, but we are, as a city, collectively looking at ways where we can make a real financial impact for our small businesses as they return, um, to a new normal, a new economy, um, one that is very, very different than it was in February.

Um, I know that we are actively working on thinking about license fees, permit fees, um, the many ways that we

can help businesses, but this is one area where I think the city could step up and, you know, both help our small businesses on one hand, um, by increasing that number even further, but also getting to some of our other council goals and city goals around the environment, safer streets.

Um, you know, if, if you just think about Cambridge Street and the number of people that have to have their recycling taken away, um, that's five, 10 different hauling companies that are on our streets every single day with big trucks.

So if we were to expand this program further, you know, we could take those big trucks off the road, we can, you know, make our streets safer for bikes and pedestrians, we can, um, you know, reduce carbon emissions.

So I'm just wondering, uh, I would really like us to see this expanded further this year. And I know that we're in a difficult situation financially, but so are our small businesses.

So how are we thinking about expanding this program even further this year? Whether the city manager wants to, um, speak to this or the commissioner, I know the city manager spoke briefly last Tuesday, and I just wanted to

give the commissioner a chance to, to respond.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Commissioner O'Riordan, you have the floor.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Councillor, um, in the FY '21 budget, we have provided for the doubling of the, uh, rec, um, recycling program for small businesses to the extent that small businesses want to take advantage of it.

Um, when this program was originally introduced, we had actually an opportunity to include up to 150 businesses at that time, and a hundred and twenty, twenty-five of them, um, took advantage of it.

And so there's still some opportunity to participate on this with our existing contracts, with our existing hauling company. But come, um, October, November of this year, we expect it to, we expect to be able to double the number of, um, small businesses who can take advantage of this.

And our expectation is that we'll be reaching out to the business association into the chamber so that people can take advantage of this. And we see it as a significant program, both from the perspective of supporting small

businesses as well as having an environmental impact.

And so we certainly want to encourage people to do that. And, um, again, our expectation is that our recycling team at Public Works will begin to interact with small businesses, um, before, uh, our--during the summer months and into the fall, so that they can take advantage of this. And we'll be delighted to take on more small businesses as part of that program.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, commissioner. I think, um, what I would like to see is if that program does become oversubscribed, if we could see a rolling, uh, allocation for additional appropriations for us to continue to take small businesses on as they move through, uh, a difficult reopening and restarting of their own businesses.

So, um, I think that would be a really helpful thing for the city. I don't wanna find out, you know, from the business associations that it's oversubscribed and we didn't know about it, so if you could keep us updated, um, so we can make those choices when they come up, that would be great.

Um, my next question is around Inman Square. I know,

uh, many of my neighbors, myself included, are really curious, uh, around an updated timeline, um, for completion because of the construction moratorium, everything's halted.

And, um, you know, again, this is a, this is a construction project that was going to severely impact small businesses, uh, in our neighborhood in Inman Square compounded with, uh, the reopening that we've all been talking about.

I think this is--we're gonna have to be even more careful with our small businesses and how we approach this construction timeline. So I'm wondering if you have any thoughts that you can share on, uh, on what that timeline looks, any additional, um, thought and care we're putting into our small businesses and how to care and support for them, uh, during the construction.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Uh, councillor, um, you know, the city engineer and her team, um, had been talking about the schedule associated with Inman Square with a contractor over the last number of weeks.

You know, the scope of work hasn't changed, um, at

this point in time, we still have the same amount of work that we had to do previously to do still. There are additional, um, constraints that we've now placed on the contractor given, um, the advent of Covid 19.

And so it is challenging to say the least, to think about accelerating the schedule associated with the Inman Square project, most particularly when we're also, um, being cognizant of the fact that, um, pedestrians may need more space in that area, that we have a cycling population that may increase over the next number of--period of time.

And even above that, I think when we think about small businesses, um, we want, maybe we want to, um, have them available of opportunities of outdoor dining to an extent that they haven't been able to previous to this.

Uh, and so, you know, the city manager has set up a team that meets with small businesses every week on Thursdays of every week.

Um, we are setting up a meeting tomorrow afternoon given the advent of the, um, governor's latest orders to begin to talk about, um, how we can assist small businesses with outdoor dining opportunities in the public right away moving forward.



Recognizing that for many of them, that which was in the place in the, that, that which was in place previously is not going to be adequate to serve the social distancing needs that exist or indeed their commercial needs.

And so we need to just look at--be more imaginative in terms of how we do this, but also now we need to do it in a way that looks after public safety.

And so there are a lot of issues that need to be considered as we look at Inman Square, the construction projects, small businesses, the commuting population, be it on, uh, in bikes, cars, or indeed pedestrians.

And so there are a lot of competing interests, and again, the city engineer and our staff expect to begin coffee talks again with people in the immediate future and, and think about how best we can assist during this extremely difficult time. And we recognize it's an extremely difficult time for everybody.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. O'Riordan. Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, commissioner. I, um, I certainly support, uh, making sure that we have proper and adequate space for our cyclists.

In fact, you know, when we had our traffic and parking budget hearing last week, it was something that, uh, Joe Barr and I spoke about, um, you know, needing to have adequate space, additional space for, for cyclists that are gonna be coming through, um, that intersection. We know how busy it already is.

As you're speaking, I'm wondering, um, in terms of outdoor space for restaurants, you know, are we thinking about Vellucci Plaza as, as an alternate dining space and, and asking that the construction company moves their staging area for their construction vehicles to an alternate location?

I mean, it's a big pla--I, I feel awful even saying this, but, um, you know, it, it is a big space in Inman Square that is going to be, uh, open for a little while.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Councillor, Vellucci Plaza is, is ground zero in terms of this construction project.

Um, you know, one of the preeminent concerns for us when it comes to construction is safety of the public. Um, the idea that we can actually begin to have dining within the actual existing plaza, I don't think is one that's

realistic at this point in time.

But again, I think we're looking at alternative opportunities, be it on adjacent strid--side streets or beyond that, uh, on, on Cambridge Street, to the extent that we can manage that.

And again, recognizing the conversations that happened last night in terms of just communicating with the community in that area, you know, there's a significant level of effort and that's going to be required in order to be able to make this work. But that's something that we're committed to doing. Um, and certainly we're not going to be ruling out anything, um, without looking at it very seriously.

And so if indeed there are some opportunities in that space, we'll look at it, but I, I can't imagine that there are in the immediate area where construction is ongoing, recognizing the safety concerns that exist there.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. Thank you for, I, like I said, it was kind of a wild question to ask, um, as I was just thinking while you were talking, but I appreciate, um, the level of

care that you're putting into ensuring that our small businesses have that outside space so that they can effectively reopen and be financially viable in some former fashion.

Um, so, um, you know, when those coffee talks start back up, I'd love for the council to be invited. Um, I'm assuming they'll be on Zoom. I was attending them before, and I think, um, having them start back up as soon as possible is a great idea. So thank you very much. I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Vice Mayor Mallon. We will now hear from Councillor Toomey, followed by Councillor Nolan, and then Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Toomey, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Thank you, Madam Co-Chair, and thank you, uh, commissioner. Um, we just talked about the--expanding the small business recycling programs, that was one of my questions also.

And, you know, I just wanna reiterate what the, the vice mayor said, this is a tremendous program, and I know many small business owners on Cambridge Street and adjacent streets that use this program, and it, it is very, very

successful.

And just following up on that, and my other part of the question was the possibility of expanding comp, composting to small businesses also.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. O'Riordan.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Through you, Madam Chair. Uh, councillor, um, it is unfortunately the, the, um, the reality at the moment that our compost program has been suspended across the city, um, just given the issues associated with social distancing and collection.

Um, we had anticipated expanding the compost program to small businesses in the next couple of years. Um, there is a significant amount of pressure on us, obviously to restart the existing program. And so we're looking at ways we can begin to re-establish that program as soon as we can.

And so to the extent that, that this is another, um, way to assist sma, small businesses, we can certainly look at that as well. But I don't have a good answer for you at the moment. It's a real struggle for us to try and re-establish that program.

And I recognize that, um, the small business

community, the restaurant, HERS, uh, could, would see this as being, um, a significant benefit to them.

And so as we begin to restart this program, we'll certainly look at that as well. But, um, I can't say definitively as to whether that's an option, first, in the immediate future.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Toomey.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Um, Madam Co-Chair. So the commissioner, I appreciate the answer and I, we understand the circumstances we're in, but, and I do have confidence that you will keep this as a tough priority, uh, as we move forward.

And my other, uh, question has concerned and, you know, been here for a few years, and I think this question about the current site of the Department Public Works, uh, what the future holds there.

I know there's some money allocated to do some capital improvements to the current, um, structures there. Uh, but certainly we, many councils in the past years have talked about the possibility of relocating the, uh, complex to another location and either having open space or affordable housing on that site.

Is--and there's--and this is probably also to the manager, is, is that in the realm of possibility at some point, or is--we're going to, I, I know we're putting money into the current facility, I just don't concern, you know, we're putting good money and then we're not gonna--so I guess we're just--it not frustrated, but I know that it is a, but you know, that, uh, it's a very con, condensed site and especially about the right recycling part of that, the facility, it is very, very difficult to, uh, to access that site.

So, um, I, in, the commissioner, if you can answer at the end when we're gonna open the recycling center at the Hampshire Street so people can bring, uh, their items there. So thank you.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** So, through you, Madam Chair, uh, I think the permanent removal from that site completely is probably gonna be very, very difficult, it's something we talked about.

But we do have some really good news about trying to remove all that goes on that site from that site. And, uh, we have recently come up with a contract to remove a, a large portion of the Public Works operation from that site.

We are working on another contract, which would move another large portion of the Public Works operation from that site.

So, uh, I think Owen can get into some details, but a lot, a lot of the operation that is currently at Public Works, hopefully, in the very short time will be moved-- removed from there, it's just, there's too much going on in that small facility.

So as much as we would like to say we have a new site, we have been able to come up with some short/longer term leases that I think will really make that operation for the neighborhood and for Public Works a whole lot smoother.

And we're also gonna be able to bring the Electrical Department in as part of that. But I wanna know if you wanna just give a quick update.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. O'Riordan.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, councillor, your, your question is timely. Um, as the manager indicated, we are in the process of executing lease agreements, um, to move some of our operations out of 147 Hampshire Street.

And I, I, I guess it's fortuitous that it happens



right now given the need to social distance and the need for, um, uh, increased levels of safety for our workforce.

And so, um, our hope is that we can move a number of our divisions to this alternative site, um, later this summer.

Um, the site that we're presently in is unsuitable for the, to the number of people that are working there. And so given the fact that we have been working throughout this pandemic, um, we have had to stagger shifts and so on, so as to continue to be able to provide essential services.

Um, I would say over and above that, you know, in terms of the existing site, you'll look in the public investment, um, section of the budget and you'll see a \$60 million figure in there.

And that's begin to, that's to begin to look at rehabilitating, um, the Ryan Garage at, at, um, Public Works in terms of improving safety in that facility, in terms of improving the bathroom and toilet facilities in that area, and in terms of just improving the office spaces in that area. These are critical needs that need to be met fairly immediately.

Um, I think to your second question, which is about

reopening the recycling center, again, given the constraints that exist there, um, it's unsafe for people to have to come through that and, and negotiate between all of the vehicles that exist there, um, as they do Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturdays at the moment.

And so starting on June the 16th, and we'll make an announcement of that later this week, starting on June 16th, we expect to be able to open the recycling center from nine o'clock in the morning until five o'clock and-- uh, Saturday morning until Saturday evening.

And again, we'll have, um, social distance queuing associated with that, so where people will be asked to, um, adhere to that level of etiquette and move through that space, um, in a way that's safe for everybody.

Certain aspects of the recycling facility will not be open, like the books will, the bookshelves will not be open again because of, um, the issues associated with, um, hygiene and so on. But we expect to open the facility on the 16th of June and every Saturday from there on.

And again, uh, you know, um, asking people to just work with us in terms of making sure that everyone remains

safe in that regard.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Toomey.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Thank you, Madam Co-Chair. It's very welcoming news, uh, to hear that, uh, this process is going to take place soon. As the commissioner said, even for the employees and the public safety is very important, it's just so congested.

So, uh, I'm looking forward, hopefully very soon, that the Hampshire Street Recycling Center will, uh, reopen so I can reclaim half of my basement from the plastic that's down there right now.

And the other part, and you don't have an answer now, but I think I've talked before about having, you know, the large, you know, how people drop off things for closing things for just for, for, for plastic in different parts of the city, um, coz it's very difficult for a lot of the public to get to the public works on Hampshire Street.

So I dunno if we've had some, you know, collection sites throughout the city that people can just bring their plastic there to recycle. Um, that I think is something that I think the public would really appreciate. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Toomey

yields the floor. Councillor Nolan, the floor is yours.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Uh, thank you, Chair Simmons, and, uh, thanks to my colleagues for asking many of the questions I had.

Um, I would be interested in hearing, uh, our sense of the expected, uh, impact of the industry changes in recycling long-term on our budget.

Uh, there's been a number of changes over the years. There's expected to be even more, um, in terms of markets collapsing for certain kinds of recycled, uh, projects, some closing off.

I, I'm curious as to whether we expect in the next year or two or five years, uh, an impact on our own budget and ability to continue to provide the single stream recycling that we've been doing for a number of years.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, councillor, you're quite right, um, this is an extremely difficult time in terms of the recycling marketplace.

Um, we are presently in negotiations with, um, the processing, um, entity that we've been working with for the last number of years. Casella in Charlestown. Um, a number

of years ago we were getting money back from Casella associated with our recycling.

For the last year and a half, we've been paying \$70 per tonne to Casella so that they can recycle our product moving forward.

The city of Boston, um, a number of years ago was paying \$15 a tonne for their recycling product. Today they're paying \$125 a tonne for recycling.

Our expectation is that, um, we'll be paying something equivalent to that, maybe something a little bit less than that.

The primary reason ours will be less than that is that, um, we've had a problem that's been ongoing for the last year and a half called Recycle It Right, which has caused us to reduce the level of contamination associated with our recycling product going to Casella down to the-- into the order of seven, five to 7% on a fairly constant basis.

Uh, we can get a better price from Casella or a, a lower cost from Casella at the moment if the recycling product that we provide them is cleaner.

Many of the communities around us are struggling to

make sure that their recycling, uh, product is clean. And again, this is because the marketplace is demanding that that which is shipped to their, um, countries and, and places where they, um, re, reuse the materials that they, that that product is clean.

Uh, we have been able to better than any other community be able to reduce the level of contamination in ours. And so we may be able to get into a tiered, um, price structure with our processor where if we continue to maintain a clean product, we'll get to a better price. But at this point in time, we've been told that, that that price will not be below \$100.

I think the other thing that we're committed to as well is that while this is--we are selling goods to the, uh, processor, um, and so they are not required legally to pri--to pay a living wage to their employees, we are, um, requiring that that be part of our contract, um, as we move into the next, um, year and surely, we'll be paying a living wage, which, which will cause a \$10 increase in that which we, um, pay to them.

For our expectation is that the price for recycling will be equivalent to the price for trash. Um, and the, and

again, we are legally obliged to continue to recycle and I think the community demands that we continue to recycle.

I think on the horizon, um, there are paper mills beginning to start up again in, in this country who will begin to take in that recycling paper product.

There are other, um, process--there are other facilities that are beginning to start up again in this country. Now, we'll begin to take those other products as well.

And so I don't think everything is bleak as, as bleak as I've indicated in the long term. Uh, and, and, um, we can certainly have a longer discussion about this as time moves along.

But in the short term, certainly the cost is going to be significant, but I think there are some bright spots on the horizon, but there may not be in the immediate future. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. O' Riordan. Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes, thank you. I am very happy to hear that we continue to abide by our living wage ordinance and that we certainly are committed to

recycling it.

Um, I also understand the recycling market may change, as you noted in the United States, we can also perhaps do an even better job of, if we can get our, as I understand it, our recycling cleanness rate down even lower. And I don't know if that means going to, going away from single stream recycling.

There's just ways in which as we look to the future, the more that we can, can do it to ensure that we are actually recycling and reusing. It wasn't clear to me whether that means that the budget that's before us reflects those changes.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, the budget does reflect those changes at this point in time. Our existing contract terminates in October of this year, and so the, um, what we've provided for and for the remainder of the year is \$110 per tonne moving forward.

And hopefully, we'll get a contract that'll be a little bit less than that, but it certainly won't be a lot less than that. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. Um, my next



question is about, uh, in the area of engineering, um, we are, uh, it's noted that there was \$22 million in funding for the sewer and sewer separation resulting in higher, uh, quality of the water, \$11.8 million in street and sidewalk, um, repairs.

I'm curious, since there were no metrics provided for what the, um, performance objectives were, how it is that we do, we use best practice and compare ourselves.

I don't know what the metrics would be, for instance, per mile of sidewalk or street, how it is that we ensure that we are using our dollars in our budget, those sums, uh, most effectively.

Do we have some, uh, measure of best practice comparing ourselves to the, uh, highest performing cities around the country or how, and how do we tie that into, um, whether the budget number is correct or do we need more, uh, money to ensure that our--both the sewer separation proceeds at a pace that we believe will lead to higher quality water and that we're capturing everything we can, um, in terms of, uh, uh, moving forward to, to correct past practices that enabled, uh, the pollution, many, the, the sewer separation was, was done for a reason and similarly

on the sidewalk repairs.

I, I, I think the overall question is as we move forward with this budget, how do we ensure that the budget numbers are in line with, uh, best practices from around the country?

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, councillor, I would refer you, um, specifically to our five-year street and sidewalk program, uh, and the, um, document associated with that. And I would also refer you to our 10-year sewer and drain program. I think we have provided copies to city council and both of those programs.

Um, let me speak initially to our, um, 10 year, um, um, infrastructure program associated with our sewer and drainage systems.

Um, these, these programs, um, serve multiple purposes. One of, obviously, that we want to renew our infrastructure.

Um, I think if you look at most civil engineering, um, journals over the last number of years across the country, you will note that infrastructure is crumbling in terms of civiling, civil engineering infrastructure.

I don't think you can say the same about our

infrastructure. And there's, there are metrics provided in our 10-year plan that speak to that in terms of the condition of the pipes themselves, the actual physical condition of those pipes.

And we have a program that's been ongoing for a number of years and we're putting five, we've been putting five to \$6 million into that program every year. But that's just one goal associated with our sewer drainage system.

We also have a goal to reduce flooding in the community, and that's incorporated in everything that we do in terms of improving the level of service afforded to every member of the community.

And, you know, it is unfortunately the case that if you are living in the low-lying area, your level of service is not as good as that, which if you're living in the top of a hill.

Um, however, our, our ambition over the last 20 plus years has been that we improve the level of service to everybody in the community that at minimum they're not getting backups and not getting flooding in a 10-year event.

And one might say, "Well, that's a rather modest

goal," but I can tell you 20 years ago, every time it rained, there were sewer division crews in the streets helping people because they were having backups in their homes. And so that is a significant ambition of ours.

Over and above that, there--the, the water quality requirements and standards that have been established by EPA and DEPB. They threw variances of two permits, and we are on an annual basis required to report to them as to our progress with regard to those.

These are publicly available documents and we're happy to make them even more available to city council if indeed, um, that is which, and again, every April of every year we have a public meeting that speaks about storm water quality in the community and what we're doing to meet our permits associated with stormwater quality.

And so across a whole variety of parameters, I think we are meeting and exceeding the goals that we've established for ourselves and that have been put in place by the regulatory authorities.

And so I, I think in terms of our engineering goals, and again, I'm speaking, um, primarily about underground utility infrastructure at the moment.

We also have, um, our five-year street and sidewalk program. Um, we have engineers and I, I, myself and the city engineer have walked every street and sidewalk in the city looking at sidewalk conditions, and we have maps and plans associated with those.

We recognize what needs to be done in terms of making them ADA-compliant, making sure that they're structurally sound.

And I think if you think back to the, um, when they-- the first five years street and sidewalk program was initiated is maybe 13 years ago at this point in time, the primary goal in establishing that was to begin to look at the sidewalk condition across the community, recognizing that there were older brick sidewalks, there were older concrete sidewalks in this community that did not serve our community correctly.

I think there's been an enormous amount of improvement in that, and there go--again, um, I, I will ask you to look at the five-year plan so as to be able to recognize what's being provided for in terms of adhering to ADA-compliance and reconstruct sidewalks.

Similarly, we have, um, there are me, me,

measurements, um, associated with the roadway condition, and again, they're in that, those documents.

And I would, I would ask you to look at those again in terms of whether or not the pavement conditioning in, in the city, um, has, has disimproved or improved over the last number of years.

It's a difficult one to improve, but given the fact that we went from a \$2 million budget in capital maybe five or six years ago to the best part of \$10 million on a manual basis associated with street sidewalk improvements, putting aside the large capital projects, be it they're in West Cambridge, Western Avenue, River Street, and so on. Taha. So, thank you.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Can I just add, I think it's important. I think--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. DePasquale.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Through you, Madam Chair. If you look at our water and sewer rate budget, uh, over the next five years, we're projecting about \$30 million annually in sewer bonds.

In our debt service commitment to sewer in the FY '21 budget is about 26.5 million. That's the debt service on

all we've bonded.

So I can tell you that Owen, there has been no commissioner anywhere who's paid more attention to the sewer infrastructure of the city.

And it--when we talk about our sewer budget, the reality is between the MWRA assessment and what we pay on bonds, which is money incredibly well spent, I think in average it's about 98% of our budget.

So our commitment to making sure that I sewer infrastructure has been a priority for a long time, and Owen has, uh, really, really, uh, helped initiate that and help make sure that we continue to address it because it is, it is a major concern for the city, but I think we have really tried to address it at a very, very aggressive rate, but it was the right rate to go.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. That was really helpful. And part of the reason I ask the questions is, is that there--this specific performance objectives and summary of those plans are not in the budget book, which is the, the forward-looking budget that someone looking into this would see, and I as a councillor hadn't seen also. I

look forward to reviewing those plans.

I'm happy to hear that, that that information is included in those. And I think it would be really helpful in the future to just have a couple of those, uh, summary perhaps listed on that page since on the engineering page, there's, there, while there's reference to the plan, there's no specifics about it, and I am very happy to hear, and I understand certainly I benefit--all of us benefit from this investment over time.

And it would be, uh, really helpful to ensure that, that that summary is noted in, in the budget so we can all be aware of it and, and the public can know as well. Thank you.

I'm, uh, my questions are done for this department.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan yields the floor. Uh, we'll now hear from Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, the, um, budget for trees was increased by a hundred thousand dollars, um, according to the book. Can you say a little bit more about, um, how exactly that will be spent? How many trees are we looking to plant and,



and what mechanisms are we using?

Because I'm still seeing a lot of, um, young trees that are being planted and, and then not, um, surviving into the next year, uh, beyond that. So are we making any adjustments to, to that part of our program as well?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. O' Riordan.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, councillor, thank you for that question. Um, as you know, councillor, we appropriated \$1.2 million, um, um, I think it may have been early February this year, um, associated with our Urban Forestry Master Plan.

So essentially to kickstart, um, some of the, um, planting work that we had expected to do, to do, um, the spring. Um, and the ambition this year, I, in accordance with the Urban Forestry Master Plan, the thought was that we would plant something in the order of a thousand trees this year, and our ambition was to exceed that and plant perhaps 1,200 trees this year, a lot of those being Beirut trees.

Um, unfortunately with the advent of the pandemic, um, that has seriously impeded our progress in terms of, um, the Urban Forestry, um, um, work that we would like to have

done this spring.

We're presently planting trees, uh, this week and we'll be planting for the next two weeks, but what--the weather's getting warmer and so it's not ideal, it's not an ideal time to plant those trees, but we're going to plant them in any case, recognizing that there is, there is a little bit more risk in that regard, we would love to have been planting them a month ago.

But given the fact that this work would be done on sidewalks, we're bringing crews into the city, we're bringing staff into the city, so as to be able to manage that, we felt given the priority that was being given to public health, that that was not an appropriate thing to do.

As we move into the fall, um, you know, we, we, we, we are trying to think through the idea of planting Beirut trees, um, this fall to the, um, with the ambition to plant, you know, almost a thousand trees this fall.

Um, and, um, you know, we have staff and contractors who will do that. These will be Beirut trees by and large. And, um, you know, that's just a really significant challenge for us given the fact that if we have another

surge, this, this fall and winter recognizing that the best time to plant Beirut trees is in late fall in the November timeframe.

Um, we just need to think very carefully about that. The one thing that helps us now, regardless though, if you don't have to water the spring of next year. Um, at the moment we have crew out of three o'clock in the morning watering trees.

We're putting in all of our Gator bags this week and next week so as to make sure that we, these trees are getting more water as time moves along.

As you know, councillor, our ambition is significant in terms of that which occurs in the public right of way associated with our Urban Forestry Master Plan.

And we had provided in this budget for a planting crew to come on board next spring as part of our, um, as part of the Urban Forestry, um, improvements. Uh, and that remains the ambition.

And so, um, you know, I can't tell you that we're going to meet the goals that we had set for ourselves this year, given the challenges associated with COVID-19, but we're certainly looking at every way we can to, to, to try

and do that.

And indeed, if there's some assistance that the community can afford us in terms of volunteers, we're happy to look for that as well, and we'll be doing so over the next couple of months.

Um, I'm, I'm not sure if I've answered your question fully, but--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you. That was very helpful. And, uh, in, in regards to volunteers, it also occurs to me that we have a lot of people who are out of work and perhaps some of them can be employed in, uh, helping us plant some of these trees, uh, maybe coming, coming this fall.

Um, regarding the, uh, sewer and stormwater capital programs, if you could say a little bit more about the program in the port and how that has been affected by, uh, COVID and, and what we can expect, uh, in the, in the coming year.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS** Mr. O' Riordan.

**COMMISSIONER OWEN O'RIORDAN:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Uh, councillor, um, I would ask you to reflect back

on last year's budget, uh, where we appropriated 40 million associated with the next phase of the port, port program and that design effort is ongoing.

Um, as you know, the ongoing project in, uh, parking lot six has b--has stopped for the last number of months. And so that project began--or restarted yesterday morning again, and it's obviously been delayed and we have what to do with the Columbia Street intersection, so that's--before that's finished.

And so I expect that that work would be going--ongoing through the fall and through the--perhaps even through this, it'll be cleaned up by the, by the spring of next year.

And as we move into the coming years, there are two or three projects associated with that 40 million appropriation. The most significant of which is the building--or the construction of the underground storage systems, um, adjacent to the park, uh, or within the park on, uh, Columbia Street.

Um, again, the city engineer expects there to be a significant amount of community process around that, and similarly, a significant amount of community process around

the utility and street and, um, green infrastructure work that will happen in the port.

As part of that, it is of critical importance to us as we move through this that we do so, um, with the community, um, working with us so, so that we can minimize the level of disruption associated with these projects to the community and maximize the benefit to them both in terms of u, utility infrastructure, uh, and street and sidewalk infrastructure, and indeed any green infrastructure that we can incorporate as well.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you. And, and I appreciate, uh, uh, particularly the green in, infrastructure improvements, which will be, uh, quite welcome in the port and, um, to the extent that we can, uh, pay attention to that even, even now as the, uh, trees are, are leafing out and, and some of them are struggling, uh, particularly in, in the port, so we can make sure that we get, uh, water and Gator bags and all of that up and running as quickly as possible. That would be great. Uh, thank you so much.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Are you yielding the

floor councillor?

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Yes. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Is there anyone that has not been heard on the Public's, Public Work budget that'd like to, that has not spoken, that would like to be heard on this budget?

Councillor Toomey moves that the Public Works budget be moved to the city council with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-7, No-0, Present-1, Absent-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The next department to be pulled is the Water Department

and Water will be followed by Community Development.

The Water Department was pulled by Councillor Zondervan and Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Um, thank you, Madam Chair. I guess, do I go first?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes. We're waiting for someone from that department, no one is coming. Just giving us another moment, please.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Okay.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. We have a, a member of the Water Department here. Councillor Zondervan, you do have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is, uh, in regards to the use of, uh, cured in place, um, plastic pipes. In the sewer system, I know we've had a lot of conversation around this for the water supply system and the city managers assured us that we will not be using that technology for the water supply, but I was surprised to see it in the budget for the, uh, sewer pipes.

And there are significant environmental concerns using this technology, particularly during the application



process, um, releasing toxins and, um, ultimately reaching some of that into our environment.

So if you could say more about the decision to use this technology in, um, in the source system and, and whether we can reconsider that.

**DIRECTOR SAM CORDA:** Through you, Madam Chair. Um, uh, we don't put it in the sewer system, we just, we, and we've, uh, decided not to use CIPP in the water system and we're not going to in the future at all.

So, uh, maybe Owen might have been a better person to answer the CIPP in the sewer system.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you. Uh, I think I saw it in the, um, water budget section, but maybe that's, uh, my mistake. But if, if we could get an answer to the question about it's use in the sewer system, I would appreciate that.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** We'll be happy to take another look at that and find out what happened. I know with the water system, we've made it clear we would not, so let me, let me follow up on that councillor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Okay, thank you.

Thank you. I yield the floor

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan yields the floor. Councillor Nolan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. Um, I appreciated the detail in the whole, um, water, uh, section. There's several pages in the budget if people are interested in how we're doing this.

Um, I was curious as to what, and maybe I missed it in the documents or there's other documents, but how we do on water use per household and the water use per municipal building since, uh, our water system is municipally owned. Um, it's an interesting conundrum.

I understood from the, um, School Department that as we reduce our own municipal water use, it actually could increase the cost for others since we have to rec, recuperate the cost system wide.

But I was curious as to whether we have goals about water use reduction and, um, and conservation and how that factors into the budget for the department.

**DIRECTOR SAM CORDA:** Through you, Madam Mayor. Um, yeah, we, we just have a program that we look to reduce,

um, or at least stay the same or reduce, uh, water usage through low flush toilets, through aerators, through a variety of different mechanisms.

Um, you know, in, in general since the beginning, uh, since, uh, 1980, we've significantly reduced our water consumption from 21 million gallons to like 13 million, um, and it really has had a minimal impact on the rates, although purely sense--from the pure sense, if you do reduce water consumption significantly, um, the rates will have to most likely go up or, you know, growth will have to accommodate that by an increase in some other, um, users.

But the municipal use, per se has--really doesn't have any impact necessarily on the rates in the sense that it's, it's pretty stable. We use approximately 18 million gallons for, um, municipal use in the city.

Residential use is about 1.8 billion gallons, it's, uh, you know, about a third or half of our total water consumption. So I'm not sure, um, how you might wanna, or if I answered your question or if there's other information you'd like to know about.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes. Thank you. That's,

that's helpful. I'm curious as to--and maybe it can't be answered today, but it'd really helpful to know how that translates into a per household and per, perhaps worker basis, how it--w, whatever the--I know on the household it would be per household or per member of the household and how we're doing on, on that.

I understand that here in New England, we, uh, unlike some areas of the country tend to have, uh, good water supply. However, I'm sure, um, the, all, all of the councillors who were there then and the city manager and obviously the Water Department understands that it was just a few years ago that we ended up having to purchase some water from the MWRA because our own supply had gotten so dangerously low.

So I'm always, I'm looking for an understanding that as we are--live in a world of increasing, uh, climate, uh, vicissitudes and clearly, uh, e, events that end up being extreme weather events, we also are not immune to the idea that we need to be conserving water at every turn.

So to--while you answered the overall question about what the total use is, it doesn't actually get at the question of the, of the household use and what we're doing

to encourage, uh, water savings on a specific basis.

I understand that, you know, many of the items that you mentioned are in line with our climate sustainability goals, that the state actually, I, I don't know how much, for instance of the reduction is due to the state plumbing code changing for particular toilet use, which used to be a much higher percentage of, of individual household use.

**DIRECTOR SAM CORDA:** Uh, through you, Madam Mayor. The, the average, uh, gallons per day per person in Cambridge has been 42.7 for 2019, uh, which is significantly low. Um, and it has been low, typically it will range anywhere, you know, from 40 to 50 gallons per day per person.

Um, and that's, uh, I think the, the, the DEP guideline is 65 gallons per day per person. So Cambridge residents actually do an extremely good job of, you know, reducing their water consumption.

One of the other advantages in Cambridge, there's not a lot of lawns, so there's very small amounts of water used for irrigation in the city, um, you know, which is a benefit which again reduces that, you know, gallons per day per person.

But looking through the numbers in the budget book, um, a single-family home uses about 15 units of water per quarter. A two-family home uses about 20 units of water per quarter, and a three-family home uses about 30 units of water per quarter.

Um, and again, averaging out per, on the per person basis, it's, it's, it's extremely good comparing to most cities and towns in, in Mass and across the country.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. I, I, I don't know if I missed those numbers in the budget or you just calculated them, but I appreciate it.

**DIRECTOR SAM CORDA:** No, some of the numbers are in there. It just is I had to recalculate them to, to like normal, so a little more understandable and a, and a per person basis.

Um, normally annually in our annual statistical report, we calculate the gallons per day per person. And again, uh, for 2019, I think, let's call it 43, it was 42 and change.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Right. Thank you. And--

**DIRECTOR SAM CORDA:** Um, and, and then to answer the rest of your question is, you know, we do have a lot of

information on our webpage on conservation. We do send out, uh, literatures in the bills in the spring and in the fall, um, to deal with, you know, outdoor usage and indoor usage and so on.

So we do have a, a, a, a program that's ongoing every year to try to, to help to inform people about, um, reducing water or using less water in general.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes, thank you. I, I, I know this was an issue a few years ago. We were very late compared to other cities and asking for, um, conservation. And I recognize if you don't have a large yard, it's, it's more challenging to, uh, reduce the water use.

However, it, it did end up, uh, unfortunately leading us to having to hook up with the MWRA, which we might have been able to avoid or have avoided for longer had we, um, instituted those conservation measures when other towns around us were doing it. Um, and I appreciate that hopefully we've learned from that. In the future our budget won't have to absorb that.

My next question is on--it--I realize this, I put it under water, but it, it might not be water, which is, it's,

it's always been curious to me whether we, when we set our sewer rates, I get that every year and it's, our water rates are kept at a 0% increase if sewer rates go up and then therefore the combined rate is a certain percentage.

And yet a couple times it has seen that the MWRA sewer rate increases have not been the same as what our city, uh, say the MWRA sewer radar increases is.

Is that something we, we look at when we're setting those rates and it, and is it just a matter of a, a, a time difference when I've looked at the sewer rates that are different from what we're, uh, saying, the MWRA sewer rate increases?

If that doesn't make sense as a question, I can send this as a, as a, um, as an email, although I did send it in advance. So hopefully there's, there's some knowledge.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. DePasquale.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Through you, Madam-  
-Through you, Madam Ma, Madam Chair. It makes great sense, and Mr. Kale will go over it.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Kale, you have the floor.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** Through you, Madam



Co-Chair, to Councillor Nolan. So when we set the water sewer rate, we tried to get an estimate of what the upcoming fiscal year percentage increase will be for the MWRA.

They're typically in the midst of their budget process, and we usually get an estimate, but by and large, it's reasonably close to what we actually get charged in the fiscal year for which you're setting the water sewer rate.

Um, and then--so that's the answer. And we try to get some out years, but their budget out year projections are based upon what they're gonna borrow to do capital projects and the like, and that has some variability.

And, um, so that's the answer. And again, to remind you that almost 90% of the sewer budget is comprised of MWRA assessment and, uh, debt service.

So, uh, that is the reason, uh, why in--we've been able to keep the water zero because we've been able to manage the drop off and debt service, but the sewer really is in some cases, based upon those two factors that I just mentioned.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Through you, Madam Chair--

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes, thank you.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I, I, I think as David said, uh, we, we, we have to remember, we, we adopt the water and sewer rate in March, not part of this budget.

So therefore the timing's a little different, but they give us their five-year projections, and I would say over the last 20 years, they've been pretty close to what they say they're gonna be at and what they're at often, to be very honest, they're usually a little less because they try to project on the high side to make the city has sufficient funds.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yeah. Thank you. That answers the questions. I look forward to reviewing those. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan yields the floor. Is there anyone that has not been heard on the water budget that'd like to be heard? Hearing none.

I would entertain a motion to pass the Water Department's budget forward to the city council with a

favorite--favorable recommendation. This, uh, this order being offered by Councillor Carlone. Mr. Clerk.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-7, No-0, Present-1, Absent-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The next department before the Finance Committee is Community Development.

The, the co, my colleagues that would like to be heard are Councillor Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, and Councillor Patty Nolan. Council Carlone, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Uh, Madam Chair, a question. I have a number of questions.

Uh, should I just offer to now and then come back after other councillors have spoken?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Well, why don't you ask your first two and then come back. Yes, sir.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Yes. Thank you. Um, good morning. Uh, in the budget, it makes reference to an Open Space network study. Could you tell us a little bit about that and how will that be undertaken and what the goals are? It's, it's first mentioned on I34.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Yes.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Iram--Ms. Farooq--

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through you, through you, Madam Chair. Um, and good morning, um, good morning to the council.

Um, the Open Space network study is, it is gonna be spearheaded by CDD, but it's a very collaborative--it's envisioned as a very collaborative effort working with the full Open Space Committee, which includes, um, uh, the Department of Public Works, the Department of um, Human Service Programs, um, the Disabilities Commission, um, the, um, and, and, and several other departments that are involved in, in big and small ways.

So, uh, all of the stakeholders in the city that are, uh, involved in Open Space, both, uh, physically and in programming.

And so that, um, the focus on that is to take a look at, um, our existing parks inventory, how it serves the various neighborhoods, uh, what is the, um, what is the catchment, uh, but also what is the condition of each of the parks.

And, um, it's, it's looking at, um, we, we typically, you know, the equity lens has been something that has always been in the background of our thinking, but what this process is intended to do is to really elevate that and make that one of the central themes so that we are-- when we look at the catchment, we are also thinking about, um, what are, what are the demographics in that area?

What are, what, what is the profile of folks who are, you know, economically, racially? Um, and also looking at, is the park able to serve people of all abilities? And what additional changes will be needed?

So right now, with the number of parks that we have and how often we are able to come back to them, the cycle is quite long.

And so something like this would enable us to create a roadmap for--once parks are improved, to make sure that all of that universe of, um, of goals is factored in when we go forward with, uh, any kind of upgrades.

And this does not in any way replace the community process that we have on a park-by-park basis or an Open Space by Open Space basis when we go forward with any kind of improvements, it's more of a, um, of an internal process at the city to make sure that we are factoring in all of the elements and are, are, uh, prioritizing the parks with the greatest need.

Uh, and not just in terms of, uh, what the physical infrastructure looks like, but also in terms of, um, the community that it serves.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Carlone.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair, uh, through you. I, I know it is very difficult to add additional open space in a city so densely built already. My calculation indicates we have about 50% of the average city, uh, open space per capita. Will you be looking at opportunities if they exist?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** So, um, actually

one, one other thing I should have mentioned is that, uh, another element that we will be looking at is how each of the parks perform from an environmental perspective and public health perspective.

So, um, are they serving both our, um, stormwater holding and heat, um, um, protection aspects? And also are they encouraging physical activity and such?

So to that end, one of the pieces of this is, what does the, um, what does the distribution of parks in the city look like?

Uh, you might recall that, um, about 15 years ago we had done a Green Ribbon report, which looked at where all of the parks are, what is the access to various, for various communities in terms of being able to get to small parks, large parks, uh, uh, and uh, sort of community-wide resources.

Uh, so we certainly will look at that. I would say that the purpose of this particular project is more to look at our existing inventory and determine what's the best strategic approach towards that.

Um, but uh, we are certainly open to, um, to updating the, um, the stra--the, um, the, the background information

that we have through the, uh, the Green Ribbon Open Space planning work and, and take a look at what, what that looks like in the community now, coz clearly our demographics have changed.

We do, do a version of that for an open space plan that we have to submit to the state every few years, and we can certainly incorporate that into this to get a sense of where is that need the greatest.

And that will allow us to be more--the city to be more strategic in terms of when opportunities come up in a particular neighborhood to be able to, to target those for, for Open Space.

Um, it does, we, we do need to recognize that when opportunities come up, even within our department, we are always, um, mediating between the various needs such as housing and open space, um, and, and trying to determine which is the, uh, the most fruitful outcome depending on what's the greatest need in the city at that time and in that neighborhood at that time.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Uh, Madam Chair, the reason I brought that question up is, in the preliminary studies on Air Life, there were minimal amounts of Open



Space, and if the Water Department were still here, they would tell you that they look very closely at the number of people walking around, uh, fresh pond, and that is not a resource for extensive active use.

Um, uh, I'll, I'll move on. I noticed, um, that there's only one person, uh, listed as, uh, an urban designer in the budget.

And as we've discussed, there's a tremendous need for urban design assistance, not only in design review, which publicly doesn't seem to happen.

I know it happens in memos, um, at the planning board, but also when we have new zoning being proposed. And I don't mind being the urban design commentator, but are there any plans to add staff or consultants, um, to help us?

Because as you know, there are four to five new significant projects being proposed, all requiring new zoning. Any thoughts on that?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Iram--Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Yes. Through you, uh, Madam Chair. The, um, so councillor, the, um, the image that we have just one urban designer in the, um, in, in our

department right now is kind of a function of how positions are coded.

So we actually have two urban designers, um, who are both, um, very experienced. So we have Erik Thorkildsen and also Suzannah Bigolin.

Um, one of their positions is an older position and is quoted as project planner for Urban Design. So it just doesn't show up as the--with the title of Urban Design.

So we do have two people al, already, um, and we've, we've been having conversations with the, with the manager about this coz you have, uh, Councillor Carlone brought up this, uh, this notion previously as well, the need for additional Urban Design assistance, and I certainly don't disagree.

Um, what we have--the approach that we have taken is, is to go with, uh, consulting support. So our, uh, CDD's budget currently includes \$150,000 for consulting support, um, for Urban Design.

Uh, we have, um, uh, anticipating that this is coming, we have actually just recently, um, hired, uh, two con--on-call consultants for that funding, which will continue

into, it's a, it's a longer term contract, so it'll continue into this year.

Um, and it is, uh, it--one, one of the consultants is Goody Clancy, and the other one is, um, David Gamble Associates, both of whom are, are, uh, very well respected in this, uh, in, in our area.

Um, we have--in terms of what we are focusing on right now, um, there are, um, one, one of the things that we are embarking on that I know we have talked about with you in the past, um, is a overarching look at our Urban Design guidelines in the city.

Because we have a, uh, aside from the Article 19 design guidelines that are in the zoning, which are fairly high level and conceptual, um, there are la, large parts of the city that don't have any guidelines associated with them.

So when a project is being--is proposed in that area and is being reviewed, there isn't a lot, um, to hang our hats on in terms of, um, when we are reviewing things, it's much more of a, um, um, of a each urban designer's per, personal input.

And so it's, the designers on the other side are not

starting off with a good understanding of what the city's goals are.

So to that end, we are working with, uh, Goody Clancy right now on looking at the Urban Design guidelines, thinking about, um, citywide design guidelines in addition to the, um, the guidelines that exist for, uh, particular areas in the, um, in the city right now.

Um, in addition, you noted the, um, how the urban, the sort of elevating the urban design review, uh, that happens particularly at the planning board, uh, and also through the zoning process.

Um, we have, I, I would say we have begun to do this, uh, a better job of this, but we are also, one of the questions that came up during our, uh, kickoff meeting with Goody Clancy was whether, uh, we should in fact have a more focused Urban Design memo that goes to the planning board in addition to just the, uh, being incorporated into the overall planning analysis memo that goes through.

Uh, and that would, um, provide more of an opportunity for the Urban Design aspects to be, uh, to be discussed and, and called out separately. Uh, and I think that, that, um, my, my hope is that that will get to the goals that you

are, uh, that you're mentioning.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Um, Madam Chair, if I could, I'll, I'll continue. I hope the Urban Design, which is design review, is actually spoken at the planning board and not just the written memo, because if the public doesn't hear it, they completely lose faith and, um, this is the way it used to be.

I do have other questions that I'll come back to at, at the end, but, uh, I did wanna congratulate you and the whole budget team on expanding housing financing to a point that, um, has been requested by the council. So thank you. Madam Chair, I do have other questions, I'll come back.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, councillor. Our next person in our lineup is Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Thank you, Madam Chair, through you. Um, my first question was about, uh, Community Development Department's, um, real estate economics development consultant, um, position, which, um, is listed as retail strategy, circular economy consultant. Uh, could you talk a little, uh, bit more about what that person will be working on?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Through you, Madam Chair to, uh, to Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler. Um, the development economics consultant is, um, is a category that, um, something that was brought up, um, I think--I believe last term, um, by the city council.

So we are actually procuring this consultant in response to the--that request. Um, and the intention is that this is a person who will, um, be a third party, uh, expert who will be able to do a financial assessment of zoning that is being proposed by a developer.

So the, uh, there has, as you know, every time we look at a developer sponsored zoning, we end up having a discussion about the additional value that is being created by that project and what is the appropriate level of community benefits that the, that the city ought to be deriving from, um, from that particular development.

And so it often seems like it's, uh, there's some amount of, um, art to that, um, and we, we do our best as staff to bring forward information, uh, in thinking and how that relates to the planning work that has gone forward.

Uh, and I know the council, um, is in the midst of these negotiations and it has been felt that it would be

really great to have somebody who could come up with a more empirical basis for that, um, for that negotiation.

And so that is the intent of, um, the, the contract with the development economics consultant. Uh, we are, uh, close to close to selecting, um, uh, a person and--coz we've--this is one that we advanced despite the, uh, the COVID, uh, process.

So we hope that in the next, uh, couple of weeks we should have somebody on board so that they are ready to go, um, July one, when we know that there are a couple of zoning petitions that are going to be before the council-- come back to the council soon, um, soon to be able to discuss those.

Um, for the circular economy consultant, you know, this is something that, um, at Community Development, we have thought about a lot over the last few years in terms of the nexus between economy, society, and the environment, and that they need to--or we need to be thinking of that-- them as much more meshed together and not as competing interests.

So the circular economy, uh, system is sort of based on a, a business model that, um, thinks about both

regenerative production, uh, but also limiting consumption and limiting waste.

And so this is, uh, this sort of systemic approach is something that doesn't just help the environment, but actually can be, can yield cost savings for, uh, for businesses as well.

So this year, uh, we have funding in our budget for a circular economy consultant, um, to work with principally our, uh, economic development and our, um, uh, climate and, and energy team.

And then, um, and also pulling in, um, D, DPW in terms of the Recycling and Waste Management group, um, potentially other departments as well.

And work with, uh, develop a strategy that is actually both helpful to, um, our broader climate goals, but also investment waste management goals, which are nested within that and also for businesses so that they can have both, um, an understanding of best practices that can be, be helpful in this regard.

Um, and also be able to, uh, to figure out a way to bring those to, uh, a business model that that works for our ex--particularly for our small businesses who are, um,



who are not able to spend the, you know, the time and mental energy thinking about this, uh, given that--the, the daily needs.

I think some of our, our larger, uh, corporations in Cambridge are, are able to think about this and some are doing very well, but, um, but for the small businesses, um, the support is really needed to, to come from the city.

Um, and I would say that, um, there's been, uh, when you think about COVID, I would say that this particular, uh, project becomes even more significant, uh, in terms of being able to support our, our businesses and make sure that we are moving in a, um, in the most sustainable way.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Wheeler-- Sobrinho-Wheeler.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Thank you. Yeah. Uh, that was helpful. Um, my next question was about, uh, there's a hundred thousand dollars in the CDD budget for climate change communication. Um, I'm just asking if you could explain a bit more, uh, what that would go towards.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Sure. Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, councillor, we have, um, the, the city's climate, uh, related endeavors are at this point,

uh, you know, they started off kind of at CDD as a small, um, as a small element that one person cared about.

But over the last, uh, 15, 20 years, they have, um, mushroomed in such a way that they straddle so many different departments across the city.

Um, and so now when we think about, uh, say for example, if you take the Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Plan, that is really a chart by chart partnership between Community Development, Department of Public Works, and the Department of Public Health.

Um, our work is, is so different and separate in so many ways that we really wanna make sure that we come up with a communication strategy when we are talking to the broader community, um, that it's cohesive and comprehensive, and that we are speaking together with one voice, keeping in mind all of the endeavors that are underway at each of those different departments.

Um, so this will, uh, this particular item will be, uh, also very much a partnership across departments. Um, we did work on a--with Bruce Ma Associates, uh, on a climate communication framework as part of the, uh, climate change preparedness and resilience planning work.

But at this, this point, that's more of just a framework rather than having, um, more concrete messaging and, and visual, uh, visual and verbal messaging associated with it.

So that's really the intention here. Um, and we're actually really excited because, um, this will allow us to put all of our environmental, uh, and climate communications under one umbrella.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** That makes sense. And are there specific, uh, goals for the, uh, this greater per climate change communication?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** So, I would say the principle goal is that when we, um, when we have calls to action from the community, um, that those are coming under a unified umbrella and we're not talking at cross purposes.

So I would say that frankly is the most, uh, important goal here to be able to, to connect with the, the residents and the businesses of Cambridge, so the entire community, uh, and be really clear about, here's what the city's goals are, uh, around climate, and here's how they, um, uh, here, here's how we are, um, anticipating or hoping that the

community will connect with them.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Great. Great.

Thank you. Uh, and just my last question was a little bit different, um, sort of looking at the, the impact of, uh, the COVID pa, pandemic, uh, on the city's residents and workers, and sort of the instability that creates.

Um, and one of the ways that, uh, is a great, uh, way to address worker instability, worker cooperatives, uh, and the Economic Development Department at the City of Boston, they have a worker cooperative initiative to help start worker-owned businesses.

Uh, has the Community Development--partner--Department ever looked at establishing something like that or, uh, you know, partnering with Boston or doing, uh, other work around worker cooperatives?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Yeah. Through, through you, uh, Madam Chair. Um, we have--CDD has conducted, um, our Economic Development group has conducted a workshop on this model.

Um, and in Cambridge, we, um, currently have some, some businesses that are worker cooperatives, um, and some

that have been actually bought--purchased by former, um, employees.

So, um, Broadway Bicycles is one such examples. And, uh, they actually were part of, um, our workshop as a presenter, uh, talking about the model.

And we have taken a close look at the City of Boston's, um, local cooperative initiative. Um, and, um, I'll say that every, uh, all of the elements that are being offered as part of that, uh, we offer in Cambridge, we just haven't branded it as such.

Uh, but we offer those to, um, all businesses or, or all folks who are interested in, um, uh, initiating an a, a business.

So, um, I will say we also have, uh, given some grants to, um, some worker cooperatives. So, um, Harvest Co-op before it closed had, had received a grant from, um, from CDD, the Cambridge Artist Cooperative right now, um, has both received technical assistance grant previously and has just, um, received a COVID small business, uh, Relief Grant as well.

Um, and similarly, Boku Grante has taken advantage of, uh, many of our programs, uh, and have also, I believe,

received a, um, a COVID Relief Grant.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** That's helpful to hear. Thank you. Yeah, that's, uh, helpful to hear. I guess I would just, uh, consent, uh, ask CDD if, you're considering the branding around having, calling it Worker Cooperative Initiative, like we're doing it all. Um, I think that's helpful for folks who are looking in that direction.

Uh, I think it add--comes up in cities, other city programs like with an Office of Housing Stability, say we're, we're sort of have a decentralized one, we're doing all of it, we just don't call it for that.

But if you're, uh, you know, looking for, for housing assistance or in this case looking to start a worker cooperative, um, it, it's helpful to know there's a, this is--three resources out there and a specific email, uh, somewhere to contact. So I guess I would just ask that, to think about that. Uh, thank you. I yield back.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Thanks.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler yields the floor. Our next speaker is

going to be the Vice Mayor, Vice Mayor Mallon, followed by Councillor Nola--Nolan. Vice Mayor, you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you to Ms. Farooq. Um, I just have a couple of questions. The first is on the inclusionary housing survey.

In the budget book, it says that this will be completed in fiscal '21. I'm wondering if you can give us an idea of when this will be completed.

Um, you know, I think this has been on, on the agenda for at least a year, and so I'm wondering if it's gonna be early in fiscal '21 or if we--later in fiscal '21, uh, based on kind of COVID and what's been happening. I'm just--if you can give us an idea of when that might happen, that would be fantastic.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Through you, um, Madam Chair to the Vice Mayor. Um, Madam Vice Mayor, we--this is something that we have, uh, had on our, um, to-do list for some time. We had put out an RFP last year and had--did not receive any, uh, responses to it.

Um, so we went back to the drawing board, uh, reached out to some of the, uh, some of the potential consultants

that we thought would be, uh, suitable and talked to them about why they did not apply and what modifications we might need to make.

Um, at that point, we had thought of it, we had conceptualized this as a pretty discreet project where somebody would be just reaching out with a survey to all the IZ, um, residents.

Uh, what they spoke to us about was that that was, um, maybe too modest, uh, a scale and that it really needed to be, uh, made much more expansive, um, capture both market rate and, um, and inclusionary tenants in the same building to better understand whether the experience that an inclusionary zoning tenant was experiencing mirrored that of, um, market rate residents in the building, or really deviated and understand where are those points of deviation.

Um, they also felt like just a survey was not sufficient and that, um, we would want to have that. They suggested having things like focus groups as well to, um, to be able to gauge more qualitative information from, uh, from folks.

So, uh, to that end, we had, um, expanded the scope of



work and the RFP was actually online. Before we had not yet received any responses, but, um, it, we halted that when we went remote and, um, as we had halted number of, you know, most of the, uh, procurement processes.

So, um, the RFP is actually--if you look still on the, um, purchasing website, we are right now, uh, looking at, uh, extending, uh, the timeline. We had extended it twice previously.

Um, so we are--our intention is to, um, have a deadline for late June, uh, and hope to start the process, um, sometime in September.

Uh, we do think that this will take a little bit more work with a consultant once we have them on board to think through those engagement strategies because, um, how to make them remote, but also really accessible to, um, to low-income folks where there's been a lot of discussion about, um, who can engage comfortably in digital, um, in digital formats.

And, um, I think that we will really need to have a hybrid approach somehow, um, but we will need to work with our selected consultant to figure out how that can happen in a safe way if we are still in the midst of a pandemic.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Ms. Farooq. Um, so I guess some follow up questions would be, are any of the consultants that we worked with on, um, modifying the plan and the scope, do you think that they will be responding to the RFP?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** So, um, through you, Mad, Madam Chair. Um, our hope is that, uh, some of them at least will, uh, but as you know, that once we are in the 30B procurement process, um, our ability to, um, to communicate with folks around that is, uh, is severely limited to be able to be fair to, uh, all potential applicants.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. Um, I think, you know, I un, I understand the limitations and how frustrating this must be, but until we have that--the results of that survey, we're just working with anecdotal data, which doesn't really help us in informing policy moving forward.

Um, and I think that leads me into my next question around engagement. In the time of covid and beyond. I

think, um, our ability to, on a dime, uh, turn to remote meetings and have this type of meeting where we're on Zoom, whereas lots of us are at our house, um, has really shifted the way that we can think about community engagement and dialogue.

And I'm wondering, CDD does a tremendous amount of outreach into the community, uh, on projects and on various things, things like this, even, you know, doing focus groups.

Um, and we oftentimes say, uh, we, you know, it's, it's always the same 10 people that show up, right? Like, what do we do about this problem that we're not actually actively engaging members of our community that we really wanna hear from?

And so during these last two months, has, CDD really started thinking about, okay, with this shift to a different way of meeting, a different way of communicating and engaging, how do we use this, these functions and these tools, um, that can engage, uh, a, a broader set of our community and a deeper reach into, um, communities and residents that we, that are typically hard to reach?

So I'm just wondering about CDD and how they're

thinking about that, and are there budget implications of technology and, um, you know, staffing that might, um, need to transform that process?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Through you, Madam Chair, um, to the Vice Mayor. Yes, we are absolutely, um, very focused on this question.

Um, as you know that all the city meetings were, um, were put on hold in, in March, and we are, um, as we've been discussing how to phase things back in, uh, with the city manager's office, um, we're starting with things like the pla, planning board, which are much more formal, sort of like the, the council meetings.

Um, but at the same time, we are--and subject to open meeting laws. So they have a lot more, um, sort of rigor and structure associated with them.

Um, we have also, uh, been thinking about how to bring back, um, which in, in their city approach is sort of a next tier, the, um, the less formal engagement. So around committees, around focus groups, as you mentioned, um, we've been watching what is happening nationally and what other communities are engaged in.

There's some thing--some stuff to be really optimistic about because, um, some of the data reveals that the digital engagement format really does allow a broader spectrum of people to, uh, to connect. We're getting, um, larger numbers of attendees at meetings, and we're getting a more diverse group of attendees

Um, but there are, um, some of the limitations associated with, uh, physical in-person meetings, um, continue to exist, uh, you know, those relating to, to in, inequities and resources and materials.

Um, so one of the things that we have been spending some time thinking through, and I can't say that we have any perfect answers yet, um, is how to come up with a hybrid approach so that there is a way for people to, um, to engage digitally, which may--might make it much, much easier for somebody with small children to be able to participate, but at the same time may not necessarily translate to somebody who is, um, trying to work multiple jobs, which sadly is less of an issue right at this moment, but we expect that it will become an issue as people start to re-enter, um, the eco, economy.

So we expect that we might need to think about formats

where, uh, we have a person who goes to a location physically, for example, maybe has an iPad or a laptop so that there can be a group that can participate at, uh, even if they don't have access themselves individually at their homes.

Um, these are things that will require, um, both more thinking of how they can be accomplished in a safe way, um, and also we'll probably need to wait for the next phase of, um, of when safely we can, we can have, um, uh, authorization to go forward with that.

But, um, but, um, we absolutely are thinking about these and trying to make sure that we are, um, we're not just focusing on our formal committees, but also thinking about all of our informal engagement and trying to make that as expensive and use this opportunity to actually get to some of the things that we have struggled with historically.

Um, as you pointed out about the same folks always being present, and I think that there's a lot to be optimistic about. Um, but there is, uh, there is still work to be done on that. And, and that's something we are, um, certainly engaged in.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. And I think we have to do a few things, uh, during and post this COVID crisis, which is look for those silver linings and those opportunities to really dynamically change how we function.

Um, you know, and there's been recent reports that zoning meetings and other meetings of city government that are crucially important, um, are overwhelmingly, uh, white and older.

So, you know, thinking about how these digital engagement formats can be more dynamic and be more flexible in, in engaging our community in a really holistic way. Um, and I, I totally, I am hearing your, um, your ideas around a hybrid engagement model, um, and I like them.

So I'm, I'm glad that you guys are thinking about this, and you're taking and seizing this opportunity to create a better engagement platform and model for our residents, um, so that everyone can be engaged in, in these dialogues and these critical conversations that affect our residents right here in our city.

Um, I just have one more question about the Economic Development Division. I, you know, I, this is going to be

the little, um, department that could even more so than it has been, um, in previous years.

We still only have four full-time employees in this department, and I know that they have been working 24 hours a day, um, to try to make sure that our small business community and our larger business community feels supported and can move through, um, both the COVID, public health crisis, moving through reopening, and what does the future, uh, economic outlook look like for our small businesses and our larger, um, organizations.

I, I know that we don't have an opportunity at this point to add more staffing in, but what I'm seeing, um, and what we have been working on with EDD um, with your health and leadership is providing, um, small business guidance through, um, consultants that we're hiring, right?

So if a, a business wants to shift to an online model, or if they need, um, help with a business plan, a new business plan, these are things that we have been offering through EDD, um, through a CDBG Grant.

Is that something that we could expand upon and make sure that we have that technical assistance for our small businesses that's going to be so, so critical over the next



12 to 18 months to ensure that our small businesses, um, can really move through this economic, um, and financial upset, uh, that they're gonna be experiencing probably even more than they are now? And these are really challenging times.

So how can we, how can EDD, um, knowing that we're not adding more staffing in this year, provide that technical assistance, and how can we, um, expand on what's happening?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through, through you, Madam Chair. Um, absolutely. Um, it is a crackerjack team. I will point out that it--we actually have five, um, staff in Economic Development.

One of the things that doesn't show up in our divisions is that our administrative staff, uh, our administrative assistants are all classified under the administrative category. And so they show up under, uh, under the admin division. Um, but, but that's still, that's still a pretty compact team for a very, um, huge scope.

So, um, a as you suggested, the approach here, again, has been to really--similar to Urban Design, to, um, take a look at how we can leverage consultants, uh, and consultant

supports to help with all of the functions.

So there is a significant amount of funding that goes through the, um, Community Development Block Grant program that provides the kinds of services, the technical assistance, um, the, um, the retail--interior, um, updates and so forth.

Those, um, will continue. I would say that in terms of how we are using Block Grant funding, because we have channeled, um, a significant amount of the funds towards our, uh, Relief Fund Recovery Grants, we will need to, uh, re-evaluate, um, what that funding amount looks like and how that is getting, uh, distributed.

Um, but we, we--all of those programs really are functioning, um, extremely well. So our goal is going to be to keep them, uh, at least funded at the levels that, uh, that they are currently.

In addition, in the, um, tax funded budget, we have, uh, \$185,000 that are going to various, uh, consulting services related to Economic Development.

Um, so we actually increased from \$75,000 to \$95,000 our funding for implementation of the retail strategy plan. That's something that in the, uh, in this current fiscal

year, we've been working on, uh, looking at, uh, a way to, um--well, so taking a look at all of the city's, uh, permitting and licensing procedures and seeing how those can be optimized and streamlined to best serve the, the business community and make that process easier for them.

That is, um, close to wrapping up, and we're obviously working with, uh, uh, ISD and licensing, um, in, in that process.

Um, in the coming year, uh, the funding will be for, um, everything from very granular things in districts as they need them, um, like banners and brackets as they try to recover and have, uh, some animation, um, to the circular economy consultant that we talked about, a small business challenge grant where, um, businesses are able to, or business districts are, um, and clusters of businesses are able to propose ways to, uh, create enhancements either physically or even last year we had a digital marketing, um, collective program.

And then, uh, the Food Incubator program, which is, um, something that, uh, assists our restaurants and is an offshoot of, uh, when we created our Food Drug program. Um, so that's, um, that's the, uh, that's \$185,000 in, in that

bucket as well.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor. Oh, Mr. DePasquale.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through you-- can I just jump in for one second? Vice Mayor, these are great questions because with everything going on with our small business, the economic development team has been incredibly challenged, and it's difficult to just add positions because usually know this is a variety of areas we're looking at.

But I will say that, you know, having Matt Nelson and the manager's office now has helped provide a source. We've also tried to use Barb Readon more now in this area too, to help supplement all the work that Iram and her team are doing.

So in recognizing that, I think we've tried to get some other non-CD traditional pieces to help work with them to help move this forward. So it's--and it's been a real good team efforts. I just wanted to bring that--make that point. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair,

and through you to, um, the manager. I really have appreciated both Mr. Readen and Mr. Nelson's help in, in really galvanizing some forces together and driving some of these conversations.

I guess what I was asking was, um, I feel like small businesses right now need, um, an attorney on call, human resources support, business planning, financial management.

Um, there are a lot of really technical assistance items that small businesses just don't have on staff, and this is a really challenging time. There's a, you know, there's a lot of HR issues, uh, with unemployment, there's a lot of, uh, you know, legal issues with how and when to reopen.

Um, I think if our, if we can't add staff, then we can add, you know, consultant type funding to add in for--and to help out with this technical assistance that these small businesses just can't access right now.

So, um, I just wanted to put that on the record. I think this is, this is something that we should be working towards and, um, I look forward to working with all of you to, um, to really be supporting our small businesses as we move forward.

And I just wanna say as a closing remark that the Economic Development division has, has been working so, so hard, and, um, I'm glad to know it's a five-person team, uh, they could have 20 people and still, um, be very challenged right now.

So I wanna be able to support both the division, um, that's doing such an, a tremendous amount of work in our small businesses at this time. So, thank you. I yield the floor, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor yields the floor. Councillor Nolan, the floor is yours, after which we'll hear from Councillor Zondervan, and I believe the mayor wants to weigh in as well. Councillor Nolan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you, Chair Simmons. I'm happy to take the floor. Although I noticed that Councillor McGovern, who had had questions and in fact was ahead of me in the queue initially had joined the meeting. I'm not sure if you want him to go before me or after me.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I did not notice that Councillor McGovern had joined the queue. We didn't see

anything. Uh, if you wanna yield your--yield your space to Councillor McGovern, um, I will ask Councillor McGovern if he wants to be heard.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes, I'm happy to do that, especially since the list we got listed him before me anyway, and then I'll go after him. Thank you, Chair Simmons.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor McGovern, are you there?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** I am. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan yields to you. Please take the floor.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you. I actually don't have a lot. Um, my questions, uh, were really about the--some of the new positions and having, um, giving Ms. Farooq the opportunity to, uh, walk us through those. And I think she's walked us through the majority of those--through questions from other counselors.

Uh, anything, um, you know, my, my hope, and I think Councillor Carlone, um, made this point, uh, is that some of these new positions will be able to help with, uh, some of the backlog of, of things that we've talked about.

I'm thinking particularly around the reports on the, um, using the parking lots in, in, in, in Central Square. Uh, for housing, we've been, we've been sort of waiting for that for a while.

Uh, and I hope that they can, uh, they will help with that. Um, and then I think I had heard Councillor Nolan mention this the other night, so I won't, uh, she was gracious enough to yield to me, so I won't steal her thunder, but, uh, I'd like to hear more about the electric charging stations.

Um, and I know we're adding 12, uh, stations, how did we arrive at that number and, and is that deemed to be sufficient? Uh, and that's, uh, that's really all I have now.

Um, I, I will echo what other councillors said around, I'm really happy to see the increased spending in housing. Uh, I think there's gonna be other ways we need to look at, um, you know, not just, uh, building more housing through, uh, you know, the overlay and other things, but also ways in which we can help people subsidize, uh, rent and the gap that exists between, uh, where, uh, section eight ends and market rent begins in Cambridge, and how we might be able



to use some funds in different ways.

Um, but with that, uh, that's really all I had. I don't know if you wanna talk about any of the other positions, Ms. Farooq.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Through, through you, Madam Chair. Um, our positions are--that have been approved in the, in the budget that are listed are actually all in housing. And I would say there are three and a half positions really.

Um, so we have, um, a, our, our biggest backlog on challenge in the, in the housing division is to keep up with, uh, rental applicants in the inclusionary zoning program.

Coz, um, as we've talked about, uh, so often here is that the, um, the inventory on inclusionary units is growing, you know, exponentially, um, as the market has developed housing in Cambridge.

Um, our, um, staff has certainly not grown exponentially. So we were, um, we, we had a conversation with the manager. We have had this conversation and have gradual--every year and have gradually been trying to

increase capacity in that group.

Um, and this year we have a associate housing planner who would really work with applicants, um, in that, uh, who are, who are applying for rental housing through the inclusionary program, and also a part-time, uh, housing assistant who will work.

So this is the--we hired a senior per, person to manage the program last year and, uh, in last year's budget, and, and she's been tremendous.

Um, and Justine has, and, um, but, but we really need the folks who are going to be in the one-on-one conversations with folks processing the recertifications, uh, taking them to see the, uh, the units and so forth.

So, so that's really our biggest, uh, capacity ad. Um, and then to the point that you mentioned in terms of, uh, development and preservation, we have a, a project planner position, uh, listed for, um, on the development side who will work with the, uh, both the Affordable Housing Trust and, um, our, uh, affordable housing builders, um, as projects come up.

The role of this person typically is, uh, both working on site acquisitions, um, as well as working with

developers then, I mean, the builders then on the, their performers, taking them through the entire permitting process, um, assisting them both in procuring additional financing from the state, but also through the entitlements through, uh, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the discussions at the planning board.

Um, we have, uh, and then the final position is a, uh, a housing project planner who will be focused on, um, asset management.

So this is a function we used to have, and it has, um, uh, over time what happened because of the huge demand in the rental program, we took the person and pivoted them into supporting the rental program.

But this has left a gap on the asset management side, and these are some of the complaints that I think council hears often that, uh, there are things that are not being able to be monitored in units and, and their conditions. And having a person in this role will both allow us to meet our obligations to our, uh, particularly federal, uh, funding, but also, uh, will, will allow us to make sure that the inventory is in such a, is in the best possible shape, uh, so that it's, um, uh, it's optimal for

residents. So that's, uh--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor McGovern, any further inquiries?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Uh, that's all, that's all I have for now, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor McGovern yields the floor. We'll go back to Councillor Nolan. Councillor Nolan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you, Chair Simmons. Um, I think--I, I wanna start with a question of, uh, uh, given though the huge range of questions in this department from Housing to Economic Development, which is with COVID-19, as the Vice Mayor mentioned, has been-- become central to our survival in many of the survival of small businesses in the city to environmental and sustainability concerns to planning.

I'm curious as to, uh, whether the, the, um, idea I heard of dividing this department into two or three departments because there is so much on the plate of the various leaders that it might make sense for this to be something that would, uh, allow us to be better organized.

This is something that I heard a lot about in the

fall, and I'm, I'm curious as to whether this is the, the, obviously we're, we're looking at the budgets, so this would be the time to think about, um, how is it that we might advocate to ensure that there's an ability of the various departments to, to maybe divide up a little bit and have, uh, a more reasonable approach to the workload that this department has.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Through you, Madam Chair. Um, uh, I guess I have not heard this discussion, so, um, um, call me surprised, but, um, I would say there is a great deal of benefit to having the multiple disciplines under one roof because it allows the level of collaboration that cannot be achieved when, um, when each group is completely separate.

Um, also in terms of the time and attention that staff are able to, to pay to a particular topic, um, I would assure you that the divisions are still separate and they each have their own staff who are managing that particular task.

So unless we are anticipating that there would be, um, an influx of new staff if this were to, um, to be separated

into components, um, I'm not sure that that would make any difference, um, to how much the--what the workload was for each individual, um, person.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, I, I, I would just add, you are right, if we were going to make this recommendation as we have had in the past, it would be in this budget. At this point in time, this is the recommendation that we have.

But when we have done any reorganization, it is part of the budget, but at this point in time, this is the budget that we're recommending for the Community Development Department.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Actually, um, Madam Chair, if I might add one last thing, which is that over the last, um, five years, um, what we have done a lot of is look at how we run various, um, how we do our work at CDD, where currently, uh, to, to make sure that we are, um, optimizing our--all, both of our staff resources and consulting resources, financial resources, and that we are, um, we are constantly looking at how we are organized.

So there are things that we have, um, done within the

department to tease out how, um, some of the thing's function.

So, um, for instance, last year we, um, uh, separated our Community Planning Division from our Zoning and Development Division because it was sort of muddying the waters for a bit, and it, it has allowed us to really have more focus on the longer-term planning as well without sacrificing the work that we are doing on, um, supporting the planning board and project review.

So that's the sort of thing that we are constantly doing at the department, and sometimes that gets reflected and when you see a position move from, uh, one category within that to another, um, that's the result of all the, the, um, optimization that we do within the department.

Now say that, that's an incredible, incredibly valuable flexibility for us to, uh, to have, which would be lost if we were to somehow separate the, the pieces in a more permanent way.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Ms. Farooq.  
Ms. No--Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. I appreciate that, and I apologize if this is a surprise. I certainly

have heard about it, uh, a, a number of times in the community and it, and it's really a reflection of the growth and all, all of those different areas over time as we have taken on more and more.

Um, and I heard from the city manager, this is, would, would certainly be the appropriate time to ask about it. So I'm asking about it and thinking it might be, uh, uh, it would be a good exercise for all of us to think through. What is the best way to organize as we move into, uh, the next years?

Um, my other question has to do with the sustainability initiatives. Uh, I know they're scattered. We heard some already from, uh, Department of Public Works. I, I'm interested in the climate mitigation and the larger goals.

Uh, I know we've set, um, a number of goals from-- starting with the climate emergency, or not even starting that was--the climate emergency was declared more than 10 years ago.

Um, I, I--it would be really good to have a more specific sense of not just these piecemeal reports, uh, I realize there's the building energy use declaration,



there's a lot of work going on in the, in, in various committees, but it would be really good to have a sense of how we're expecting to reach our, our community goals while we've met some of our, um, goals as a city, for instance, for providing, uh, renewable energy.

Um, one specific question is, the expectation for local energy generation. The last time I checked, uh, our community goal for that was, uh, we had only achieved our-- 10% of, of the goal that we had set for ourselves for 2020.

So I'm specifically interested in, do we have a, a plan to ramp it up, not just with communications, but with, with actions that we think will yield the benefits for, um, more installed solar across, across the community?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through you, through you--

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** And whether there's a budget behind it. This is all related to how it is that with--that, that the various elements of the CDD budget are, are moving towards achieving that goal.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Yeah. Through you, Madam Chair. Um, so just as sustainability is an

element that is permeated many departments, it's actually also permeated all parts of, uh, CDD as well.

But I'm gonna focus, uh, for now just on our, uh, the climate and energy work that our environment and transportation division is doing. Um, and I would say that there are three components to that.

Um, one is on the mitigation side, which is encompassed within the large umbrella of the Net Zero Action plan. So that's really about how are we limiting our impact on, um, greenhouse gas emissions as a community. And all of those actions are nested within the, uh, the Net Zero Action plan.

And in each year we tackle a certain set of them as part of the plan. Uh, so that la--is laid out in a, in a large, um, again, chart that, um, I'm happy to share if, um, if council's interested in, coz that's from a few years ago, but it's intended to be updated with the five-year review.

The second category is, uh, is that of adaptation, which is encompassed within the climate change vulnerability assessment which we completed, and then what is underway now and close to completion, which is the

climate change preparedness and resilience planning.

So right now in that arena, the focus has been on completing the planning work and there are a series of recommendations that emerge from that. And then in, in future years, we'll be, we will be tackling those in a similar way to how we are, um, doing the recommendations of the Net Zero Action plan.

And then the third category is more about is, is, I suppose is, is actually nested under mitigation, but I call it out separately because it's much more focused on community action on private property. And that's the Cambridge Energy Alliance, and I think that connects with your, um, the second part of your question, which is how are we going beyond the things that the city is doing?

Uh, but before I go there, I will say that, um, we have a total of, um, over 500,000 in our, um, operating budget for the various programs that fall within those three categories.

In terms of more, um, qualitatively what it is that we are doing, um, to encourage local energy generation, so I'll say that we have agency when we are working on a, uh, city parcel where we can go out and say, here's a project

and we're gonna, um, we're gonna install PV on this building or, or something, or ground source heat, heat pump.

And we do that with every single, um, project that the city undertakes that's absolutely essential piece, as you know, and the city has committed. Um, it is required by the Net Zero Action plan starting, um, this year to have all our buildings be, uh, Net Zero.

The, um, in terms of the much broader per, uh, piece of it, which is the energy use in the community and the potential for generation, um, are--we cannot, um, we cannot, um, force people to do that.

So it's more a approach of making sure that people are aware of and then connect, connected, connected to the resources that exist, um, around this.

So, um, we have the Cambridge Energy Alliance has promoted onsite solar, um, through the Sunny Cambridge program, um, since 2017, I think.

Uh, we've, uh, supported the installation, um, of onsite solar by adding additional solar advisor support for multi-family properties in addition to where we started with, uh, individual homes.

And that's, uh, really challenging. The multi-family properties has, has been a really hard nut to crack, but I feel like we're doing better on that with the multi-family pallet.

Um, and then, um, the, uh, to mitigate sort of the split incentive with regard to the multifamily, um, uh, units, the, uh, CEA is working to create a new solar model, um, that focuses on community solar opportunities, which I know you mentioned, um, for those who, who can't actually own, uh, either because they're tenants or they live in condos and it's, uh, the roof is a shared amenity.

Um, and our focus has really been on, uh, ways to include low-income residents and also, uh, small and medium sized businesses in this category.

Um, so with, you know, we're in process with this and, um, as with any such initiatives, there will be, um, legal and logistical issues that will need to be worked out, but, um, that is very much something that we are working on.

Um, so, um, this also connects with our work, uh, to investigate local microgrids, uh, to create more, uh, renewable energy opportunities and also climate resilience.

So we're looking at the port right now for a virtual

microgrid project, um, and we're working with some, uh, some academics on that. That's not a budget line item, but, um, um, we are getting assistance from local universities on that.

Um, then, um, also the Net Zero Action plan is working on a new solar energy requirement for new construction and renovation. So that would in fact be, uh, something more concrete that would be--if adopted, would be a requirement.

Um, but we do have to, um, well actually, so let me back up. We're also looking at, um, the procurement of renewable energy to meet our, uh, Net Zero construction requirements.

So currently, um, we have about 1% of our energy being generated, uh, through solar in Cambridge, that's about six megawatts. Um, the maximum--I mean, there's still a, a, ways to go, but, uh, truly as we look at it, probably the maximum we could get to is 5%.

So it is, um, even in, uh, the most, excuse me, even in the most optimistic of scenarios, it's going to be a part of the solution.

Um, and given the, given our land use patterns and our many energy intensive, um, uh, uses such as labs, um, that,

uh, you know, the 5% is probably the, the maximum that we would be able to get to.

So, um, I think that is what I have. I hope that answers your question. Um, but I'm happy to answer any more detailed questions related to that--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. You know, it, it doesn't really answer the question because if you look today at the sustainability dashboard on the city's own website, particularly about community solar, it says that the goal for this year, 2020, is 60,000 kilowatt hours, and we're at about six.

That, that's on our community dashboard. What you just said is where we are, which is about 6,000 kilowatts, which is six megawatts that we might only be able to--if that's 1%, we can get to 5%, that would suggest the max we could even have would be 30,000 kilowatts. And yet our goal for 2020, not for 2050, but for 2020 is 60,000.

So it's double the maximum that I believe you just said we could get, and, and I'm so, it, it, it's quite a concern to me that I have assumed this sustainability dashboard is, is one that is guiding our work and that I

would've hoped that there was a budget to show how it is that we can get there.

I know the city has done a lot of work, I'm very glad of the work on our buildings. Another measure on that, and again, this is the community, we can't force people, but we can certainly work with them, is that the 2020 goal for all energy use in the, I, I, this is the, it's the called Community Energy Use.

The--compared to the 2012 baseline of, of more than 5 million, um, million British, uh, thermal units was by 2020, the goal was to have it be reduced by 80% to 1 million. There's no measure whatsoever on that page about how close we are, but I suspect that we are nowhere near that.

And, and I think if we are serious about our climate mitigation goals, this budget should match up with clearly what we've been doing hasn't been working.

Again, I, the very specific, if the community solar installed was supposed to be 60,000 kilowatts by 2020 and we're at six, that means we're 10% of the way towards a goal that is 2020, which is right now.

So I, I, I, I, I guess the question wasn't answered



about how it is that we need to either adjust the goals or adjust what we're doing or adjust our budget to reach them.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through, through you, Madam Chair. The--one other thing that I will add is that, um, the way that we have, uh, conceptualized, uh, this current, uh, version of our aggregation, um, that one of the things that does give us is the capacity to install some amount of purely solar, uh, that is something that we are working through, uh, both the legal and logistical processes. So that--but that will certainly give us some capability beyond what we have right now.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Um, I don't actually have the exact numbers of what that would come out to be, um, I can quickly try to dig through, but it may be better if we follow up with that information in terms of the specifics. But that, that is going to give us an avenue that I think is, um, is going to be a fruitful one.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor, Councillor Nolan. And if--

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. I look forward to that. I've pushed this, I want it. I, I, I just believe we need to take this as seriously as we possibly

can.

And, you know, I'm happy to work on it. I have some ideas for how we can move forward, but again, we're, we're, we're not at all where our own, it's the city website sustainability dashboard, uh, so we need to use that to guide our, our, our plans.

Um, I'll shift now to a question related to housing, um, which is on, on the page in the book about the affordable housing numbers.

I wanna, um, ask whether we have made progress on something that we, we had a meeting in February that included some of the priorities and one of the ways that we all agreed might be able to help us jumpstart the provision of affordable housing and reduce the cost per unit is by using city owned parking lots and lands in order to build some affordable housing.

Is that included in the budget? And is that part of how it is that we're moving forward and think that we will be able to produce the units that are, uh, listed there?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through, through you, Madam Chair. We are certainly, um, looking

into all of those avenues. We do have for the coming year, one moment, we do have a number of projects, um, that are, um, slated for completion, uh, this year. And so, um, and, and those are entirely trust funded projects.

So, uh, this year the, uh, Concord High, Highlands Project, which is, uh, 98 units on Concord Ave, will be coming, uh, online very soon.

Um, the at, uh, excuse me, in Wellington, Harrington in Patrick's Place, which is part of, uh, Just-A-Start, uh, project, uh, Just-A-Start portfolio, uh, will be coming online.

So those are the, um, this is, so, and these have actually come, come online. Um, and then they are, um, there are 40 new affordable units that are being currently under development at Frost Terrace in Porter Square. Those will be coming online.

Um, at Squirrelwood, which is also Just-A-Start, there will be 23 new, um, affordable rental units. That's, that construction is, is, uh, underway.

And then, um, in terms of what is planned, so that's a total of, um, 162 or so, and that's not counting the, uh, any inclusionary zoning units in terms of increasing our

production of, uh, affordable units.

Um, and then, um, under development or under planning, um, are approximately a hundred new affordable units that, uh, Just-A-Start is working on at Range Commons, on, on Range Ave. Um, that is not gone through the permitting process yet.

Um, then Capstone Communities, uh, will be working on a parcel that the city acquired, um, at 2072 Mass Ave in, in North Cambridge. Um, and then we financed the purchase of 52 News Street last year, uh, oh, sorry, this year, and that will be, uh, working with, uh, Just-A-Start and they will be proposing additional housing development there.

And then, um, we are using trust funding right now to support preservation of, um, 12 units of private limited equity co-op as well.

So if you think about it, um, those will, um, those are things that we know already--okay, that are, um, that are in the portfolio, that are in process, so, um, and, and more will be done.

We are absolutely still looking at, uh, the question of what is appropriate uses for city owned properties, coz some are good for housing, but we also have a lot of city

needs, um, in terms of additional, um, office space and so forth.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. One more quick question on housing. For some of the, um, ownership opportunities, uh, Councillor Sobrihno-Wheeler mentioned, uh, worker co-ops, which I fully support and have done some work in when I, in a, in, in the past as a way of, uh, understanding and building, um, addressing economic inequality.

Are, are some of our--is our strategy for home buyership also leading to co-ops and, and ways that people can build equity but also maintain affordability? Are they, are, are they ever structured as, as, um--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** So Councillor Nolan, that sounds more like a policy procedural question and less of a budget question and there are three people behind you.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Okay. Okay, then I'll, we'll, I'll, uh, yield the floor for now. I have two other quick questions on sustainability, but we can come back if, if they're not asked.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mat--thank

you, councillor. The next speaker, uh, councillor Nolan yields the floor. After--so we now hear from Councillor Zondervan, after which there'll be Mayor Sumbul, and then I do have a question.

So there are three, um, people that wanna ask questions in the first round. I understand there are people who might wanna ask in the second round. So I'm going take a, a calculated guess that we're not gonna get to historical before lunchtime, the noon break. And so you may wanna advise Mr. City manager, uh, the departments that are still waiting to be heard that they may wanna just not anticipate being called till after one o'clock.

Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. This is, uh, a very interesting discussion. A lot of topics that I would love to respond to, but I'll try to be, be brief.

I, I think I heard the commissioner say, um, the assistant city manager rather say a, a virtual microgrid in the port, and I'm struggling to understand what, what was meant by that.

So if you could explain a little bit what, what we

mean by a virtual microgrid in the port.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Oh, goodness. Um, uh, through you, Madam Chair. See, I sometimes regret the words that, um, the words that I say, but we are, um, abs-- so I think that in terms of the detail of this, um, I, I would defer to having, maybe talking--discussing at a, a, at a committee hearing so that we can have folks who are most knowledgeable about this be, be talk, uh, be talking about this--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** So councillor, Ms. Farooq is saying she's not prepared to answer that question for you, which may or may not be a budget question specifically, but I understand your interest and the importance of it. I'd ask if you might wanna demur on that question, ask your other questions, and maybe in the-- another context, she could either talk to you offline, you could put that question in writing and she could respond to the entire council and we could have a committee hearing.

Uh, so just wanted to give you that recommendation. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate that recommendation, but I, I would

like to understand at a, at a high level conceptually what she meant when she said that first. I'm not asking for a detailed, uh, diagram, obviously, but, but just what, what did you mean, when, when you said a virtual microgrid in the port?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** So if you can answer that in the context of the budget.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Sure, sure thing. Uh, through, through you, Madam Chair. So we are, um, in this instance working with Climable, um, which is an organization that focuses on, um, on climate resilience and, and resilient urban neighborhood, um, microgrid team, uh, to propose to us how we will be able to create a community microgrid.

Um, so that would allow people, um, both to be able to access the, um, grid and also be able to have the, the non-profits be able to, to support them.

So, um, we are--part of this is--part of why, uh, I'm not able to give you a really detailed answer, is that we are at the very start of this project and, um, it's hard to--in, in the structure of the city that we have right now, the physical structure to actually create, uh, a



physical microgrid, uh, in, in a place like the Port.

But so we are, um, looking at what are the technical options, what are the financing options, ownership model. So, so by virtual microgrid it's like more like a shared, um, ownership model, uh, that would support the, uh, the, the microgrid. So that's, that's the, um, that's my little summary of it, but--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Ms. Farooq. Councillor Zondervan, she is trying to accommodate you, but it may be something that needs a little further discussion in fe--in vetting. Your, your next query, councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** No, I appreciate it.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** I, I'm happy to send more information of what the scope looks like, if that's helpful.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Ms. Farooq. Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you. Yeah, that, that'll be helpful. And I am familiar with Climable and, and have done some work with them as well, so I can inquire with them as well to get a better understanding. I was just caught of guard by the combination of those two

words.

Um, so my, my next question is, is around housing, um, and it kind of builds on previous questions about existing property, which, you know, we've been talking about the Cherry Street lot and, and the Central Square parking lot, uh, for, for years, possibly even decades, uh, without any real progress.

And, and what we're looking at now with an economic downturn is, is the very real possibility that property values may decline, uh, in, in that previous interest in, in commercial development, uh, may not come to fruition, uh, given the financial, um, climate that we're looking at.

So that could create some opportunities for the city, um, to purchase more land, um, although we haven't done a good job developing the land we already own, uh, but it would be a good idea to own more land so that we can potentially build more affordable housing there.

So are we planning to do that? And is there anything in the budget to, um, to, to execute on that?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through, through, Madam Chair. Um, yes is probably the shortest

answer to that. We absolutely always are looking for opportunities in the market, and I would say that has partly been the reason why we have not focused so much on development of city-owned parking lots because they are serving an important purpose in supporting the business district, uh, right now.

And, um, our resources are well spe--I mean, we have had opportunities to procure land in the market even though it's gotten harder and harder each year.

But as you say that it is possible that with the economy in this influx, in the, uh, short term or medium term, that there may be additional opportunities that we absolutely are attuned to and watching out for.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Ms. Farooq. Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair, um, through you. I heard you earlier describe, um, all or most of the new, um, positions being added were around managing the Inclusionary Housing inventory.

And I, I was curious about that because, you know, as, as we do, um, constituent support and, and help people navigate some of the, some of the affordable housing

options available to them, we often run into these weird boundaries between, you know, there's the Housing Authority and you have to be on their list, but then there's seclusionary zoning and that's separately managed.

And it, it just strikes me as an opportunity maybe to outsource some of that function of, uh, managing inclusion in our units to the Housing Authority, which is already set up, uh, to manage extensive, uh, affordable housing inventory.

Is, is there any consideration to, to maybe reorganizing some of this activity that way?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through, through you, uh, Madam Chair. Um, let's say we haven't explored that specific issue, but I would say we have talked about whether it makes sense to outsource the function in a, in a more general way.

Um, and have generally state, uh, as a city we've, we've talked to, um, city manager and previous city managers and have determined that it--we would rather keep--the determination has been that it would be better to keep the process within the city to ensure that it is meeting

the standards that, um, and the aspirations of the council and, and the city's goals in terms of how they, how things are being tenanted.

Coz even though other organizations might have capacity to do the same kind of process, their uh, thresholds and guidelines are often different coz uh, they're relying, uh, oftentimes on different funding sources.

So, um, that has been the discussion to date, it doesn't mean that it cannot be something different, coz clearly it is a, it is a ever-growing task, um, and we do sometimes feel like we are running a mini-Housing Authority at, uh, Community Development.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Farooq. Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, on, on sustainability, as, as you know, I've done a lot of work with, uh, CDDD over, over many years on, on climate change and sustainability issues. And it's, it's absolutely tremendous what we are able to do in the city.

Um, and yet at the same time as, as my colleague, uh, earlier pointed out, we are falling far short of our goals.

And I do get concerned when I hear you say that, you know, we can't force, um, private sector developers to go in Net Zero. We, we absolutely can and we have to start doing that.

Um, we have a proposal to ban, uh, combustion of natural gas. Um, we have, we're waiting for, uh, proposals on, uh, reducing energy, energy consumption in our, in our buildings and increasing efficiency. And as you mentioned, uh, we are looking at potentially requiring solar in, in private development.

So I would say that there are ways that we can force the issue and we absolutely need to be doing that because, uh, the hour's late and the climate continues to get worse as we are experiencing every day, uh, including potentially even this pandemic.

So, um, I definitely encourage the work they're doing and, and would encourage you, uh, to do even more and to, um, be more forceful about it because it is that important that we get this right and, and we can't, we can no longer afford, um, to accept excuses from the private sector that they can't do it.

They, the technology exists, uh, the economics are

favorable and, and it's high time that we move forward, uh, on these initiatives much more aggressively. Uh, thank you, Madam Chair. I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you councillor. We moved now to Mayor Siddiqui. Mayor Siddiqui, you have the floor.

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be brief. Uh, I think most of my questions have been, uh, covered.

I, I think on the, the touching on the piece around city owned property, I think, you know, there's been questions around the role of universities and certainly universities very recently, you know, we ha--we were given that triple decker by MIT, um, and of course the, there was the Cherry Street lot as well.

So, you know, it's, it's not a, I think the, the, the plans for that aren't reflected in this year's budget. But I think as we heard at that round table on February, really thinking about, um, in the next, you know, year, um, few years, a plan around some of the, uh, those properties.

I think it's--I'm really happy to see all the work that is coming online, um, and all the housing, but as we

know, you know, it is about creating as many homes as possible given the, the list that we have.

Uh, and so I would love to, you know, continue working on that with the, the city manager, uh, and your team at Community Development to, to make sure we're not forgetting about them.

You know, the, the universities that have, um, specifically MIT who are over the last years have, have donated, uh, property and, you know, we, we wanna be able to show, "Hey, here's what we're doing with it, uh, eventually." So that's all I have. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Mayor. Uh, I do have, uh, a question. Before I ask my question, I wanna go back through the Finance Committee, is there any follow up questions? Councillor, do--you had a question you wanted to ask, Councillor Carlone.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** The Community Development.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** The community--I thought you had another question of Community Development.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Yes.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Please ask your



question.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank, thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate you remembering that. Um, let me just find it. This might just be a clarification in, in the, uh, budget, but under the Net Zero Action Plan, it's set a comprehensive five-year review of the Action plan would take place in FY '20, which is now.

Um, when--I, I realize COVID has extended that. When would you hope that we get that presentation of accomplishments and--or fine goals?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through, through you, Madam Chair. Um, on the five-year review of the Net Zero Action plan, um, this was something that, uh, we actually had hired a consultant in January with the goal of launching the project in, uh, in--early in the year.

Um, and we did anticipate just given, um, how other projects had worked out that it would extend into FY '21, um, once it became real.

Um, and then, um, as we were starting out, uh, we were talking to the manager about, uh, putting together a, an advisory committee. Um, we had discussions at council about, um, fossil fuel free development as Councillor, um,

Zondervan just mentioned.

And so, um, we, we conceptualized the scope to think about how we could build that into this, coz it is very much part of the Net Zero Action plan, um, umbrella in charge to think about how we get to fossil fuel free buildings in the future.

It's very, very much, uh, core to that, um, which pushed things out a little bit further and right as we were about to, um, to finalize the committee, uh, with the manager, uh, we went into remote work, uh, situation.

So we have--while we have been working with the consultants since we were lucky to have them on board, we've been working on some of the technical analysis. We have not in fact, uh, initiated any of the community engagement or community process, uh, committee process that would be required, um, for the project.

So we anticipate that once we are able to begin reengaging in public meetings and stakeholder meetings, we will need, um, somewhere between six to nine months to complete it. So I think it will go well into FY '21, um, unfortunately.

Um, if I could say one thing, um, sorry to, uh, to

take time to, uh, Councillor Zondervan's question, which related to this or, or comment.

Um, I did not mean to imply that we don't, uh, that we cannot tell developers what to do coz we do that all the time. Um, my concern, uh, the concern I was citing was more about existing development, which forms the bulk of our community fabric right now, and it's a lot harder to go back and tell people what to do on their parcels. Um--

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Uh, thank you for answering the question on the Net Zero Action plan. My other question relates to new housing production.

Do we plan for units for unhoused families? And if so, how many are projected or have we built or renovated in the last few cycles?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, so this is one of the, um, the most challenging categories because it, um, can't actually be addressed through say the Inclusionary Zoning program, which the Ordinance, um, creates the bracket, uh, the income bracket as, as 50 to 80% of the area median income.

So it isn't able to serve, um, folks who are moving out of homelessness, uh, except in very rare instances

where somebody might have a section eight voucher and be able to access those units.

So, uh, for families moving out of homelessness, we are really relying on things that are, um, the buildings that are built by, um, the affordable housing builders with trust financing.

Uh, and it's a very difficult, um, financial model coz it isn't just about having, um, the building be built or the unit be built coz it also needs, uh, consistent operational support for those families, and that's not something--

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Yes, I realize that, but are we doing any?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** So, um, we do think that there, um, that that is, uh, a, that's a real possibility in the Finch building, which is, um, Concord Highlands, um, because there are, um, roughly 40% of the units are targeting households, very low-income households under 30% of AMI.

Um, so it could in fact in, include some folks who are moving out of, um, homelessness or at the very minimum stabilizing families who are at risk of homelessness.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** I mean, clearly we're all worried about anybody who's unhoused, but it seems to me a priority has to be given to unhoused families, um, for--especially with small children.

And we all know what that means as far as future livability and, and mental health and physical health if they're not in housing. I think this has to be a major priority.

I know of at least three other councillors who I've talked to about this. And if we need to be more forceful in presenting that, we will. And in a, let's say in a Finch size project, it could very well be more of a townhouse attached to it that has special services, but most homeless people wanna be near where action is and not isolated. Um, so I think that has to be part of our housing plan. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm com, done.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Carlone yields of floor. Is there any other member of the Finance Committee that would like to speak at this time on this item?

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Chair Simmons?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes. Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. Um, I had sent in two, uh, hopefully relatively quick, uh, budget questions, uh, in this department and it has to do with, uh, something Councillor McGovern had also, um, asked about and, and then I think yielded to me.

And that has to do with the expansion of the Electric Vehicle Charging Network. Um, and, and the questions are, it was supposed to be happening I think in, in this year's budget, that was in October, 2019. There was supposed to be a couple of, um, stations, so this was pre-COVID, those didn't get installed. I think they're now scheduled perhaps for later this month or next year.

And I'm curious is the timeline of those, uh, across the city and how that affects our budget planning. Is this something that we end up making money on or is it something that we spend and then, uh, do not end up, uh, making money?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Farooq.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Through, through, you, Madam Chair. Um, we do not make money on the, uh, electric vehicle charging stations. We, um, are putting out this infrastructure as a way to facilitate people who don't

have driveways or other ways to charge to be able to, um, to, to make the electric vehicles, um, a real option for, for folks in an affordable way.

So the, uh, city only charges the cost of electricity and the cost, um, that the, um, entity that runs the charging station charges us, so it's at cost.

Um, and we have been actually lucky to be working, um, in, in FY '19 with my--FY '19 and '20 funds. So these are, um, capital funds so they don't go away at the end of the fiscal year and they're able to be consolidated over years and, and spent, uh, collectively.

So, um, you are right that we are, uh, we were a little slower than we anticipated, uh, than, than we had originally thought in, um, the FY '20 budget.

Um, but part of that was, uh, that in FY '19, we were able to leverage a, uh, funding opportunity with Eversource. Um, so we were able to install additional stations, uh, where Eversource, uh, paid for part of the work, like getting the, uh, the electricity to the site, which in some cases is a really big part of the, the cost. So that ended up being, uh, a very, um, uh, a very valuable partnership for us.

Um, so the, um, so the, in terms of, um, where, where we are--also why we are behind and what are, what is the next step, so I'll say that, uh, some of the challenges in timing have been, uh, due to permitting, partly with our own, um, through our own system, but partly also through, uh, DEP for instance, where we've wanted to install, uh, at Delhi Park, and, um, we needed DEP permitting because of the proximity to the CAT landfill, um, and then also working with the utility and, and service calls with them.

So it's, this does not mean that these, uh, are not going to happen. They're very much part of the, um, part of the scope of work that we have, um, going forward. But I will say that, um, the new mobility blueprint, um, is something that we've been working on that, uh, in addition to thinking about things like, you know, other mobility, um, future mobility strategies is looking at EVSE and one of the things, one of the items is, um, designing an, uh, EV charging pilot, uh, in the, in the right of way.

So, so far our focus had been in parking lots, but, uh, now looking at--and I think this is something that the council had expressed a lot of interest in, um, in, in previous years of how to utilize the actual right of way,



um, and focusing on residential parking permit spots.

So, um, this pilot, uh, we, we will be utilizing both FY '20 and FY '21 funds, um, to put forward.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes. Thank you. That e, that explains it. I, I myself own one of these cars and, and looking forward to it. My--given the reasons for those delays, it would--like many of our questions I think would be really helpful to have that communicated.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** When you go to the city website, at one point I looked and it was, you know, October, 2019, this'll be in, and then it just got changed to maybe January, 2020 and now maybe May, 2020.

would just be really helpful to say, we had to apply for a permit from DEP, that's why it's delayed. We're still coming forward to it, just so much of what we do. I think communication can mean you don't have to answer questions like this coming from me, which as valuable as, as, as this question is, it may not have, um, required this amount of time.

My other question is also related to mobility, which is, do we have a sense of, and I apologize if I, I didn't

see this in the budget book, what the total cost of Bluebikes to the city and all funds donated by supporters is.

I'm curious about the overall economics of it and if there, if that's the most efficient way we can spend our dollars instead of maybe buying bikes for, you know, every student who graduates fifth grade in, in Cambridge or something like that. I'm just curious about the economics of the model of Bluebikes fall in.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ:** Um, sure. So, uh, the, through you, Madam Chair, the Bluebikes model, uh, changed, uh, recently as we went from oh--one operator to the other.

And in the last time we went out, um, with an RFP, well, actually, let me step back. So the Bluebikes system is owned, uh, by the participating municipalities, so Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, uh, um, Everett and Brookline.

So we as communities actually own the system. Um, and so we put out an RFP together working with M, MAPC, um, to get a new operator, um, a year and a half ago.

And so Motivate, which is now, uh, been acquired by Lyft, was the selected operator at the time. And, uh, one of the things that was, um, really, um, I think of, of an astounding benefit to the communities is that the funding for Bluebikes is largely now covered through a sponsorship model that Mo, Motivate uses.

So it's a very generous \$18 million sponsorship by Blue Cross Blue Shield, which is why it's now called Bluebikes, whereas previously it used to be called hubway.

Um, so this has, uh, not just taken care of the system itself, but also enables, uh, major expansion, uh, over the last two years.

So Cambridge now has 63 of the 325 stations, and we expect to add another eight to 10 this year. Um, the sa--we do have a small amount of funds in our budget, um, related to, um, related to Bluebikes.

And these have to do, uh, I wanna say it's approximately \$55,000, which supports some of the, um, uh, some of the maintenance that's not covered by the contract.

And then the rest of it is, um, is funding that, um, approximately \$2,000, uh, I'm sorry, approximately \$17,000 that goes towards, uh, employee memberships and also, uh,

subsidized memberships for Cambridge Range and Latin students.

Um, in terms of--I don't actually--I can't pull up the actual donor numbers, but, uh, mostly payments come from, uh, special permit, uh, mitigation, um, for development projects, and those are, um, those funds really are mostly focused on installation.

So new stations in, um, proximate to those particular buildings, and their, um, they support the parking transportation demand management, um, ordinance requirements for buildings. So there, there are TDM commitments.

Um, I will say that, um, I don't wanna spend too much time on this, but, uh, this is such a, this is one of the most successful systems in the country.

And, um, also like eight of the--if you look at the top 10, um, systems, uh, in the Bluebike network, eight of them are in Cambridge.

Uh, you had asked in your question about metrics, and I'll say that we do have a lot of metrics, um, because Bluebikes system does a really great job of collecting data and while they don't share with us, um, individual

personalized data, they do share with us aggregated data, and that includes things like number of trips, number of members, number of unique riders, uh, number of stations, station usage, and trips that start and end in Cambridge.

So that data exists. We're happy to share the specifics on that, if that's, um, of interest.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. I'm--yes, I'm thrilled the program is successful and look forward to the continued expansion of it and you said that and particularly glad about the CRS students, and it would be great to understand how effective that is. Thank you. Uh, Chair Simmons, I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Nolan yields the floor. Three questions. I'm not gonna ask you to really answer them because the break time has come, and I want to allow people to get up and walk and do whatever they need to do.

So, I was--on the minority and women business directory. First thing is outdated, uh, a number of the businesses because in, in part because of COVID-19 are now closed.

Uh, so what I'm looking to know is, how much money are we spending in supporting minority in, in women owned businesses? Uh, who--we have this list, and the city council has made a commitment to it, um, years ago, over a decade ago. But, uh, I don't see the promotion of minority and women owned businesses at all.

Uh, so I'm looking at what kinds of funds are being allocated to that. I wanna know when the, um, the, the list will be updated.

And I'm interested in knowing through the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund and the other program, how many minority businesses in particular, the minority and women owned businesses, actually were able to receive funds.

Because what I hear anecdotally is, I've applied, I didn't hear, I applied, I didn't get anything. And so, as we know that minority businesses in particular, black owned especially, are under siege from so many different areas, and then here it is in, in, in, in, um, in their livelihood, which is a, a business that they own, that they started from scratch, not being able to kind of continue in our city is something that we have to work harder on.

And I just can't follow the dollars, so I--it makes me

believe it's just, it's a, it's a sideline, it's not a priority, and it has to be a priority.

So, I--again, I'm not gonna ask for--I, I really want, and maybe we'll do it in a committee hearing, I want to know in writing what we are doing.

So the first is easy, update the list. The second would be, the council needs to know how, how deep down did those grants go, particularly as it impacts women and people of color, and how, how are we making this list useful?

And the last thing I'll say, years, almost 20 years ago, I initiated a thing called Buy Cambridge, of which I believe Cambridge Local First came from, which was really initiative to get small businesses in front of the large, um, the large buyers.

I don't think we've done it since. And so I just don't see how we are making sure that even the city takes and uses the directory in its own purchasing. Again, I'm gonna yield the floor. I wanna hear more about that. I will find another forum in, in which to do it.

I would like to accept a motion to--a motion by Councillor Carlone to move the Community Development budget

on with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Chair.

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** Mr. Clerk.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Clerk, you know who you are.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Absent

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

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** The Finance Committee will recess for one hour. We will resume at 1:15.

All right. A quorum, uh, no. I take that back. The time of the recess having expired, I will have the clerk call the roll to guarantee we have a quorum after which we will resume the meeting, and the next department will be Historical Commission. But please, Mr. Clerk, will you call



the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Absent

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Present

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Present

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Present

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present

**Present-7, Absent-2.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clark.

We are now going to pull the Historical Commission Department. This is pulled by Vice Mal, Mayor Mallon. Is she present? Vice Mayor?

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** She's not.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Is there anyone else that would like to be heard with the Historical Commission? Coz what I may do is, and I apologize to you, go o, go to the Peace Commission and come back because, uh, Vice Mayor Ma, Mallon is not present.

So, um, we are gonna have the Historical Commission stand down. We are gonna call on the Peace Commission and the Police Review & Advisory Board. This was pulled by Councillor Zondervan.

I'll give, give Mr. Corr just a moment, and when you're ready, you may--do you need a few more minutes, Mr. Corr?

**DRIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** Alright. No, I think I'm ready for--Madam Mayor--Madam Chair, thank you so much.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** You're very welcome. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you so much, Madam Chair, and through you, my thanks to, uh, Mr. Corr for his important work. And I, I don't need to say too much.

I think we all understand that we are dealing with a lot of, um, things and uncertainty and, and anger and, um, disappointment at what's happening in Minneapolis and all across the country. And it makes the work that, that you're doing even that much more important.

So, if you could, uh, help us understand a little bit better how your work can help us, um, mend, mend some of

these, uh, wounds that we're seeing and what resources you have and what resources you need in order to be able to do that work.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you for that question, councillor. So, Mr. Corr, if you could answer that question in the context of the budget.

**DRIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** All right. Thank you, Madam Chair, and through you, Madam Chair to Councillor Zondervan.

Uh, first of all, I do appreciate the opportunity to speak about this work in this time. Uh, without lengthening the proceedings, I will say that it is an unprecedented time and looking at the work of peace and social justice in a time of pandemic and increasing societal tension due to longstanding historical and current day racism, sexism, homophobia, other oppression, but especially with the focus on racism right now, it's, it's an honor and privilege to be able to do this work.

In terms of the work of the Peace Commission around these issues, as you know, it's a very small department, um, it's basically one full-time equivalent pretty much in the budget, and depend largely on the ability to network,

to collaborate, to work with the volunteer members of the Peace Commission and others in the community to help create the conditions that ultimately lead to a more socially just and equitable city, and to support resiliency among the com--members of the community.

So most of the resources are really not financial. Most of the resources are social capital, the connections, uh, being able to communicate effectively.

When we think about the vigil that we did last night, uh, called by the mayor, a lot of the work to get the word out was done very quickly through the internet, through word of mouth, through people sharing. Um, everyone from my friends and neighbors to Congresswoman Katherine Clark shared the vigil. And in basically a period of 24 hours, I believe thousands of people were able to participate in that.

So it's really, again, it's a very unusual time, and I think that the most important thing I wanna emphasize is that it, it really isn't in this sense about the money, which is a good thing. Uh, the money is necessary, the money allows us to have events like the Martin Luther King Day commemoration, um, both to give the space to take care

of any printing, to provide food so we can have a community lunch, which, um, again, for me is one of the most important things that happens in the city, because it's one of the times where I see people from all parts of Cambridge come together.

So this is kind of a long-winded beginning to an--of the answer, but I say that to set the context because ultimately how the Peace Commission and, and I, myself, address these deeper issues is first by creating the conditions for connection, the conditions for people to have relationships with each other.

Things like Meet Your Neighbor Day. Again, a very low-cost proposition because it's really a call inviting people in the community to take action, to get to know their neighbors in a way that works for them.

And so these are the kinds of things that, uh, the Peace Commission is able to do, again, using a relatively small budget, but leveraging that money and also leveraging the, the social resources of the city, the members of the Peace Commission, and really the--all the members of our community.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Corr.

Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and through you. Again, my thanks to Mr. Corr. Um, I guess the, the hope or, or the implication in my question is that, you know, maybe with more resources, more could be done.

So, uh, I, I just encourage you to, to think about that and, um, to help us understand if and when you need more resources, uh, and how they could help.

Um, my second question is on the Police Review & Advisory Board. And if you could tell us a little bit about, you know, the role that that plays, um, especially in these times, um, when we're dealing with, uh, the kind of, you know, police mistrust that we're seeing, uh, across the country again.

It doesn't necessarily reflect on our local Police Department, but nonetheless, uh, it's important to, to make sure that we're building trust and that we are, uh, addressing these issues head on.

So if you could help us understand a little bit better how that works, and, and again, what resources you have and what resources you may need to, to do that work.

**DRIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** All right. Through you, Madam Chair. Um, thank you, Councillor Zondervan for that question.

Again, in terms of the budget, as, as you'll note from the budget book, the, the budget is not very sizable because again, the, the work of the Police Review & Advisory Board is largely rooted in, um, the day-to-day work, which is in receiving processing complaints, working with the professional standards unit of the Cambridge Police Department, the Internal Affairs Division, to, um, do the investigation on behalf of the board.

Uh, working with them through that investigation in my capacity as executive secretary, and then presenting those complaints and investigations to the board in executive session under state law, um, aspect of the open meeting law, and that work happens all the time.

Um, I--we are blessed, I believe in Cambridge because of our work as a community, uh, the training that goes on in our Police Department, and a group of residents and people who come into our city who are certainly not shy, but we are really in a position where we do not receive that many complaints a year.

Uh, the last two years we received 10 complaints, which I think is pretty amazing. And the numbers have gone down in my time doing this work since 2010, I believe, in part because of the work of the Police Department on issues like legitimacy, procedural justice, but also the work of the Police Review & Advisory Board when they make recommendations to the Police Department about different ways to handle certain situations.

For example, the board a number of years ago, made a recommendation around a warm handoff in case of any situation where a detective was going to be out for any reason, so that it would ensure that the people who--in our community who had gone to the police, who had a problem or a concern, were having those addressed. The Police Department was very amenable to that.

The other piece of the work, I would say is, um, and as you mentioned, it's not just Cambridge, there's national level work, which I've been personally involved in, and Cambridge is part of which, in the context of what you've asked, in the context of the current moment, I would say really looking at the role of trauma is absolutely key.

Um, before the Police Department even started its



trauma informed approach to policing work, I was one of the people who was in conversation with the department about looking at the role of trauma.

I certainly don't wanna take any credit for it, but simply to say that it was a need that both I recognized in my role and the Police Department and its leadership recognized in theirs.

Um, I was part of the initial trauma-informed policing effort where they did sort of a Train the Trainer program in order to develop it and build it out.

I've subsequently attended last year to see how it's developed, and it's a very important program. It's actually unique in the nation. Other departments are doing aspects of it, but we have--the only department that I'm aware of, and I've talked to people all across the country, which is combining, looking at the trauma that police and first responders undergo in their work, the personal trauma, the trauma from simply responding to events, the trauma of not knowing the kind of situation you're walking into, but also looking at the trauma that victims and more important, the community members in general may have.

Looking at historical trauma, looking at personal and

interpersonal trauma, looking at trauma related to childhood abuse, and looking at the trauma that we see unfortunately on our TV screens far too often.

And so our department has really taken the lead in doing this work. And it has been work that the Police Review & Advisory Board has been paying attention to, as I said, I've been part of, and in fact, I have been, um, part of leading efforts to promote this work and share it with departments around the country.

Within civilian oversight, I have helped to promote the idea of looking at trauma as it affects police, but also as it affects communities.

And the board has been very interested in helping to, excuse me, raise awareness around that issue in our community.

So again, as we think about this current moment, um, and I hope this is germane to your question, I would ask that we're all looking at how this very unusual traumatic event will have an impact on all of us, community members and spec--as well as law enforcement and first responders.

Because normally when there's a traumatic event, something happens, it ends, you move on, but then there are

repercussions, there are different things that come up for people. We are in the midst of this slow role, never ending, it seems traumatic event.

And so when we look at what's happening around the country, I wouldn't say it's predictable, but it's very understandable. And as we work to maintain our community safety and our community wellness, it's important that we pay attention to that.

Um, in fact, there was a, uh, rally that happened, or a standout that happened on Sunday, and there were about 250 people completely peaceful, lined up in Porter Square. The--I went there just to check it out, um, not because there was a complaint or a problem, but just to observe and see what was happening.

The people who were protesting were very peaceful, very passionate, very powerful. The Police Department, most of them were there on bicycles, sending the right message that they were not there to intervene, to cause problems, to be violent, but simply to protect people.

And everything I saw there was--there wasn't even really interaction. It was just really, there were police there making sure there was no issue with traffic, and

there were people who were exercising their free speech rights and making very powerful statement.

Hundreds of cars drove by and honked and waved, and, and that's the kind of thing that, um, in terms of both the Peace Commission and the Police Review & Advisory Board, I'm, I'm happy to see. And I feel like that's exactly what we need to have in our community at this time.

But we have to be very conscious of how this evolves because unfortunately, we will be in this very stressful situation for at least the foreseeable future.

And, um, in my role, I work to encourage everyone to take care of themselves and take care of each other. And part of how we do that is being aware of the traumatic impacts of the current moment, but then also the past trauma that almost all of us have experienced in some way, whether it's personal, historical, community, um, whatever our race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, all of us have those antecedents, and that's part of the ground upon which we walk. So we have to be very conscious of that.

And, and ultimately with our Police Department, when the powers that they're given and the responsibilities they have and the potential positive or negative impact, it's

that much more important that we're very conscious of what they're doing how they're behaving, how they're responding. And, um, and again, I, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I Yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan yields the floor. Before we move on to the next individual who would like to speak to the Peace/PRAB, I wanna acknowledge that the Vice Mayor is with us. I also wanna acknowledge that Councillor Toomey is with us.

And the other thing I wanted to acknowledge that, uh, Mr. Corr you made me think of when you, uh, started talking about the vigil we had last night, it, it reminded me of something that I think is appropriate to say, the work that we do in this, uh, city, particularly in this room today.

And last night, I just want to acknowledge our custodial staff. What they did was--someone literally said to me, "Wow, the custodial surf--staff was on point last night." And then I saw them come in this afternoon--this morning, making sure that this room was appropriate for us,

and then, you know, as we broke for lunch.

And I, although I'm bringing it up now, is cause I meant to say it this morning, and I said, I'm gonna forget to say it tonight, so I'm gonna take the liberty as a chair just to voice my gratitude to the custodial staff that makes it so that we can do the work that we do, acknowledging that the work that they do is not easy work.

Um, is any other colleague want to speak to--coz the only person that pulled this pulled, um, the Peace/PRAB was Councillor Zondervan. Is there another member that would like to speak?

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes. Madam Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. And I apologize for being late. Um, but I had a couple of questions for Mr. Corr. Um, thank you for being here, Brian.

Um, who is the appointing body for new members, and, um, when was the last time there was a new member of the Police Review & Advisory Board? I don't think that's-- there's been a new member in my time.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** And can you answer

that, Mr. Corr in the, in the context of the budget.

**DIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** Through you, Madam Chair, to the Vice Mayor. Um, so the appointing authority for the Police Review & Advisory Board, um, like most boards and commissions is the city manager. Um, I could look it up, I'd have to get--my computer logged me out.

But, um, the most recent member is actually the current chair, um, Ted Robitaille, and he replaced Laurance Kimbrough, when Laurance Kimbrough left, um, when he became a member of the School Committee.

Because according to the Ordinance, it, it was determined that, uh, being a School Committee was a form of special city employee that disallowed his continuation on the Police Review & Advisory Board.

So Ted--so I guess we can kind of go from there. So it was about three years ago, I guess Ted Robitaille joined the board, and the board itself has five-year terms, so I believe it's one of the longest, if not the longest terms at the city.

And we have two board members who are in their second term, and we have, uh, two board members who are in their first term. There's actually a two-term limit for this

board. And we have one board member who is, um, currently in holdover status, but, um, just due to everything that's gone on, I--Mayor--I have not done the work I need to do to have that person reappointed. But we have five members.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Mallon--Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. And, um, that's helpful. I had another question because I think this is the first time, um, I'm hearing, um, of the number of incidents that you guys are reviewing. And it sounded like you said 10 in the past two years, is that right?

**DRIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** Um, 10 in each of the past two years.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** I see. Okay. And then how does that information get disseminated to the public? Is it part of the Comcast monthly report, or is it just part of your meeting agenda notes?

**DRIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** Um, at this point it is part of the meeting agenda notes. In the past, there was a chart that was in the city budget that, um, it was, it was unusual because it was by calendar year, it didn't match the fiscal year, and it would simply, it was simply a



number, a number of complaints that had been received by the Police Department, and then separately, the number of complaints that had been received by the Police Review & Advisory Board over a previous number of years.

At this point, we now have a public docket which is available on request, which lists the, um, it, it lists the information that we can make available publicly, the number of the complaint, which is our internal coding system, the nature of the complaint, um, the date it was filed, if it's open or closed, and if closed, the date it was closed, and then finally the, um, determination of the complaint.

So under state law, there's very little information that we are able to reveal, it's always been my understanding. So that, and that's made publicly available upon request.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. And I just have one more question. Um, there is, there was a, um, a meeting today of some of our legislators of color who've put out a 10-point plan. And it reminded me to ask this question because one of the 10-point plan states, um, to create a Civil Review Board Commission with subpoena power

to investigation alleg--investigate allegations of law enforcement wrongdoing.

Does the Police Review & Advisory Board in Cambridge have subpoena power already?

**DIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** Through you, Madam Chair, to the Vice Mayor. Uh, the Police Review & Advisory Board does have subpoena power. It would be exercised through the City Solicitor's office.

Um, in my time at the city, um, including the two years before I was serving as executive secretary, um, it has not been used or needed.

And I'll, I'll say parenthetically, that, um, again, for my national work, this is one of the issues that comes up most often around issues of police accountability and, uh, police misconduct and oversight.

And I would say in general, um, it's something that it's a good thing to have. When people ask me if they can get subpoena power, should they have it, I'd say, "Yes, you should."

The reality is most people, when they think about subpoena power, they imagine a situation where you'll bring in the officer, you'll compel the officer to tell the truth

under the pains and penalties of perjury, and then you'll find out and they'll be on the record.

The reality is, because of Fifth Amendment Rights and a special thing called Garrity Rights, which is a Supreme Court decision, basically you cannot force an officer to testify about what she or he has done in a potential misconduct case.

But where it could come in handy is if you need to subpoena witnesses, you need to subpoena some other sort of information.

So let's say that there's a, a potential videotape from a private business and they were not willing to give it to you. In theory, one could issue a subpoena through the City Solicitor's office to get that for the purposes of investigation.

Again, in my time, it's never come up. We have a very cooperative relationship with the Police Department in terms of information sharing. Um, our current and past commissioners have always said, if there's anything that I or the board needs to see or wants to see, it will be made available.

So it has, it has never been necessary in my time.

But, but yes, to answer your question, um, the board does have subpoena power.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, thank you for that. That's very helpful as we think about, um, moving forward with some of these, you know, issues and items that have come forward over the last week, um, as we, you know, are seeing across the country some of these reforms and ideas come to the floor to know that we already have subpoena power and that's something that you've been working on.

Um, I yield the floor at this time, but thank you Mr. Corr very much for indulging my questions.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor yields the floor. Is there any other member that wants to speak on or to the Police Review & Advisory Board/Peace commission? Hearing none.

Just one question to you, Mr. Corr. Actually, Mr.--one question to you, Mr. City Manager. Um, Mr. Corr, as is with many of the, the boards and--not boards and commission, yeah, commissions, um, are sort of guilty of their own success.

What do I mean by that? Mr. Corr's position has been a single man position--no, not always because under the former director, I believe that they--you had a shared staff person. Yeah. Okay.

Um, and, and so I would, I would respectfully ask Mr. City Manager that you consider even at a minimum shared support staff, a secretarial pool or something to that effect. And the reason why I say that, and, and I, you know, if you get someone that is extraordinarily good, good you could--maybe you'll do it one and one and a half person.

It makes it as someone who has been the head of a board or commission, um, I know that having no secretarial or administrative support makes your job very difficult. Cause you are now chief cook and bottle washer.

And so what you might do in terms of--you have to make your own appointments, write your own letters, follow up on those letters, read your own email, and that's a lot to do.

Now, again, I, I say people like Mr. Corr in particular and others, they're victims of their own success. Because, because they do it, we never think to give them any support.

Uh, and, and Mr. City Manager, I know that you get tired of hearing it, but I don't wanna disappoint you and not ask. So, um, the Civic Unity Committee, which is a brand new, uh, uh, is, is a, not a brand-new commission, but it's a commission that's being brought back.

Please don't tell me that he's going--Mr. Corr is gonna be heading the Civic Unity Committee. But what I'm, I'm saying is that even that committee/commission of volunteers are doing everything LGBT Commission, Civic Unity Committee, Mr. Corr, and, and the Peace is doing double duties, he actually has two full-time jobs.

And under because of--we have an extraordinary Police Department being head by a ex--outstanding number of police commissioners who have made our Police Department heads and shoulders above many. Um, so the numbers are downs of the work it may be not as great.

The long and the short of it is, um, Mr. City Manager, I would love you--like you to critically think about what it would take for us to be able to, to give support staff to those commissions that don't have any because they're the thumb and they're the finger in the dam. They're the ones that hold back a lot of--we would see a lot more if it

weren't for the work that they do.

And I don't remember--now as I've misread it coz I try to, I try to read critically, but maybe I overlooked it and there's a, a position in that holding list of positions that I did not see.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. It is an excellent point. It's something that I've talked to you about and other departments about the fact how could we assist.

I know Brian, I believe the human rights position is shared with Brian. Uh, so Brian can briefly talk about that. I know we've worked on some additional help for the GLBT Committee, but it's certainly a, a discussion that we'll be happy to look at to see these groups do great work. And if we can give them a little extra help, I'm all in and we'll figure it out.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you Mr. City Manager. Mr. Corr, were you going say something? You have the floor.

**DRIRECTOR BRIAN CORR:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Uh, just to, to add on to what the manager said, um, he's absolutely right that there's a shared position between the

Human Rights Commission and the Immigrants Rights Commission and the Police Review & Advisory Board and the Peace Commission.

Um, specifically the employee has, uh, experience also in a previous job doing work in civilian oversight in Washington, D.C., so she manages, um, a lot of the actual case work, um, as you were talking about things like drafting letters and correspondence, um, managing the case files. She's amazing at that and also is very good with complainants.

So, um, that has been a great boon to me, and then also she does amazing work on helping with events and that sort of thing, uh, from the logistics in the moment to helping with the planning.

And I will just say that one of the things that I've seen evolve in my time here at the city is that, um, of course we all could have more resources, we all could do more work, um, I certainly would love to have a staff of thousands doing work all over the country. But in terms of the reality, it's been great to see over time how the city has worked to help provide shared and pooled support.

So, um, everything from making sure that when we're



doing our office supply ordering, we're doing it in a shared way so it's coordinated, two positions like the, um, shared, uh, program and administrative person that, um, I have the privilege of working with.

So, you know, again, it's, I, I definitely deeply appreciate the question and I also appreciate the support of the city manager and the previous city managers and finding ways to increase our ability to, to get work done and to provide shared staffing where possible so that, um, we are more able to meet the mission while still being fiscally responsible, um, and being wise stewards of the taxpayers money, but doing what we've been asked to do by the council, by the city manager, and by our community.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Corr. Mayor, Mayor Siddiqui, you have the floor.

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be brief. I, I wanted to just say that I think as we look to the future, um, there's so many questions that we've, we've received this--the last, this week, um, some which were answered last night.

But I think moving forward, again, I've talked to the vice mayor about this and I know other counselors are

interested, but--and I think we will have to involve you Brian, in both your roles in, in some capacity to think about a community form of some sort, um, in a series so that we can, you know, think about, you know, the--and make sure that people are--know about the PRAB.

Um, and, uh, you know, so we are highlighting also what's available, um, and, and, you know, more information about the policies that the, the city has because they're very, right now, um, there's a lot of questions that I think we all have around that.

So just stay tuned. I wanted to just, uh, put that in your ear, but I think that there's a lot more work that is gonna be coming up, but I think it's really important work.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mayor, are you, are you yielding the floor?

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** That's it. Thank you. That's it.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Okay. Mayor, the mayor yields the floor. Is there any other member that wants to speak to the Peace PRAB Department? Hearing none.

On a Motion by Councillor Toomey to move forward the Peace and PRAB budget with a favorable recommendation. Mr.

Clerk, would you please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Now--we'll now go back to the Historical Commission. The Historical Commission was pulled by Vice Mayor Mallon. Vice Mayor Mallon, you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Mayor, through you, um, to the city manager and to Mr. Sullivan. I apologize for having been late and pulled your, um, and I wasn't here for when you were, um, previously called in. So many, many apologies.

I do just have a couple of quick questions about the

Historical Commission that I wanted to quickly ask. The first one is, um, I'm curious during fiscal year '21, what the Historical Commission will be doing to chronicle the COVID-19 public health crisis.

So much like the Spanish flu in 1918, people will be studying this time, they'll be looking for photographs, they'll be looking for artwork, they'll be looking for poetry, they'll be looking for, uh, essays and stories from, uh, residents.

And I'm just wondering in, in the context of the budget, how is the Historical Commission thinking about allocating time and resources and, um, and really chronicling what we are living through right now and how we will be moving forward so that a hundred years from now, much like we're studying the Spanish flu of 1918, um, people can study this crisis?

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Well, the, uh, 1918 pandemic is, um, uh, a really instructive precedent, uh, because it was largely forgotten quite quickly after, uh, after the pandemic passed.

Uh, Cambridge was shut down for only, um, between two and three months in the fall of 1918, there were an excess

of 1000 deaths reported a year later, uh, for the year 1918, um, the, the flu had actually struck much earlier in the year, but had--most of its effect in the fall.

So the total casualties that could be attributed, um, to the flu and related causes was a thousand, uh, which compr--contrasts, uh, frighteningly with the, uh, uh, experience of Cambridge today.

Uh, but after that, uh, the record is basically silent. Um, one of our major sources is the Cambridge Chronicle, which can be reached online and, uh, and read, uh, and searched, um, electronically. Uh, the pandemic, the influenza really, uh, was forgotten about within a very short time, uh, people seem to move on into the roaring twenties.

So we are, uh, collecting all of those things that you mentioned. Um, we've working with the Cambridge Historical Society, which started, uh, very early in February to, uh, collect people's, um, oral histories and reminiscences.

Um, and then other--all the city departments that have been generating documents, um, uh, and, uh, work products. Uh, the, the fire chief was here the other day for his budget hearing overheard, uh, some of the councillors

discussing the need to, to collect this information and on his own accord, uh, immediately sent us, uh, some documents that his department had produced.

Uh, working through the city manager's office, I think we can extend a similar effort to other city departments that have been on the front lines of this, of this, uh, episode.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon. We can't hear you.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank, thank you, Madam Chair, through you. And, um, Mr. Sullivan, I think one of the things I love doing most in Cambridge is going over to the Historical Commission and looking through your old photo files.

Um, it seems like anything you wanna know about, there's a photo--the photo waiting for you over there. And so I'm wondering how, if we are engaging local photographers, um, to chronicle this through the budget, um, this year, or if that's something that you, you know, the Historical Commission hadn't considered, and maybe we could.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Uh, we have nothing in

the budget for photography. Uh, photography is done by several members of the staff, including myself.

I think for something like this, we would put out a call through our social media to, uh, see if people can send us photographs.

Uh, we've had great experience in the past with getting people to share us their photo albums, their, you know, the, the, uh, random photos that they've collected, uh, that their families have collected and give them to us for copying.

We used to do that with a Polaroid copy camera, uh, and conventional film, uh, now we can do it electronically. And I think that's the way I would approach that. Uh, an excellent idea.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. I think that's an excellent suggestion. Um, and I, I look forward to seeing the fruits of that labor, um, because I think there's a lot of--I've seen a lot of beautiful photographs online, um, in people's social medias, and I think chronicling this time is going to be, um, something that,

uh, if we don't do, we will wish we had done.

So my second question, uh, shifting gears a little bit, um, Ms. Farooq from CDD was in earlier and we were discussing community engagement in the time of COVID and how, um, we have had to be very flexible and nimble and adjust to a new reality of, um, engagement and meetings, uh, it's all online.

And I know that you and I have had several conversations before, um, this crisis hit around the East Cambridge. um, Conservation District study and how those meetings got put together.

And I'm just wondering if like CDD, uh, if this Historical Commission is really thinking about how to use a more flexible digital engagement format, um, moving forward to do some of these studies to really engage, uh, a tremendous breadth of, of residents to make sure that we have participation from the many, many folks in our community that previously might not have been able to, um, participate, um, due to childcare or, or, or other scheduling issues.

Um, is the Historical Commission--what--over the past



couple of months have you guys thought about what engagement looks like in these studies might look like in, in embracing these new digital mediums, um, to engage the public?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Sullivan.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Well, we will certainly give it a try. Uh, we've been needing, um, in the East Cambridge, uh, in the East End Union. And, um, it's not a site that's set up necessarily for broadcasting, um, we could, uh, certainly move to a digital platform.

Um, I do have statutory requirements, uh, of a study committee that has to meet and, uh, in publicly advertised conventional fashion, I guess, um, that can be modified, um, during the pandemic.

Uh, we haven't received guidance about when public meetings can resume, uh, but I imagine that we would start again, uh, sometime this summer. Uh, there is still a deadline of October for the work to be completed, um, and submitted to the Historical Commission. We're not sure if that can be extended or not. I have to consult with the city solicitor about that.

Um, so we'll certainly, um, consult with Community

Development. They're much more creative, uh, than we are in that, in, uh, the digital world, and, uh, see what we can do to broaden participation.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. Well, I, I'm actually enjoying this budget hearing and all of my other city council duties right here in my bedroom.

So, um, there are certainly many, many, um, meetings that have moved successfully online and, um, are more able to, uh, be accessed by more residents.

Uh, and you, you know, CDD had some additional ideas on making sure that people who didn't have access to technology might be also able to be engaged.

But, um, yeah, I think if you reached out to Ms. Farooq to talk to her about what their team has been working on and thinking about for when they resume their own meetings this, this summer, both the more professional meetings like a planning board to the, you know, focus groups and, and outreach studies, I think, um, that would be great.

I think the, the, there are a lot of silver linings,

or I shouldn't say there's a lot, there are a, a few silver linings in this public health crisis. And one of them is that we were able to move quickly digitally online, and we could use it for engagement and we should, we should seize on this opportunity.

So thank you for being here. I look forward to, uh, seeing some of the photos that come out of the Historical Commission's gatherings of this public health crisis. Thank you. I yield the floor, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Vice Mayor. Is there any other member that wants to hear from the Historical Department? Councillor Carlone, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, my comments are one of appreciation.

Um, firstly, when people think about what's special about Cambridge, many folks focus on the historic character, uh, the buildings that we have, the neighborhoods that we have, and you're in many ways the overseer of that with your department.

And I know from experience on projects, which included landmarks or historic properties, your input very much

humanized any other addition to that.

And, uh, I thank you and your department, but I wanted to add that, uh, I visited a number of the Harvard Square meetings that dealt with, uh, the guidelines for the Conservation District.

And I thought it was, without a doubt, the best meetings, the best run meetings where you are gathering information and have--helping everybody discuss the merits of each of those thoughts, and the final report conveys that.

And, uh, I know you don't wanna have 26 more meetings on another square similar to that, but, uh, if ever that was needed, um, we would know who would do it. And thank you for that.

And that's all. I have no comments about the budget.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Through you, Madam Chair. Thank you, councillor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor Carlone. Any other questions? There's no one signed up in queue. Does anyone want to ask any questions to the Historical Commission? Hearing none.

I just have two. Um, to you, Mr. Sullivan. Um, the

African-American heritage markers is something that I believe came through the Historical Commission.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Yes.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** And your, your description is very brief, not problematic, but it makes me wanna ask the question, um, those markers are--were very--a, a much a labor of love as what--as much as, um, nice to have around the city, and there's been some talk about how they're beginning to wear.

And I just wanted to know, is there anything in the budget or your--in your--when you look forward in your, the work that the Historical Commission is doing that looks to one, updating, adding some more sites and maybe making them a little bit more interactive than they are right now?

Cause right now it's, it's sort of a walking site. It, it's, it's not supportive as far as I know, maybe I'm wrong, uh, by technology. Could you speak to that a little bit?

One, is there any money or bandwidth in your budget to update those markers? Um, and is there any money in your budget to make it a digital, uh--

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Uh, yes. In fact, uh,

we have, uh, two years' worth of CPA appropriations. Uh--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I'm sorry.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** --for exact, for exactly that purpose.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** You had something appropriation, I didn't hear it.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Uh, CPA.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Oh, CPA. Thank you.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Yes. Um, so the original African-American markers were installed about 20 years ago. Um, the, uh, manufacturing process was not, uh, was not great. Um, they looked fine at the beginning, but that many of them have deteriorated.

So we asked for and received a CPA appropriation, uh, to replace--begin to replace the existing ones and to add new ones. And we currently have, uh, a, um, enough to replace 10 and to install 10 new ones.

Uh, so we're working on, uh, select with a committee, uh, we're working on selecting candidates for new markers and based on condition that existing markers, uh, we'll begin replacing them.

Uh, I had hoped to begin doing that this summer, but

it probably won't happen, uh, in this calendar year.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, thank you. One, and one other question relative to the markers, a few of them are on private property. Is that gonna remain the case?

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Um, yes. Um, we were advised years ago that we've, uh, shouldn't be placing markers on the sidewalks. Um, um, and so, uh, placing them on private property with the owner's permission was the way that we approached that. I think we would look at it again.

Um, some of the markers that we installed in North Cambridge are on sidewalks, and that there's been no problem with that, that I've been aware of.

We did, um, years ago, have some markers produced that the owner's, property owners rejected, and I--have never been installed.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, the reason why I ask that question Mr. Sullivan, is I know one marker that's in the port is on private property, and, um, it's not that the, the hedges are not well kept, it's, it's just that when we're, um, in bloom, you can't see them. You can only see like the top of the marker.

And so I don't--I wouldn't say you could make it any

taller cause it would, would obstruct the, the residents and their guests from going back and forth. But as you do go back to that, you may want to reconsider where it is or how it's placed, because it does it--you can't see it now unless you went, went into person's yard and pulled the, the bushes away.

And then lastly, um, is there any money in your budget? The one thing I have not seen, and maybe I just overlooked it, I actually I have two questions, is what, what you're doing around capturing LGBTQ history, if, are you doing that at all? And if so, do--is, you know, is there money in the budget to capture the LGBTQ um, history?

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** No, Madam Chair. There is no money for, for that specific purpose, but we do have a full-time archivist and I have, uh, one and a fraction grant funded archivists, uh, who are very interested in, um, uh, all sorts of history, uh, gendered history and, uh, LGBT and history of feminism of the, the 19th Amendment.

Uh, we are working on all of those topics, um, sort of under the radar as far as the budget book's concerned, but those are issues that we're very conscious of.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** And then--and lastly,



Mr. Sullivan. Um, first of all, I'm, I was very pleased and, and remain pleased when I drive by it, the work that's happening at the African, uh, I hope I can say this right, African Orthodox Episcopal Church, I think that's what it's called on Austin's Street.

It's one of the older churches, it was in badly need of repair, and through the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association and through the grants, they were able to get-- through the Historical Commission, they were at least able to start that work.

And I'm just curious, had--is that grant money exhausted or is this more, is it going to be more funds to support the completion of that work of the, the church's edifice? And I think it was gonna make it handicapped accessible. I just sort of lost that--I'm just interested in knowing, coz I've sort of lo, lost where they were with that.

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Yes, Madam Chair. Um, we have a, uh, CPA funded grant program for non-profit organizations that own significant buildings. And, uh, St. Augustine's, uh, received the, the grant two years ago, uh, and that's funded for the, the replacement of the roof and

for structural reinforcement of the roof framing.

Uh, we've offered, we've approved a second grant, uh, for removal of the siding and restoration of the exterior of the body of the building. Um, they are trying to raise a match, uh, they're working with the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, which is doing fundraising with them.

And, um, uh, again, we had hoped that that project would go on to its second phase this spring, um, but it's definitely, uh, still, still active, but at least the church is no longer taking on water, um, as it was for years until, uh, last winter.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. I'm very pleased to hear that that's going forward. And I'm, I'm looking forward to be finished--I've seen some rendering, so I look forward to the finished product.

Is there any member of the council of the Finance Committee that wants to ask a question? Hearing none.

I will entertain Motion to pass the by--a motion by Councillor Carlone to pass the Historical Commission budget forward to the full city council with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr.

Sullivan. Thank you to the--

**DIRECTOR CHARLES M. SULLIVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the council.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** --to the members of the Finance Committee. The next department to be called is Cable TV, after which we have Debt Service. Cable TV was pulled by Councillor Zondervan. Debt Service was pulled by Councillor Carlone.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Madam Chair, um, while we're waiting, uh, Debt Service need not be pulled. That

was an error on my part when I gave the list.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Okay. Thank you, councillor.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** We will, we will not be calling Debt Service. So after we hear from Cable TV, we'll go directly to Library. Library was pulled by the Vice Mayor, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan.

We now have before us, the office of Cable TV represented by Mr. Calvin Lindsay. Councillor Zondervan, you pull this item, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair, through you. I Have a question about, uh, YouTube streaming. I know that this was, uh, done a year or two ago, and then it stopped working and we haven't, uh, figured out what happened to it.

So if we can have an update on where we are, is that still being provided or not?

**DIRECTOR CALVIN LINDSAY, JR.:** Uh, through--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Lindsay.

**DIRECTOR CALVIN LINDSAY, JR.:** Mm-hmm. Through the chair to, uh, Councillor Zondervan. Um, yeah. So we have

figured out what happened, our playback system, um, we are getting ready to, uh, replace our playback system. That's where the problem is.

Um, we actually had, we, we had sent out, um, the bid for that. And then when it came back, we, uh, you know, when we reviewed it, we saw that we needed to do some more informa, uh, add some more information to that. So we're in the process of doing that, and then that will be sent out.

Um, but that's where the problem is, is in the playback system. So it's, it doesn't have the, uh, ability at this point to, to do the streaming there.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. So is that all covered in the budget in terms of the, the replacement costs then?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Lindsay.

**DIRECTOR CALVIN LINDSAY, JR.:** Through the chair. Yes, it is. So, and, and that will be what we're going to do with that as well, is we're, we are getting a system, um, right now our playback system accommodates the things that we do at 22-CityView and with the, uh, Cambridge, uh, add access.

And we're also going to add, um, CCTV into that as well, because their--same thing, their playback system-- actually both systems are really like getting ready to die, like any moment now.

So, um, we're getting a system that will be able to accommodate all of the channels and, you know, that's in process. And yes. I'm sorry, the, uh, so we do have the funding for that. Yes.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Great, thank you. And, um, similarly, the closed captioning service as well as, um, archiving, is that also part of the system replacement or is that a separate issue?

**DIRECTOR CALVIN LINDSAY, JR.:** It, um, it, it through the Chair, excuse me. It is a, uh, a separate issue. However, um, and this is really under the, the, the guidance and leadership of, uh, lead Gianetti. We basically, when, especially when the COVID-19 and everything started, we just made a decision and we found, uh, a company.

So basically everything that we do, everything that we produce, all of the information that's produced in-house is

sent out, and we are doing, uh, open captions on that.

Uh, the closed caption issue is actually less a playback issue, and it's more of an issue that we are dealing with. Comcast is--there's all kinds of, um, equipment in cap--and compatibilities with Comcast.

So that's being worked on as a, on a separate track, but just so we wouldn't get kind of caught up in the middle. Um, and again, we, we made that decision and we've been sending out everything that happens in-house for, uh, captioning. And we actually we're doing, doing open captioning as well.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Great. Thank you.  
And, uh, the archiving of the videos?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Lindsay.

**DIRECTOR CALVIN LINDSAY, JR.:** I'm sorry, could you repeat that, sir?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** The archiving of the videos.

**DIRECTOR CALVIN LINDSAY, JR.:** So the, the, everything that we do, we have, we have archived, again, the new playback system, and that is a part of the playback system.

So there will be, uh, an archiving and an on-demand, um, portion of that system as well.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Lindsay. Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan yields floor. Are there any other questions? Councillor Toomey, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Thank you, uh, Madam Co-Chair. And through you, uh, Mr. Lindsay, as we all know, uh, CCTV is part of this, uh, cable television funded by the city. And CCTV, uh, money comes from, uh, Comcast, I believe, we can just kind of maybe the senior manager, Mr. Keel, um, from the TV license fees from, from Comcast.

And as it says here that this amount has, um, been declining over the past couple of years, and, um, but the city has committed to maintaining CCTV, uh, support, um, without any cutbacks.

I guess, and I mentioned this to somebody recently, um, that is it possible to get the figures of the percentage of Cambridge residents who actually sub,



subscribe to Comcast and cable?

My understanding years ago there was less than 50%. I'm ready to join that elite group myself now because my disdain with the Comcast.

But is there any figures that we can get either from Comcast, uh, that--how many Cambridge residents actually subscribe to, uh, Comcast? Um, and thinks about \$150,000 cut in, in two years from the, um, TV license fee? So I suspect that's probably gonna continue--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. DePasquale, Mr. Kale.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** --any, any figures or the percentage of the residents have, have it?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** Through you, Madam Co-Chair, to Councillor Toomey. We have received that request. We're researching it to make sure we give you an accurate number. Um, as soon as we have it, we'll provide it to you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you Mr. Kale. Councillor Toomey.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Thank, thank you. Uh, uh, and this, um, Madam Co-Chair goes back to what I said

the other day about communication with the residents. If residents aren't subscribing to Comcast, we have to find other forms of avenues to get information out and to the, to all our residents. Um, it's just, uh, something we, we have to, I think plan for. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor Toomey. Councillor Toomey yields the floor. Is there any other member of the Finance Committee that'd like to be heard on the budget item, Cable Television? Hearing none.

I'd like to entertain a motion to refer to this full city council with a favorable recommendation Cable TV and Debt Service. On a motion by Councillor Carlone. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Library was pulled by Vice Mayor Mallon, Patty Nolan, Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Nolan, I'm sorry. Uh, so we will start with the Vice Mayor. Vice Mayor, we have--you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, um, through the city manager and Maria. Um, I have a couple questions, uh, for the Library.

One is around the social worker. In Central Square Library, there's a position that we worked on last year to provide, um, some additional social work services onsite for residents who may be experiencing homelessness, who, you know, tend to use the Central Square Library as a place of refuge, um, and to really try to deliver those social services right on site.

Um, I noticed that there is a position in the budget for this year in Central Square for social worker, but I'm just not sure if it's on hold or if it's something that we are, um, actively working on, um, getting in there as soon as possible.

We saw some pictures this morning of Central Square and what's happening there. And, um, it's clear that we do need some additional support, uh, in the Library.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, I guess I can start with that, Madam Chair. So, as we've stated, there are 25 full-time positions that would've been new positions in the budget that are budgeted for three months.

We are now working together to prioritize when they would be started, some will be starting earlier than others. We've not fully determined, but this clearly will be one that would be in the high priority side as we've also looked at the affordable housing positions as we try to prioritize.

But we're in the process of doing that now, but those positions are funded for three months. But I would think this is a position that would not be waiting that long.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. McCauley, do you, uh, have anything to add? Ms. McCauley, do you have anything to add? Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. Through you. That's, um, encouraging to hear. I know, um, that that was something that, you know, the, we're all looking forward

to, um, once the libraries reopen.

Um, and on that topic, um, one of the things that the city manager mentioned last night, Dr. McCauley was the, the, the things that had been done, um, by the library over this COVID crisis to ensure that our residents had access to library materials.

And I'm wondering if the, those, those actions or those, those library materials, are those gonna be covered, um, through this year's budget, or are those into FY '21 budget?

Um, how are we thinking about, uh, additional library materials as we move forward into the summer months when it's likely that the library will not be open at that point either?

So if you could just, just refresh us and let us know what those programs were that got library books out into the community, when they will be funded this year or next year, and how we will be moving forward, um, in terms of getting additional, uh, library materials out, not through a lending service, but rather just getting materials out.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. McCauley.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Thank you. Through you,

Madam, um, Madam Chair. I really appreciate, um, all the interest and getting library materials--

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Dr. McCauley, I think--

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Yes.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Is your mic on? Is your--

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Much better.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** I appreciate the question. It's wonderful that people are really interested in getting reading materials out to the public, including our youth.

Um, we are also really excited about getting started, uh, with our, um, with our Contactless Holds Pickup service, which we plan on that starting mid-June.

And so we will pilot this very carefully to make sure that we're doing this in a safe way for both staff as well as patrons, and we will assess how it's going as we roll this out. That will start at the main library.

Uh, we also has--we've worked with you and which has been so, uh, wonderful to deliver books to different populations in Cambridge. And this has included, um, some, uh, gift books to, uh, the shelter, um, at the Warm Me,

Memorial as well as to youth through the Food for Free partnership, and we plan on continuing to do that work as well.

Um, so we are actually waiting for shipment--our next shipment of books that will be giveaway books to youth, and, uh, we will coordinate that through Food, Food for Free.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. McCauley. Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. And then my last question, uh, well first I look forward to that next shipment of books. I can't tell you how excited the kids are when they, um, receive any types of books, it's--they don't even wait to go home, they just pop down right on the side of the, the food tables and, and get right to it.

Um, one of the things that the mayor and myself, um, put in, in the last term was the elimination of library fines. And I do see that they are in, uh, the budget as moving forward as \$65,000 as a fine, um, collection through the city.

And I'm just wondering what happened with that particular order, if that's something that we, um, are not

considering at this time. It was an equity issue and, um, I would hate to see that, that fall by the wayside during this crisis, um, especially.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. McCauley.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I, I guess I can start with that, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** DePasquale.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** So we had a discussion and I think with everything going on, that discussion wasn't finalized, to be very honest. So, uh, right now what's in there, but we've heard the concerns of the council. I've talked to Maria and we'll certainly consider where we're going with this, but we kept it in the budget.

I think it was a discussion. It never got closed, to be very honest with the COVID-19 transition. So let us take another look at that and we'll get back, please.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. Yes. I think, um, you know, since fines are suspended right now, I have a, I mean, I probably have 50 library books at my house right now, not accruing any fines. It might be the perfect



opportunity for us to just start not collecting fines if this is something that we decided as a city, um, for equity and making sure that we've got all of our residents, uh, really accessing the library, particularly if we're only gonna be doing curbside pickup, um, Contactless curbside pickup, you know, making sure that we really eliminate those fines, uh, so people, everyone can have access to library books since the schools aren't open, the camps aren't open this summer.

Um, if, if people, if residents aren't, you know, taking out library materials even through the Contactless because they have a \$5, \$15 or \$30, you know, library fines. I think, you know, as a city, that's probably not where we wanna be.

So I appreciate that you guys are still having that dialogue and conversation coz I do think it's important, but I wanted to bring it up here. So, um, thank you, uh, for, um, answering these questions and I yield the floor, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Vice Mayor. The Vice Mayor yields the floor. We move now to Councillor Nolan, and after which we will hear from

Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Nolan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you, Chair Simmons. Thank you, Vice Mayor Mallon for excellent questions and all your work on, uh, working to get, uh, more residents able to use the phenomenal resources we have in our, um, library system.

And for those who have not perused the budget book, the, the data in there about the number of visits and holdings in our collections are, um, very important to, to understand. I was glad to see them as specific measures.

My question, um, is a hundred percent because I support improving access to the libraries, it's not because I wanna cut hours. However, um, my question which I sent in advance was about the utilization by day by branch because we are expanding our, uh, hours to include evening hours and to include, um, weekend, which I very much support, I think it is important for us to have our library resources available to people whose schedules are not just nine to five.

That being said, I do wonder about the, um, budget implications, perhaps not this year or next year, but we are gonna be facing an incredibly challenging time.

And if it's much more challenging, I would rather restructure and use creative, uh, thinking about how it is that we can expand hours by shifting them around instead of adding them so that we wouldn't ever be in a position a year or two from now from having to consider cutting back.

So if that makes sense as a question, I'm, I'm curious if the data's already there, then it can be just, just be sent to me so that I understand it.

Um, the decisions made based on utilization by day and by branch and by hour to understand if instead of adding this 19% that we could, uh, shift hours around somewhat without losing any kind of access and availability by residents across the city.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. McCauley.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Um, there are a lot of complications with the scheduling that we've worked really hard with the city manager's office and financial team to put together these schedules, uh, both public input, um, utilization, as well as, uh, just the staff availability in terms of scheduling.

Um, in terms of, uh, your question about, um, usage, the weekends are the busiest at the branches followed by

Tuesday through Thursday.

Um, our, uh, usage starts low from 10 to 11, arises each hour from 11 to six with peak usage between five to six. Um, there has been a lot of demand for a long time for the expansion of branch hours. And so I really wanna thank, um, all of you for your support as well as our city manager.

Um, I think that it's gonna be a really wonderful, uh, benefit to the city to have, um, the branches more available to the public.

Um, last winter we completed a survey on branch hours, and this information, uh, such as the demand for being open after school at branches, um, where a school is attached and more evening hours for daytime workers, um, are helping to inform our, our prioritization of expanded Saturday hours and evenings.

So with the new schedule, the plan is to have more ex, expanded Saturday hours and evenings.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. Is that utilization by branch and by day and by hour then

available? And if it could be, if I could access it, that'd be terrific.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yep. We're happy to forward it.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through, through you, Madam Chair, though, I--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. D.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** --do want to say that this is one of the programs right now that is not fully funded in the budget. So I don't want the people listening to think that on July 1st we have committed to expanded hours, that was our intention, but like all the other expansions, it'll be under the review.

I certainly believe we will get there, but I just wanted to make that clear that our goal was July one. Uh, now we'll probably be a little later, but hopefully it will be coming.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Ms. McCauley, do you wanna add to that? Councillor Nolan?

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** No, I appreciate that and I understand we--it--this is just a challenging time

as, as many balls are being juggled. I appreciate what the city manager just said, and I, um, am doing my best in my role to understand, um, how it is that we can ensure that we provide, uh, more expanded hours without, um, uh, jeopardizing any other kind of, um, services that we might have to provide depending on where the funding ends up for the year.

Thank you so much, uh, Chair Simmons.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you very much, Councillor Nolan, and you yield the floor. Is there any other individual that wants to speak on this budget? Hear--

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Madam Mayor. Uh, Madam Mayor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Oh, Councillor Zondervan, I, I apologize. Go forward. You have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you. Thank you, Madam Mayor. Actually, I was going ask, uh, about the extended hours as well. So that's been partially answered, but I, I will say that, um, I would be very disappointed if we have a budget that's, that's increased by millions of dollars and we can't find, uh, the funds to extend their library hours.

It's, it's so clear that the public wants this and needs it, and it's really important, um, that we keep that resource, uh, available to people and, and make it available, um, even more.

So, you know, I, I understand very well that we are entering challenging times and, and it's going to be, uh, a lot of trade offs between different areas that we would like to see funded, but, uh, this, this one should be very high on our priority list, so I hope we can, we can find a way to make it work. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor Zondervan. To the Finance Committee. Is there anyone else that would like to speak on--

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** That is Councillor McGovern?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Yeah, thank you. Uh, through you. Um, just real quick, I, I was involved in these conversations early on, but I, uh, since everything has happened, I've been less involved.

Is there an update on, uh, I know that we were, some money was being allocated to do some, um, uh, some

maintenance and, and, and some renovations at the Central Square branch of the library?

Is that, is that still happening? Is that in here or is that coming out of maybe Mr. Manager, is that coming out of another pot of money?

Um, I know there've been conversations with Central Square Neighborhood Association folks and others. So where, where is that at this point?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. McCauley.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** I'll have Maria give you an update on where we are with that, but that is funded.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Yeah, that's happening. Um, so, uh, we are, um, moving forward with a contract with, um, we've been working on, uh, we just, I think signed a contract for, um, some of the furnishings that will help to improve the interior of the Central Square branch.

And, um, some of the smaller construction activities of course had to be paused, um, but uh, this is moving forward.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor McGovern.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you, thank you.



That's all, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Is anyone else that wants to be heard on the library budget? Hearing none--

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes.

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Yes. I apologize. I wanted to just up, um, follow up on the Vice Mayor's comment on the, the replacement, uh, the late fines.

You're right. We, um, we had a lot of meetings on this and somehow COVID um, of course, um, you know, happened and, you know, I'd, I had always meant to follow up.

So, um, to the city manager, hopefully we can, uh, close that loop soon. Just wanted to echo those sentiments. Thanks.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mayor. Um, anyone else want to be heard on this item? Mr. DePasquale, a quick question. There was some conversation, actually it was an order, I wanna say it was brought, it was co-sponsored with Councillor Carlone, relative to the library complex.

So I know you're doing some new things to it, but we

also had saw--talked about the garage as a part of, because I see it as a complex, maybe I'm wrong. Where are we now with a full renovation of the library and the garage? Or are they two separate things and I'm just mushing them together?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Central Square Library--through you, Madam Chair. The Central Square Library. Yes, I just wanted to make sure. So the Central Square Library, uh, we did the quick fix that, uh, Maria has talked about.

Uh, we are now looking at an appropriation, I think in the future to take a bigger look at what the full infrastructure needs are. So we continue to look at that, we continue to move forward, uh, but there is an intent to take a look at that whole thing.

Uh, I don't know if we've done the RFP yet, but we're moving forward, uh, but we wanted to, for the initial appropriation do something and I forget what the dollar amount was to make sure that the patrons--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Well, while you're looking or while Mr. Kale's looking, um, Mr. City manager, we've, we've talked about Central Square quite a bit, and

Central Square's really struggling to improve itself as a, as a destination station.

And the library is certainly a part of that. And so it would be of interest to me and those that live in that part of the city to know where this wonderful resource, the Central Square Library, is going to get the needed update to make it a ticket to increase it's worth in terms of a place to go for a, a broad swath of people, not only the seniors that are right there.

And I don't know how many senior citizens come in at this point, but I know a lot of families were coming there for a while and it has--it's just, it seems like it's held back because it just needs so much TLC, it's not getting it. So I'm just curious, when do you see from a financials perspective, us putting the money into the Central Square Library?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** So you, you are correct. Through you, Madam Chair. You are correct and that's why we wanted to fresh address some of the internal structure to make sure that it was as comfortable as possible for the patrons. And then we were taking a look in a much larger project and I'm not sure exactly at this

moment in time where we are with that, but maybe David can give you an update.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Kale.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** Through you, Madam Co, Co-- Mr. D, um, Mr. City Manage is correct. We did fund the 350 from free cash early in the fiscal year and then there was capital request, uh, for uh, over a half million dollars to deal with the lighting study and to do a feasibility study and a facilities assessment.

And our plan would be is to, once we get through with a \$350,000, uh, appropriation and get that work completed to come back before the council with a plan to, in a coordinate way, in a strategic way, uh, for a feasibility study including a lighting plan.

So I think that's on the table and uh, we want, we, we basically want to finish the first phase that we appropriated then, uh, strategically take a look how we would proceed in terms of the assessment piece of the puzzle.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** So just so I'm, I'm clear, you're going to do something in the short term, but the council should be hearing fairly soon with the long

term plan to renovate 45 Pearl.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** Step one would be to fund an assessment and program study for the building and to see what that yields and that would be the genesis for a bigger appropriation once we get an estimate of what that really would entail financially.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** And in what budget would that be? Is it in next year's budget?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** It would be a free cash appropriation during fiscal '21.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Study would be next year. That was the plan with the 350 to try to put as much money into the current year budget, get the up and operating. Maria had a list of items of what we're doing. Maybe she can give you that. Once we finish that, we'll start with a free cash appropriation for the phase.

But Maria, maybe you can go over what we're doing with the 350, coz I honestly forget most of it in detail. Sorry.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Yes. I have it.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** We want you to utilize all that stuff you brought with you, so.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Ah-huh. Okay.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Get a bunch.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Um, oh. So this includes, uh, so the idea is to have a visual impact and make it, um, really more hospitable for the people coming in to use the library.

So this includes, uh, new shelving, end caps, some soft seating, um, some better shelving, a more, you know, infused display looks, coz a lot of it looks kind of cobbled together.

Um, there are repairs that need to be made, so we want over--redo the kitchen in the Louis room, um, try to fix the curtains, uh, so, uh, and new carpet in the Louis room, uh, wayfinding. So some better building signage inside of the library.

Um, and then there are some windows and I think the windows will take a, a larger appropriation coz that can take for old buildings a lot of money to do. But we ha do recognize that that's on our, you know, wish list and, uh, lighting needs to be greatly, um, improved as well.

So we're just starting with, um, looking at the lighting, but again, that is probably gonna be at a, at a later phase, uh, in terms of completion.

Um, furniture for the Tech Center, um, and that will include a little bit more privacy for users in the Tech Center and some furniture, um, and beautification to the Literacy Center as well.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. That's, that's very helpful and I'm very, very pleased to see that there's some work going to happen in the Jerome in, in the Lewis room because I know how many, there is a huge, um, meeting space. I, I would still assume, although I've not been there lately that people still like to use it.

Uh, and so I'm happy to hear that we are, there's some improvements going to that and I hope as those improvements, um, are completed, we'll have some ample historical signage saying why this room is named after this, this gentleman coz I think it's a nice story to be told to people that are you coming to the room to use it. Thank you, Ms. McCauley.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Thank you. Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Any further--  
Councillor Carlone.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, uh, Co-Chair

for bringing up, uh, the Central Square Library. It, it seems to me that the inside will be set. I, I think one of the biggest problems with that library is it doesn't look like a library and is alien to everything around it except the garage, which is not a compliment.

So when the next study happens, the next level, um, that will needs special attention by, I don't know who the firm is, but by somebody that tries to make it feel as good as the library system is in the city, and that, that's hard.

And, um, it, it just seems to me that whole lineage should, should be, uh, uh, a glowing, uh, image of, of, of neighborhood respect and activity, um, that's really going to need the best overview possible. Thank you for bringing it up, Co-Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Co-Chair Carlone. And I would, I, I, I just wanna say, I certainly agree with you when we were having the long conversation with that beautiful library that you had on Broadway Street, and I won't take anything away from that, and I'm happy about it, but I'm, I was always disappointed that it



was not in Central Square because Central Square, that would've been the perfect anchor, but it still can be, I believe, if we put the energy and the effort, and you're absolutely right, councillor.

Uh, there's something that's very institutional about the field. Once you get in there, it's a warm, perky, wonderful place to be, but it doesn't invite you in. And so, uh, and this is not your f, fault, Mrs. McCauley, you inherited it.

But as we look forward to putting money into the library, we should be putting money into looking at how we, when you say wayfi, uh, finding, I need wayfinding from the sidewalk. Because if you don't know it's there, you don't know it's there.

Uh, but also when you, when you get to it, you wanna go in it, once you're in it, you, you never wanna leave. Clearly it's a place to be, but the external invitations not there. At least not from the Pearl Street side. It's, it's much more inviting from the plaza now that the Housing Authority with the city's help has put money into making it better, but it doesn't exist on the other side.

**DIRECTOR MARIA MCCAULEY:** Through you, Madam Chair.

Um, I, I, really appreciate the comments. Mr. DePasquale and I have had lots of conversations about how important it is for the Central Square branch to be just as glorious as our other branches, especially from an equity, uh, viewpoint.

And I really appreciate all the councillors' questions today, because that's what we're talking about, right? We're talking about social justice and equity and service and access for everyone. So thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** And thank you, Ms. McCauley, by using that word, because we kind of danced around it, but we didn't say it. That is the library that I would say in terms of socioeconomic serves the, the, the lower and more moderate income families and probably any other place in the city, and it looks the least cared for.

So we will not belabor that any longer. Is there a last call to the Finance Committee for comments on the Library budget? Hearing none.

On a motion by Co-Chair Carlone to pass the Library budget with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The next department to be called is Human Services, that will be followed by Human Rights, and then Cherry Sheet.

Human Services. The following councillors asked for-- to be heard on this. Councillor Co--Councillor and Co-Chair Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toomey, and Councillor Zondervan, you will be called in that order. Uh, we will wait for another--

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, uh, Council--uh, this is City Manager. Ellen Semonoff will be doing it

remotely, so, I believe she should be on the phone,  
hopefully.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Semonoff.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** I am. Thank  
you, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Good joining us.  
Councillor and Co-Chair Carlone, you have the floor

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Chair Simmons, point of  
information.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes. Please state your  
point of information.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes. The point of  
information is whether, uh, Councillor McGovern who had  
signed up with some questions according to the list I had,  
um, was overlooked or you hadn't seen it on your sheet.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. The point--  
thank you for your point of information, or it should have  
been a point of inquiry. But that being said, uh, on my  
list, he is not here, but I will add him to the list and  
I'm sure he's very appreciative for you looking out.

Thank you very much, Councillor Nolan, we'll go back  
to Councillor Carlone. Councillor, uh, McGovern, I

apologize, but I'm gonna add you, but it'll be at the end of the list.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Co-Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

Um, so I have, uh, a few questions, um, and much of it is, is clarification.

Um, I did write in here on page I7, it's mentioned that three- and four-year-olds will--are attending preschool, but, and efforts will continue to expand that, but it doesn't say, and I don't expect an answer now, how will they expand? What will be the number of scholarships this year and in the future?

Um, it's, it, it, it's vague in that sense. And I realize part of it is, you might not know the exact numbers, but if this is a budget one expects to have more exacting numbers.

Um, in the preschool lottery on page I21, it mentions the percentage of low-income children has increased from 26% enrolled to 45%.

And obviously that's, that's great, that's important, but knowing the--again, the actual numbers of students or

approximate numbers gives you a better sense of the growth and how far we've come and how much further we have to, to go.

Um, so I'm hoping in future budgets, I don't expect you to have those numbers at hand, but it seems to me they're essential in future budgets or, you know, percentage sh, shows progress, but we don't know the specifics. And final--go ahead.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Um, I'm happy to answer at any point. I actually do have the information that you're asking for.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Oh, good. Please, give it to us.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Sure. Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, the information from page I7 I think is just the city manager's introduction if you go into our, um, Human Services, um, part of the narrative.

So with respect to the three- and four-year-olds, um, we had, um, 51 scholarships this year and we, um, are funded to have, um, between 75 and 80 scholarships for FY '21.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** That's great. Uh,

uh, through you, Madam Chair, and Ellen, I know you can read, but one of the things that we highlighted in the message that I think is really important, and if you take a look at the top quote in the budget this year, it's housing and its education at the school budget and at the early childhood budget, and there's about \$2.5 million in here.

It might be helpful if Ellen can give a quick overview, coz that's clearly we knew was a priority and Ellen's done a phenomenal job trying to share that priority. There is some issues with COVID class size that may have to be worked out.

But Ellen, maybe you could just quickly go over some of those increases that we felt was a real priority at both the council and the administration.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Absolutely. Through you, Madam Chair. Um, the first is, um, the increase from, um, 51 to 75 or 80 scholarships is about a million dollars in new scholarship money, and it's two pieces.

One piece of it is the increase in the numbers, but the other piece of it is in the increase in the rate that we are paying to the sites, um, where we are providing the

scholarships.

We discussed, I think when we did the round table, we talked about the fact that it was challenging to find slots in some of the high-quality program, community programs that we were looking for, because the rates that parents pay for full pay can be between 25 and 35, or sometimes even \$40,000.

And so although we were paying what seemed like a high rate for our scholarships, we were struggling to get as many slots as we wanted.

So this year, in order to increase the--our ability to access slots, we increased the amount of the scholarship so that we are paying the full rate for, um, many programs and close to it for many others in an effort to ensure that we would be able to get more slots.

Um, the funding also includes something which I know the city council was enthusiastic about, \$600,000 for us to support Head Start, which as you may know, we have two, um, Head Start sites in Cambridge, one at the Frisoli Youth Center and the other at Jefferson Park in North Cambridge.

And those, um, Head Starts are part day, part year programs. And that means that for a number of families,



that is not a sufficient amount of time for them to be able to enroll their children. And we were discovering that there were many families, particularly in North Cambridge, who were not able to access Head Start because of that.

Um, the programs are high quality, and so the city is working with Head Start and subject to the hiccup, which is a bad word for it, but, or the disaster of COVID-19, um, the plan was for Head Start in September to become, to have four classrooms, two at Jefferson Park and two at Frisoli, which would be full day, full year. So they would operate, um, throughout the summer as well, starting after this year.

In addition to that, there's, um, additional funding of about \$350,000 to expand the quality work that we've been doing with, um, community programs.

As you might remember, we talked about the fact that moving towards Universal Pre-K, the issues are both access for families and ensuring that we're sending families to very high-quality programs.

And we had, uh, a number of programs that have worked with us over the last two years that have moved up the state's quality rating system.

Um, nine of the 10 programs, um, several of them have jumped two levels and two of them have jumped one level and will continue moving.

We are adding for next year, eight new programs to this cohort, and so that's the funding where also we have a program working with, um, quality around family childcare homes, and we are also expanding that program, um, for the coming year.

Um, in addition to that, there are, um, three new positions, um, in this, um, budget for Birth to 3rd and, uh, the city manager, as he's indicated, these are positions which are currently on hold, and we will be looking at, um, the priorities for whether any of these positions might move forward before next April.

One of them is an additional new quality lead, um, who can help oversee the whole quality system. A second is a new outreach work--full-time outreach worker for the African-American community. And a third position is a new parent educator position for the Center for Families.

Uh, in working with the Birth to 3rd program, among the challenges that we faced last year and the year before, as you introduce low income, often children of color, often

English language learners do programs which are more typically used to serving upper middle class, often white families.

Um, it's, um, challenging both for the families entering and for the programs. And we've had some wonderful experiences working with the community engagement team and working with our early year's behavioral health consultants, working with programs to ensure that our families have, uh, a welcoming and culturally appropriate experience and we've been providing training to the programs which are accepting our families.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Well, uh, that's very impressive and I'm looking through the budget book and I'm finding it difficult to, uh, find that information. Maybe next year there could be a summary that's related to, uh, pre-K and all the other specific programs. Even the numbers, I, I'm finding it difficult, but that's very impressive. And, and thank you for presenting all that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Co-Chair Carlone. Uh, I just wanna go back for a moment. Um, thank you Councillor Nolan for pointing it out. I did go back and

look at my questions and I see that inadvertently Councillor McGovern was dropped from the list in the updated list.

So, uh, I'm going to take the chair's privilege of reinstating him to where he should have been, which is after, uh, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

So Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, we'll hear from you, after which we'll hear from Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toomey, and then Councillor Zondervan.

So now Co, uh, Councillor Carlone having yielded the floor, the floor is yours, uh, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Madam Chair, can I just jump in for one second? I apologize.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** After we hear from our city manager. Thank you.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, Councillor Carlone, and you have been one of the leaders for this initiative, but on page I-38, it will give you a consolidated spending and I apologize, sometimes it's hard to find out where all these are, but I know in the past you have really felt that we needed a consolidated spending

summary.

And on page I-37 it starts, but the one you're looking for is on I-38, and hopefully that's helpful. But that is daily, you were one of the leaders as a council to express the concerns, so I just wanted to highlight that.

Sorry for the confusion.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** I must have fallen sleep when I got to that page.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** No, it's high to find. So I just wanted to bring to your attention. Sorry.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. I just wanted to ask about the, uh, STEAM Internship Coordinator position. Um, what types of employers does the Human Services Department expect that, uh, this, uh, Internship Coordinator we'll work with, um, and how many internships per year, um, can we expect that they'll be coordinating?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, uh, thank you. Through you, Madam Chair. Um, we did some extra--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I'm sorry. My

apologies.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Uh, we've done, um, as you might know, there is a STEAM Advisory Committee that's, um, chaired by the city manager and the superintendent of schools, which has a number of, um, employers who have been participating, participating together with, um, some other members of the community and the department.

Um, we've been working there with those employers on helping to define the qualities of STEAM internships and working with the, um, corporate community to try to understand better where there are opportunities.

The COVID-19 again puts a little bit of a challenge on what might be able to happen this fall, but we are very much hoping that as the year progresses, we will be able to continue.

We've done exploration with Lab Central, Phillips, Biogen, Workbar, Pfizer, and the Cambridge Innovation Center, all of which have been helping us think about what can be either internships or potentially STEAM exploration opportunities for our young people.

Um, right now there are two STEAM internships which

we've been supporting. One with Innovators For Purpose, where we've helped them recruit low income and young people of color for their high school internship program. They also run a, um, middle school program.

We also support an internship with the Harvard, um, Astrophysics Lab, where we have a number of young people who work throughout the year in a science research mentoring program.

Um, we're looking to, um, work with, um, we've been working with the Kendall Square Association as well in identifying possible opportunities.

Uh, we put into the budget book that we were anticipating the potential of 12 to 15 new internship slots, which would be one full internship, as well as additional STEAM exposure, which would be, uh, finding mentors for young people who are interested working with, um, on job tours as well as working with young people themselves to introduce them and influence them to think about STEAM possibilities.

**COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER:** Great. Thank you. That's helpful. Um, I yield back.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor

McGovern.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you. Sorry. Um--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Take your time.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** All right. Well, thank you, um, for the update on the, uh, early childhood. Um, I actually, thanks to Councillor Carlone, I had the same question about, um, how many new scholarships were being added. I'm glad to hear that that's continues to increase.

Um, a couple other questions. Uh, one of the things that, that we worked on, uh, in the mayor's office last term, uh, was support for first generation college students.

Um, and I'm, I see some that there's some funding in there for that. Can you talk about what that's gonna look like and, and how that's gonna be used?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Um, certainly. Through you, Madam Chair. If it's alright, could I go back for one moment to the early childhood? I don't wanna leave you all with a misimpression.

Um, which is, everything I've said is true about the funding we have and the opportunities, but I would be remiss if I didn't say that this is a place where COVID-19



is likely to throw a big monkey wrench into our expansion.

As I think you all know, um, all except emergency childcare programs around the state were shut down in March. And the rules that are emerging, the first set of them came out yesterday suggests that most programs will be able to operate at no, no more than 50% of their pre-COVID-19, um, uh, numbers.

And so as we are talking about expansion and our overarching desire for expansion, this particular year, or at least the first half of this year is likely to produce some contraction of slots for three- and four-year-olds. Not just in community programs, but in city programs, in corporate programs. Because right now, programs that operate at 20 children would now be limited to operate at 10 children.

So I just wanna flag that the city's putting the money in, and to the extent that we are able as programs reopen and expand to be able to pursue this, we absolutely will. But I just don't want people to leave today believing that there isn't going to be some challenge, at least for the first part of this year.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Okay. And on the, um, first generation college program?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Yes. Um, we, um, are--we have two college coaches, as I believe you know, one who works primarily with students from Cambridge Rindge and Latin who go to Bunker Hill Community College, and one who works with students who go to UMass Boston and works with students from the Bridge program at the community learning center, either for Bunker Hill Community College or, uh, UMass Boston.

Um, we are, the numbers of those students keep expanding. So each year they're continuing to support the graduates from the years before, and there's a whole new cohort of graduates.

For this year, um, we were anticipating hiring an additional college coach. The city was funding half of that position and half of the position was grant funded.

Um, I've been in communication with the city manager, assuming our grant funding holds, which we think it will, then we may be able to move forward with this additional college coach sooner than the freeze on other new city positions.

Um, we anticipate that there's going to be a great need because we have a number of young people who may end up heading towards Bunker Hill or UMass Boston, because if they're going to attend college virtually, they may decide that it makes sense from a financial perspective to attend locally.

Um, in addition to that, we have a number of students who will be extremely challenged by the move to, um, virtual, uh, who are already enrolled in Bunker Hill and UMass Boston, and who are challenged by the shift to virtual classes.

And so our coaches have been working, um, uh, incredibly hard to try to support students to ensure that they have the equipment that they need to ensure that they are able to do everything they need to, um, in a virtual fashion.

And also for those students who end up needing to stop out, which we know happens to make sure that they do so in a manner which doesn't end up with them having debt continue to pile up, preventing them from being able to return when they're ready to go back to school.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor McGovern.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you. Um, another, uh, I was happy to see, and I don't know if you, you have much to--you wanna say on this, but another, another thing that we sort of started working on at the tail end of last term was the, um, really more support for girls' sports in, in, in the city. And I see that there's some money, uh, in there for that. Um, what can we expect?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Absolutely. Um, I think, you know, because you were quite responsible, um, for the, um, girls sports, um, successful experience fair at the War Memorial, in which over a hundred, um, school-aged, um, young women, um, and their families came and experienced soccer, football, softball, crew, lacrosse, hockey, basketball, um, and a number of those young people had never participated in any of those sports before.

So there's going to be a continued effort to bring together the coaches to be able to support more girls' sports. We've upgraded two of the softball, softball diamonds, and the plan is to upgrade more at Danehy Park, um, and to continue to focus on how to attract and support more girls through sports.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Great. Thank you. Um, I

also, I looked at the, uh, you know, I'm a huge fan, uh, and I've been a, a huge fan of the community engagement team, and I was just looking at, um, the, the, the chart around some of their in, I forget what page it's on, um, but, uh, some of their numbers, and there have been some, in 2019, they were, they connected with 807 families and then that dropped to 785. Uh, the number of programs, um, CET supports went from 45 in 2019 to 35.

Is there any, is, is this a funding issue? Do we not have enough--what do you know, why did those numbers drop? And is there anything else we can do to support this program? I think it's so vital, um, and, and, uh, you know, has been so successful and for not a lot of money, it's really, it's really a, a, a gem. And, um, just curious as to those numbers.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Um, I don't think you have anything to worry about. Let me explain.

The, um, number that you referred to that dropped from 45 to 35, which is the number of eight--number of programs which have received support, technical assistance, or training from the community engagement team.

And what happened there is because we have now worked with so many programs that we are frequently providing technical assistance to programs that are now sending staff, so we didn't wanna double count a program if we are both--if their staff are participating in the training and we're giving technical assistance to the agency, we're just counting the program once.

And so it's not a reduction in the number of agencies we're working, it's actually there's an expansion in the number of people who are attending the trainings, it's just that we are doing the work more--in a more consolidated fashion.

So the same, there's not in any way, in fact, there's an expansion of the training itself. Unfortunately, the second round--we were doing for the first time, a second round of the community engagement training in the spring, which ended up being postponed because of COVID-19.

But we're funded to be able to do two trainings a year, and indeed we've looked at the possibility of trying to do another one this summer, but I think at this point we're gonna wait until the fall.

With respect to the families being served, um,

there's, um, the difference between 807 and 780 at this level is not that great. And it actually is a function of, we were at one point down two of our outreach workers, and so we just had a fewer people.

We're now back up, um, with all of our positions being filled and the community engagement team, outreach workers have been doing an astonishing job in reaching out to and supporting families, um, supporting families through the schools, supporting families, um, to access all of the various services that are available to them, getting them funding through the Mayor's Disaster Relief program, so they have been a real force.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Okay. Great. Um, and--  
Oh, I'm sorry.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I was just  
acknowledging you.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Oh, sorry. Um, thank you for that. It's good to hear that things are still, uh, you know, going, going well.

Um, and I don't know, you know, is there some kind of, um, one of the things we did last term in the mayor's office was I did this outreach, Mayor's Outreach team where

I had some college interns sort of go out into neighborhoods that, um, are less, uh, uh, represented or, or, or don't participate, uh, as much in our public meetings and whatnot, just to talk about things the city was doing.

You know, is there some way to--I mean, I just would love to, I just love this program and I would just really, I would really love to see what our three year plan is for it, or, you know, how, how we can grow it and how, and how can we use it in a way to really bring City Hall out to the communities that really, that--we, we're always talking about how, you know, we don't get enough--we don't hear enough from, from particular groups, and there's a million reasons for that.

And one of it is, I think it's hard for people to come to meetings or come to City Hall. And so, um, I just, I would just love to see this program grow.

So you don't have to necessarily comment on that, but just know, um, I'm behind you a hundred percent, um, if you, if that's a, if that's a goal.

Um, this summer, uh, obviously there's been a lot of talk and I know we're gonna have the school, the school



budget, uh, tomorrow, um, but are what, can you talk about any expenditures or any plans around summer programming?

Um, I think you, you gave us a little bit of an update on this the other day, but if you can just refresh my memory and how it pertains to the budget. What, what are we gonna do around summer camps and city programs for this summer?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Um, I can say a few things about that. And, um, first of all, I can say that we're deep in planning, which, um, will continue.

The first is that we are planning to run the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, um, indeed. Um, I think we will be ready in the next day or so to make the formal announcement working with the mayor and, um, have applications, um, ready, um, uh, by the end of the week, um, we will be taking those applications virtually.

We have a lot of experience based on the Mayor's Disaster Relief fund that we're now transitioning over to how we will do, um, virtual applications for the Mayor's program.

Um, we are anticipating at this point that the, um,

program would run for six weeks again, and that likely it will, um, be a smaller program because we've, we're communicating together with the mayor with all of the work sites that we've worked with in the past.

And the capacity for us to deliver programming, um, to as many young people this summer when it's largely virtual is considerably less than in the past.

Uh, last year we had about 50% of the young people that we serve through the Mayor's program are eligible for free and reduced lunch. And so at the very least, we are anxious to ensure that we can prioritize all of our young people, um, who are eligible for free and reduced lunch for the program.

So at this point, um, we're anticipating that the program might be about 500 rather than closer to a thousand.

Um, we're working closely with the schools, um, George Heimsen you know, is working, um, with, um, the high school principal because we want to make it possible for young people who want to be in school this summer, and the schools want them to be in school for this not to be a, a competition, so that we're working with them about how to

turn school into work sites to ensure that those young people who want to be, and the high school wants them to be in school, we can facilitate their being there.

We're also looking to have a work site, um, which will help support graduating seniors who need to take, um, remedial work for UMass Boston to make sure that they can do that work and still not suffer an inability to participate.

Um, on the summer camp side, um, we are again, looking at a virtual summer camp. Um, and last summer we served about a thousand young people through the Department of Human Services through our summer camps.

We're actually hoping to serve a similar number this summer. We are, um, scrambling to see how we can do that, um, and we are hopeful that this program will be a combination of virtual programming, um, of various sorts with the possibility of, um, at least some opportunity to be outdoors in a field.

Um, assuming that the state regulations which appear-- which are starting to emerge would allow us to do, to have some outdoor programming, then we would have our summer camp be a combination of primarily virtual, but with some

opportunity to be supervised at a field near your home.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you. Uh, and are we, um, are we working with, um, some of the other camps like Cambridge Campaign and others to kind of see what they're, what they're doing? I'm sure they're gonna be th, they're tr, trying to figure all this stuff out too, but, uh, any anyway we can support them and maybe, I don't know, help give some scholarships for kids to go there if nece, if possible or kind of diversify the opportunity?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Yeah. Um, uh, through you, Madam Chair. Um, we are, um, not actually anticipating charging for our virtual camps this summer since it's not clear. And I believe that that may be true at least of some of our, um, uh, colleagues.

Um, we have been in communication and we're also, um, working through our Recreation Department trying to figure out how we could support other summer camps to have outdoor access as well in addition to supporting our own programs.

We've been in communication with the School Department as they figure out what their summer, um, school opportunities are gonna look like to see whether we could support them as well in that.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Okay. Thank you. And last, last thing, uh, thanks for your, your patience with me. Um, I'm re, really glad to see, uh, you know, the, the increase in funding, um, both on the affordable housing side, which was sort of a CDD thing, but also, uh, uh, Department of Human Services programs around, uh, support for our--on house community.

Um, can you talk a little bit about what additional funds are gonna be used for and, and how we're gonna be, what we're gonna be doing to continue to tackle our issue of homelessness in our community?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, well, I would say that there's both the funding that we've done as you know, so far, which is about, uh, half a million dollars, um, if you think about the restaurant meals for all the shelters and the meals programs, the funding for Y2Y to keep it open from, um, the middle of March through the end of June, and for the funding for First Church so that it would stay open during the day and also be an additional meal site.

Um, so that's some of the funding for helping to hold things where they are at the, at this moment. Um, with

respect to what we're looking at for the future, um, we have a couple of things that we are hoping that we have funding for and that we are hoping will come to fruition.

Um, first, um, we have funding for half a position, um, which is matched by money that we'll have from HUD to work with the Housing Authority to take over their single room occupancy, um, wait list, and to have our department manage that wait list and to be able to use it, um, as they're working down through the wait list they have, we wanna turn the wait list, um, over towards supporting individuals who are currently homeless.

And so if we take over managing that, we are expecting that we will be able over time to place people who are unhoused, um, or who are living in shelter into single room occupancy, the units that the Housing Authority currently manages, um, or manages the wait list for.

Um, in addition to that, um, we have funding, um, which we hope, um, we will be able to match with funding from the, um, Cambridge Health Alliance for a program to help people as they're getting ready for housing and as they move into housing to ensure that they can be safely housed.

As you know better than anyone, um, the conversations around this program began after actually a number of tragic deaths, but a particular death of someone who worked with pretty much every housing provider, homeless services provider in the city, I know worked with you and your staff.

And three days after he was housed, um, he passed away in his apartment. And that led to a series of conversations about ways in which we could come together to try to do better to support people, um, to manage the multiple challenges that people often face when they come from living in a communal way, even if it's outdoors or in a shelter, and then moving into their own housing.

And so we are looking at the possibility of a program with Healthcare for the Homeless, which has deep relationships with many of the individuals who are homeless on our streets, as well as in our shelters, and having them have staff who could work with people prior to them being housed and then stay in touch with them and provide services to them until, um, such time as they can either manage, um, on their own or hook to other mainstream services, or in some cases are eligible for more services

through permanent supported housing.

Um, in addition to that, um, our staff have been working with the Housing Authority for a while on, um, accessing vouchers for individuals who are homeless. And, um, the Housing Authority was able, um, to access, um, some additional vouchers.

This is a very challenging moment to try to use those vouchers to move people into housing, but we're hoping that, um, by the fall we'll be in a position to support people moving into housing. We could use this Healthcare for the Homeless program and some of our other, um, network of homeless service providers, but it's really important to get people into housing and this is an opportunity that we have.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Great. Thank you. And, uh, thank you for your patience. I know I asked a lot of questions. I could go on for a long time, but I won't. Thank you, Madam Chair. I will yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor McGovern yields the floor. And to go back to the list as it was originally appropriately listed. The next speaker will be Councillor Nolan, followed by Councillor Toomey,



Councillor--followed by Councillor Zondervan, then the Vice Mayor, and then the Mayor. Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you, uh, Chair Simmons. Uh, thank you to, uh, all my colleagues who have spoken so far. Since several of the questions I had have been answered, I will, um, reiterate that I'm completely psyched about the possible expansion of this, um, preschool and pre-K programs. Looking forward to us possibly, uh, being able to expand it with the Tobin site and also the Armory.

If we could do an early education center there like the Capilano Center, it's a dream come true for the last decade. And I know there's also expansion at the, um, Fresh Pond Departments.

Um, I wanted to follow up on one specifics related to the summer programming that Councillor McGovern asked, which is, while I, we are all in favor of outdoor play and completely in favor of ensuring that, um, we are all safe, which means there's gonna be less of an opportunity to have some indoor programming.

I'm curious as to how much of the, the, um, coordination among all of our sites will be to address

explicitly the COVID slide, which mirrors the summer slide in achievement to ensure that we can do everything we can for all of our students to be able to whatever form school takes in the fall to be ready to access the curriculum without having lost a lot, um, during this particularly challenging time.

Whether those conversations are continuing and if, if there's additional budget items that we should look out for in terms of ensuring, uh, effective, clear summer programs that will enable students to, uh, perform at their best.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Um, I think that one of the most important things that I understand, and I wanna be clear, I'm not an educator, but I certainly work with people who are, um, is that, um, the trauma that many of our, um, students have faced over the course of this year, and that as important as what their academic support is, is bringing them back in some way to be part of a group, um, to be able to, um, play with others, to be engaged in, um, things that are, um, intellectually and emotionally engaging.

And I think that our primary focus for the summer will be on project-based activities, on trying to build social

emotional supports for young people.

Um, I could say more, but part of--I will be honest with you. We are deeply, um, in the midst of our planning, but our expectation is to try to build cohorts of young people who move together part of the time and then get to choose some of their own activities. We're looking at how we're gonna be delivering materials to families where that's necessary for children to be able to, um, engage, um, in the programs.

Um, similar to our efforts around the Mayor Summer Youth Employ, Employment program, we will be prioritizing young people who are eligible for free and reduced lunch for our summer camps as well.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Great. And I agree that the way you measure achievement is clearly students have to also feel safe, they have to not be hungry, they have to feel included, they have to have relationships with adults, so that's all part of the, the, the basket of, um, support and services that we have to be aware of as, as we move forward with this.

I understand it, it's a, it's a very challenging time, so I, I, I just wanted to say that if there are additional

budget needs, especially given COVID-19 and the, um, need for not just more distance, but smaller groups, and as I understand that the groups need to stay together during the day, are supposed to have, um, various specialists come, um, and go in between groups. I recognize certainly that might be a, a, a budget issue and was, um, would be, um, happy to learn more about whether there's additional planning that needs to happen or come from us in terms of support for that.

Um, my other question really is about something we haven't talked as much about, which is the adult learning and the job development, um, and workforce development.

You mentioned the May, the Mayor Summer Youth Employment program, which is, uh, very good. We've talked a little bit about the Community Learning Center.

Some of those programs, particularly the Community Learning Center, I don't know if--how it'll be affected by COVID-19 and the new, um, distancing requirements.

Um, but I'm curious because the, the budget and the number of, um, staff seems to stay the same, and yet the number of people served, uh, is going up.

And I'm just curious, uh, as to whether that is, this

is another area where there may be some, um, staff that's not reflected in the budget because we're not sure we can fit them in at the beginning of the year. Because I was very happy to see that increase in the number expected to get to the highest level, the number expected to, um, achieve their citizenship and to move forward.

And yet it, the, the budget itself didn't seem to be going up. And I know everybody's working pretty hard, so I was, I was just wondering if, if I misread that or if there's some explanation for that, if that makes sense as a question.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Um, I--through you, Madam Chair. Yes. And I have to say, this is the last one of these, so you hit the jackpot here. Um, this is another place where we have a partially grant funded and partially city funded position, which therefore doesn't show as a position, and that's the position which is supporting our, um, education/training programs.

So in the past, we, um, have, um, and I think listed here, we've had a, um, CNA program for English--for speakers of English as a second language, which has been, um, a remarkably successful program over the years in

helping people, um, get the, the, um, certifications that they need and then find employment.

Um, we've had a big demand for, um, CNA training for, um, native English speakers, and that's not something that we've been able in the past to provide. The funding came from the state, and it was just for, um, English language learners.

And so we have funding, um, in the budget to be able to provide CNA training for English language learners, because in the workforce traject, trajectory, the CNA positions end up being, um, potential career ladders, and there's a deep need for those positions.

And so the new position would b, would both support that as well as we continue to provide the educational support for both the Just-A-Start IT program and the Just-A-Start Biotech program.

There are a number of adults in this community who are just shy of the educational requirements, um, not the degree, but rather the actual ability, the math ability, in particular, and sometimes the business English writing that they would need in order to be successful in the Just-A-Start IT or Biotech program.

We've been able to collaborate with them through the Community Learning Center to take students who are just about there, but not quite.

They get into the IT or Biotech program, and we continue to provide the educational supports for them so that they can successfully matriculate from those programs.

And so, um, we are hopeful that our funding will be secure here, um, because it's an important workforce development oriented, um, program. And we know that these are the fields where there's some opportunity for growth right now.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes. That, that explains it. And as you noted that, and I've--certainly, the Bridge to College events I've been to are quite moving and, and to take some, uh, families who, whose native language might not have been English, to be able to rise to those levels, it's very good.

And your explanation, um, helps me understand that page in the budget. Thank you so much. I'm, I'm, uh, finished, uh, Chair Simmons.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Nolan yields

the floor. Councillor Toomey.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Uh, thank you, uh, Madam Co-Chair and, uh, through you to, uh, Ellen Semonoff and to all your staff. Thank you for all that you do, for all of our residents, it's really all encompassing.

And my first, um, question and concern, uh, was actually planted in my head, uh, during the February 11th School Committee Council round table by young man, I forget his name, he was a School Committee member of the Student School Committee member.

And he spoke about the, uh, Teen Health Center at the, at the high school. And that, uh, there were a lot of students who really, uh, were seeking out a lot of, uh, assistance from the Teen Health Center, especially in terms of trauma, anxiety, and depression.

And this was before the events last couple of months. So I can only imagine that, that level of anxiety and depression has even increased even more among our young students.

So I am just, uh, wondering what, uh, additional services and support the Department of Human Services, uh, can provide in that area, uh, with the School Department,



uh, at the, at the Teen Health Center and making, uh, the, uh, services there, uh, more, um, uh, available to the students, especially now, you know, the building is closed.

I'm just curious, uh, what proper work is being, uh, looked at. And I know that's part of the School Committee decision too, but I, I think that, um, it's a something that, you know, these young students and kids are gonna be dealing with, with a long time. And I just want to get as much of that assistance, um, staffing and support to those students, uh, as they deal with the crisis's. And it's a plural of crisis that we are dealing with now.

So, uh, Ellen, if you can kind of, um, give any, uh, input, uh, into that issue and how we can, uh, further support our students who are, uh, going through this trauma.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Semonoff.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, thank you, Madam Chair. Um, uh, I, um, you are right about, um, the, um, incredible need that our young people have.

Um, I would say first, um, that, um, the city doesn't actually have a lot to do with the Teen Health Center, it's actually, um, run through the Cambridge Health Alliance and

through the Public Health Department.

Um, but that being said, we certainly collaborate with them, um, but I can't give you great detail about it. I would say that the School Department I know has been, um, working hard at the moment to try to prepare their teachers among other things.

Um, Alice Cohen, who's their, um, teacher lead for mental health, who actually was one of our staff, um, until she moved over to the School Department, uh, two or three years ago, has been, um, working on a series of trainings, um, being made available both to our staff and to the School Department, um, about how to support young people through this.

I know she's been providing some of that to the schools all along. We've been work, um, I would say the other thing that I'm aware of through the Cambridge Health Alliance is that in an odd way, there is more mental health support available right now, um, for, um, children and adolescents at the Cambridge Health Alliance than there has been because of telehealth visits.

Um, and that it, it frequently was nearly impossible to get mental health support. Um, there were long wait

lists for, um, getting such service.

My understanding is that there's actually more access right now, and it's access for families who have Mass Health or for families who, um, have other kinds of insurance.

That isn't the only thing that young people need, certainly, but there actually may be a greater accessibility now than there has been at the past.

Some of what we've been doing is using some of our own consultants, because we don't have social workers on our staff, but we've been using some of our own consultants who typically would work with our teachers in our classrooms, um, to actually provide some support directly to families.

Um, Deborah Hisland, who's one of the early childhood mental health experts in the state who's done consulting for the city's preschools, is actually providing some direct support to families from our preschools.

In addition, the city has a large contract with the Guidance Center Riverside to support all of the community preschools and family childcare homes.

Um, most of that support is offered by coaching in a classroom to manage challenging behavior. But they are all

have also made themselves available, um, to do consultations with individual families. This is, again, at the preschool level.

And, um, finally, um, we have a consultant who's worked with a number of our, um, afterschool programs. Sam Healy is his name. Um, and he's again, typically has provided support to our staff, and he, again, is also providing some support to families.

Um, that doesn't deal directly Councillor Toomey with some of the challenges, um, at the high school. Um, I think that a lot of what we are looking at is the ways in which we support teams who will be in our programs this summer.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Toomey.

**COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY:** Madam Co-Chair. Yeah, I appreciate the, the response and, uh, and someone who voted for the Teen Health Clinic when I was on the School Committee, I'm quite familiar with that.

My point that I'm trying to is that for the Human Services Department to get--to begin even more involved, uh, in, in, in the, um, providing additional resources, uh, to the, to the Teen Health Clinic, I, I just think it's just so vital.

And, um, I will go back over my notes on the young man that--from the Student School Committee member, but I think part of the issue was the, um, students weren't accessing it as much as they, as they should be. And I guess, again, it goes back to getting the outreach and, um, between the Health Alliance and the school, and hopefully with Human Services that will, uh, assist in, uh, the students who really need it.

A lot of students might not be, who want to, um, seek out assistance for a variety of reasons. So I think the more that people, uh, kids feel comfortable, I think it's so important.

Um, and I always know the Human Service Department does provide some excellent, um, compassionate, uh, services to our residents. I'm just trying to wrap you, your department into that. So I appreciate the response, and we will continue to, to monitor to that, uh, as we move along.

Um, my second question, Ma, Madam Co-Chair, uh, concerns the Extended Day, uh, program at the King Open. And we all know that's such a high quality program, and what I'm hoping to see, um, and that the city consider

extending, um, similar type programs, especially to, to the Title One schools, um, for this Extended, uh, Day programs in in the other schools.

Um, the program that--at the King Open, um, program is, is just so successful, uh, and it's, you know, it really ties in, you know, with Human Services and, and the teachers.

So I'm just hoping that we can continue to provide, you know, strong wraparound services for the children. And I love to see the Extended--program--Day programming, uh, added to additional schools to the city.

So I just wanted to, to get that out there and hope that--see if that is on the horizon of--that's on people's, um, vision list as we move forward.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Are you yielding the floor Councillor Toomey? Councillor Toomey yields the floor. We'll now move to Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, my colleague read my Mind. Um, my question is also about the King Open Extended Day program, uh, which both of my kids attended and benefited from tremendously.

And I was surprised to see that we're not really increasing that, that budget very much at all.

And as people may know that, uh, program only goes through fifth grade and currently, um, it only lists one full-time employee in the budget.

So all the teachers, um, who are quite diverse, um, are presumably part-time employees and don't have the access to, um, the salaries and benefits that, that our regular day teachers do.

So, you know, particularly in this moment when we're all rethinking how we spend our resources and the millions of dollars that we spend on policing, and as we start to rethink some of that maybe, one of the suggestions that, uh, is offered out there is to, um, build more extended day type programs to give kids more support, uh, outside the regular classroom to help create opportunities for them.

I know that my son in particular, um, really benefited from that program and being able to find some, some mentors who looked like him, um, who were able to provide him with some additional, uh, coaching that he wasn't able to access during the regular school program.

So I, I'm just, I'm just really disappointed to see

that we're, um, not putting more money into this, this specific program. And then to Councillor Toomey's point, um, why, why aren't we expanding this across the city and, and into, um, more of our grades?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Semonoff.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Through you, Madam Chair. Um, thank you. Um, first, um, I would be the last person to say that we, um, shouldn't pay, um, all of our, um, staff who work with young people, um, um, higher salary rates since the market is always a different market from school day to after school, um, everywhere.

But I would want to reassure you that, um, the staff, um, are, um, actually, um, close to full-time and they're all benefited staff, so they don't show because they don't work 37 and a half hours a week, but these are staff all of whom have health and other benefits and who work nearly full-time.

Um, the, um, second thing is, um, it is a wonderful program and part of what makes it wonderful is also the commitment of the principal of the school to the afterschool staff and to the belief that afterschool staff have--bring great value, um, and that helps influence the



way in which teachers and afterschool staff participate.

Um, we have the opportunity to do that now in a number of our other schools, even without expanding as much as the King Open Extended Day.

Um, and some of this, I've been in communication with both the superintendent schools and the assistant superintendent about opportunities that we have where we have staff who are in the building, um, beginning, um, earlier in the day, and who builds on a one-off relationships with teachers, um, that support our students.

But we don't have a formal program the way we do at the King Open Extended Day, so that we, we have some opportunity to do that right now, and the superintendent and the assistant superintendent for elementary education are interested in pursuing that, um, with us.

Um, the question of whether there's the opportunity to expand fully in another school, um, that would be a heavy lift right now. I don't know that, um, we couldn't look at that for the future, but I think we need to take, um, much better opportunity to knit together our staff and school day teachers on behalf of the students who go to both programs in the same school.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I, I don't have much to, to add or say to that. Just again, just encourage you to look at every opportunity to provide additional support, uh, to our students.

And it is challenging because of the legacy structure of our, of our school system, um, to, to reform it, uh, as dramatically as it needs to be reformed and to get it some of the underlying, uh, racism that we're struggling with there.

And programs like the King Open Extended Day, and, and there are others, I know there's a, a smaller program at the Flesh Millard, um, provide us with opportunities to, to really supplement some of what, uh, happens in the, in the day program.

So again, just uh, wanna encourage you to, to look at ways to expand this as much as possible. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan, are you yielding the floor?

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** I yield the floor. Yes, thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan yields the floor. We move now to Vice Mayor Mallon. Vice Mayor, you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair, through you to MS. Semonoff. Um, I just wanted to quickly follow up on something Councillor McGovern and you were discussing, which was, um, programming and funding for recently housed individuals, so formerly homeless, were living in congregant housing, um, and moving into, uh, a permanent housing situation.

I know that I spoke with FirstStep, um, recently, I believe February or so, and they said that, uh, the city was funding a program, a pilot program called inREACH, which um, is, I think what you were talking about, which provides services on site, um, at a permanent housing situation for previously homeless residents. And that, that program, that pilot program was going really well.

So Alexis, at FirstStep was, um, you know, doing ho, home visits, making sure laundry got done, making sure to sit down and write bills with folks. Um, and that she was really grateful, um, because, you know, she had the relationship with the homeless residents who were then

moved into housing and so she could continue that relationship, she was a trusted person. Is this a program that you're talking about expanding?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. Um, yes and no. Um, the program, um, that we funded FirstStep for was actually just to add some additional hours to the FirstStep staff to be able to do this. So it's at a fairly small scale, not unimportant, in fact, um, critically important because often people who are homeless in Cambridge end up finding housing in communities that can be pretty far away from Cambridge.

And I think in particular, FirstStep's ability to go visit people was critically important. So our funding, um, funding, which was in the FY '20 budget, was to allow FirstStep to add hours so that their existing staff who had relationships could do that.

The program that I was describing with, um, Councillor McGovern is similar but somewhat more intensive, um, and focused on people where the concerns are greater, that the, um, person might not be successful in housing and therefore building the relationship before the person gets into housing and supporting them with services and then

following up once they're there. So they're certainly related.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. Through you. And then I just wanted to follow up, you said that the CHA had provided some ad, additional vouchers to move, um, unhoused residents into permanent housing. How many vouchers are we talking about?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Um, through you, Madam Chair. Um, they haven't gi, given us the vouchers. They actually applied for the vouchers from the federal government with the support of, um, the Boston Medical Center, the Cambridge Health Alliance, and the city indicating that if they were able to access those vouchers, that, um, we collectively in different ways would be able to help support people as they--both in locating housing and in moving to that housing.

And so I believe that the number was somewhere, um, in the 50, um, voucher range. I think some of those went to the Boston Medical Center, which had housing for people in association with, uh, folks that they were serving.

And so there are still another, um, uh, group of

vouchers, which, um, we are hoping to be able to access, um, and use for individuals who are homeless here.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Great. Thank you. That's helpful. And then I just had a question about the, the Mayor's Youth Summer Employment Program. I think you said that it's just going to be available for free reduced lunch students, is that correct?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Um, I said we were--through you, Madam Mayor--Madam Chair, sorry. Um, I said that we were going to be prioritizing young people who were--it depends on how many young people end up in the school, how many young people end up applying.

It's a virtual program, which means that there may be young people who are virtualled out, um, by now. And even if they get the opportunity to earn some money, they may not be interested in a virtual program. So I wouldn't say we won't serve anyone who's not free and reduced lunch, but that's our priority.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Okay. Thank you. Coz we are getting a lot of questions about that. So you said there would be an announcement possibly tomorrow, and then

applications would be online later this week?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** That's correct.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Okay. Um, so my last question since everybody answered my Birth to 3rd grade partnership questions, thanks for all my colleagues that came before.

Um, one of the things we talked about either earlier today or last night, I can't remember, all these meetings are starting to run together, was the, the tour that we had when we were in Washington, D.C., the, um, the Downtown D.C. Day Center.

Um, I know that this is not in the budget for this year, but with COVID, it has brought up a lot of issues around our unhoused residents and their needs, um, specifically for showers, for places, um, to gather for resources.

I know we were all very impressed by the Downtown D.C., Uh, Day Center and, and what they were able to provide in terms of services and resources.

Is there any possibility that over the next year we will be, um, actively looking for a space and a way to

deliver these services even in some small way to ramp up to what, um, D.C., was, is currently doing, um, at their Downtown Daytime Center?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Semonoff.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Uh, thank you, Madam Chair. Um, I don't wanna be flipped and say there's always a chance. I actually think that this is something that you are right, we thought, um, represented a wonderful opportunity.

Um, and, um, I don't--I think it is certainly something that it makes sense for us to continue talking about and looking at. It's in some ways even more challenging in the time of COVID-19 to think about operating it. But at the same time, um, we, um, this is a population, these are individuals that we wanna continue to figure out how can we best serve them.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you. And I just, I think, you know, I don't wanna be a, a, you know, a doomsday person, but I think that this issue around unhoused individuals and homeless residents is going to get worse before it gets better. I think we're heading into



some really unchartered waters.

Uh, we're already in, in some uncharted waters and I, we just, uh, we can't predict, um, what might happen. But I think the economic downturn that is predicted and, um, we are moving into will continue to exacerbate this problem and getting ahead of it, um, and making sure that we have those resources, making sur--I'm, I'm glad to hear that we have some number of housing vouchers and the support staff to ensure an easy transition to housing and then the follow up services that are necessary to keep people in housing.

Um, I, I just wanna, I want to really place this in the forefront of everybody's mind that this is an issue that, um, will get worse, um, before it gets better. And, um, we, we should be out in front.

Um, and it sounds like we have some of the pieces, but I feel like we need to have more of the pieces. So, um, I, I'm gonna yield the floor at this time. I know it's been a really long day. Thank you, Ellen, for being here and, um, answering all of our questions. I yield the floor. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Vice Mayor. Who's next?

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** I think it's me.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I think you're right.

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Uh, thank you, Madam Chair.

Uh, through you. So I'm very happy to see the legal services funding for, um, eviction prevention.

Uh, one thing I was wondering about, which came out of the Dis, Displacement Task Force last year was, uh, the funding for the De Novo, uh, Lawyer For the Day program at the Middlesex session of the Eastern Housing Court. And I wanted to, uh, just confirm that that funding is a part of this.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMONOFF:** Through you, Madam Chair. Uh, yes, it is. The funding, um, the funding is here along with the funding for legal services.

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Great. Um, yeah, I, I think just to echo, uh, the Vice Mayor's point, I think as this eviction moratorium ends, uh, I think our legal services providers, you are kind of preparing for the, some aftermath as we deal with, um, the fact that folks will not still be able to pay their rent and, um, they won't have any protection.

So I think, um, all this funding is really critical

and they foresee as, uh, probably needing more. So thank you for, for that and all the work that the Multi-Service Center does, uh, on this area, uh, is, is really, really important. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Mayor. Are you yielding the floor?

**MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI:** Yes.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Mayor. I will entertain a motion to pass the Human Services, a DHSP budget on to the full council with a favorable recommendation.

On a motion by Councillor Toomey, to do so. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

We move now to Human Rights Department. This was pulled by Vice Mayor Mallon. We have the Ex--Ed before us. And so Vice Mayor, you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Mayor. I, I feel bad. I, um, thank you to Nancy for coming. This was a question that I thought had been answered on, uh, last week. Uh, I had some specific questions around the consolidated spending on diversity and inclusion.

And it seemed to me, and I'll ask Nancy since she's here, um, it seemed to me that their entire budget was the budget that was listed as, um, doing the diversity and anti-bias work. And I was curious how their entire budget was dedicated to anti-bias work, um, coz most of the departments, it was a portion of their budget.

So I was just wondering if that was, uh, incorrect or if the Human Rights Commission, um, envisions the entire scope of their work as anti-bias work.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** You have the floor.

**DIRECTOR NANCY B. SCHLACTER:** Thank you. Um, Vice

Mayor, uh, through you Chair. Sorry, I'm having a hard time breathing. I'm gonna pull this down. Sorry. Um--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I think you're--I think you have sufficient distance, you're okay.

**DIRECTOR NANCY B. SCHLACTER:** Thank you, thank you. Um, we do, and when we got the questions about anti-bias initiatives as it was described, we do look at our work as--for the Human Rights Department, which includes the Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship, and in fact, we do sort of oversee the LGBTQ+ Commission.

I'm not the executive director, but the work of all of these commissions has to do with anti-bias, has an anti-bias underpinning, whether it's the complaint process and enforcement of the Human Rights Commission, the outreach we do the trainings either by staff or by our commissioners out in the community, presentations we do in the community or the clinic that we have for the Commission for Immigrant Rights and Citizenship, which we've continued to do virtually, um, since COVID, and are having our fourth this month on the 17th.

Um, and then obviously the LGBTQ+ Commission's work is

to address bias, historic bias against that, that community.

So we, we understood it to mean what, you know, we think all of the--what we do touches on aspects of an anti-biased work, where protected classes are treated differently because of who people are, um, whether it's their race, their national origin, disability, all of the protected classes.

So it really informs all the work that all the staff do. And part of what we do is housing discrimination complaints. So we were, we had a difficulty sort of pulling out what's the housing only piece because housing touches on the work of the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship.

Our outreach worker who is everywhere all the time, communicates to both community engagement team, but a whole array of folks she works with about housing resources, housing events, um, we sort of touch on those in every aspect of what we do really, um, anti-bias focus.

So I wasn't being coy, it just, we couldn't figure out how to pull out that which is anti-bias from all that we do.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. And through you. I think it's a kind of a larger conversation that we might wanna have on the council level, coz I think the intention around, um, consolidating the anti-bias, um, spending was to try to figure out by department who spends what, um, and really doing that anti-bias, deep anti-bias work within their department.

Um, so I guess, you know, you know, when you think about your outreach worker or the LGBTQ+ Commission's work, it is technically anti-bias work, um, but is it within the scope of what we had imagined, um, this consolidated spending to be and to look like and, um, to really drill down on where, um, we're working with each department to make sure that people are receiving that anti-bias training and, and doing that deep work within their department. So I guess it's a conversation to have, um, maybe at another time.

Um, we certainly, I think didn't envision it to be onerous in trying to figure out, um, where that money is being spent. But I think we wanted to have a real full picture of, okay, the Department in Human Services spends X

amount and they have X amount of employees. Why is, um, you know, another department that has more people spending less.

So, um, again, I think this is more of a conversation that we could have at another time, but I just wanted to clarify and I, again, um, I, I wasn't, I didn't mean to bring you in and for your whole budget, just to clarify that one question, I did wanna touch on it, uh, last week when we were talking about the consolidated spending, but we didn't quite get there.

So thanks for clarifying that you're, that's where you were thinking, and then we can think about this for moving forward, what it actually should look like so we're getting a full picture, um, and the right amount per department.

**DIRECTOR NANCY B. SCHLACTER:** Okay.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** That was my only question Madam Chair. So I'm happy to yield the floor at this time.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** The Vice Mayor yields the floor. Is there any questions--other questions of the Human Rights Division, Department? Hearing none.

Madam Vice Mayor, would you offer a motion to move the



Human Rights budget forward with a favorable recommendation?

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** So moved.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Absent

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-7, No-0, Present-1, Absent-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

We now will go to the Cherry Sheet. The Cherry Sheet was pulled by Vice Mayor Mallon. Vice Mayor Mallon, you have the floor.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Mayor or, or Madam Chair, rather. Through you to the city

manager. I just wanted to talk a little bit about, um, and we touched upon this last week, so again, this is another thing that was, is, is, is doing dual duty, but in terms of state aid, I think I just had some questions around the school budget.

I think you mentioned last week that we are looking or anticipating a 25% reduction in what we think we'll be getting for Chapter 70, um, from the state based on revenue projections, uh, at the state level.

So if you don't mind just running us through those numbers again while we're here on Cherry Sheet, uh, I appreciate it.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. DePasquale.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** So, we've had numerous discussions with the state at Metro Mayors and uh, what they've pretty much recommended now is about a 15% reduction in State 8.

So I think if there's another Care Act bill, there's a clear commitment by the legislature that they understand the funding of state aid would be a top priority.

But without that, I think at a minimum you're probably looking at a 15% reduction in state aid, and we have not

put that in our budget. And that was one of the areas that we would have to make up at the time of the tax rate.

Uh, our total state aid as a revenue is about \$42 million, so that's, you know, so that would be the amount that we would have to figure, 10%, 15% of that would have to be potentially reduced.

But at the time, we didn't want to go back, and like we said, we really felt it was more important than anything, to leave the school, whole harmless throughout because it was late in the process and we just felt like at that point in time we would figure out how to handle it.

We knew the part that this council has spent on education, so that's where we are. On the expenditure side, I think it should be relatively close to where we're at, but there is no reduction in state aid, uh, in the submitted budget.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Vice Mayor Mallon.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Thank you, Madam Chair, through you. So the, if we don't receive 15%, um, of the Chapter 70 and state aid, then we will absorb those costs and make sure that the School Department's budget is kept whole. Is that what you're saying?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** That has been our game plan, yes.

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Okay. Thank you. And thank you, um, for clarifying that again and that it's 15% and not 25% coz that makes me feel a little bit better. Thank you. I yield the floor,

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** The Vice mayor yields the floor. Is there anyone that wants to have any discussion on the Cherry Sheet? Councillor Carlone.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, because of our free cash and approach over the years, I would assume that any reduction concerns you, but you're probably more concerned about what the future is, I would think, than this one event. It, it--that is correct, right?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** A, absolutely. I mean I think hopefully, this is, uh, one time reduction and let me make it clear, 15% is the best guess. It could be higher, but you know, I think that's probably in the range coz I mean Chapter 70 makes up such a large amount of revenue for some budgets in other cities and towns. I think the state recognizes that.

But the real question here is long range, what

implications is gonna continue to have on the city's finances? And like I said earlier, fortunately we are in a position to probably handle this better than any city, but the answer is not that we're in the best position to handle it, is how do we handle it moving forward and what should we be thinking about and how we should address it.

So we're fortunate we've got a little more time than some cities to address it, but we've started addressing it now so that we will have more time and we'll be able to handle it.

So I think we're in a good position and I think having that flexibility is one of the reasons why, as you saw, and I think it's Brookline, uh, this potential education losses of Chapter 70 and items like that don't come in, we in our position to say, "Okay, for this year, let's figure it out. We'll be able to hold homeless, but moving in the future, where are we gonna prioritize and how are we gonna do this?"

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** Okay, thank you. Thank you, Madam Mayor--Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Is there any other member of the Finance Committee that would like a question

on the Cherry Sheet? Hearing none.

Councillor Carlone moves that we move the Cherry Sheet onto the full city council with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Clerk, would you read the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Absent

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-7, No-0, Present-1, Absent-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. We move now to the City Overview Section. This is pulled by Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. And this is really, um, almost a direct follow up to the previous question because I, I think this is playing

on--in all of our minds, what, what's going to happen next?

And, and I understand that nobody knows the answer, but it is a little surprising to me that given that we are clearly in, uh, a very significant economic downturn, that we are proposing a, a budget increase when other cities are, are looking at spending cuts, as the manager just said.

So I'm just wondering, you know, how do we begin to get a handle on this? Are we anticipating any, um, budget cuts or, or do we really expect that we're going to see at the end of fiscal year '21, uh, an increase in spending of, of 6%, five or 6%, uh, as, as is currently being projected?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through you, Madam Mayor. I would say councillor, we have a handle on it. I think the expectations, if you've refer to most of these budget hearings is, "Well, how can we start this sooner? How can we expand this service? How can we do more?" That's what we've been hearing from the council.

Fortunately, we are in a position to continue to do that. I have not heard really much about, "How can we do less?" And I take what I hear and we try to figure it out.

And we've heard that we wanna continue to make

affordable housing a priority. We wanna make early childhood a priority, the experiments make early, uh, school budget a priority.

So we have really put a budget that I feel addresses where the needs of the residents and the council want us to go, that I'm comfortable with. And I think we're very fortunate to be one of the few cities in the state who can do this yet again, keep the tax bill at a reasonable number.

As I said earlier, no one appreciates your concern more about tax bills than I do. I've spent my whole career having probably as most reasonable tax bills of any city considering the service we provide in the state.

So I think this is an incredible opportunity, uh, I think we obviously wanted to take a look at the school and, and try to be fair. I think even with the budget they-- we've given them, I think you have to recognize when you close for three months this year, and with potential virtual learning and with potential maybe splitting of school time, even the budget we've given them, we may find they have some problems supporting.

And what does that mean? Going in the future is gonna



be interesting. But I think at this point, based on our free cash position, based on our fund balances, based on our revenues, we are very comfortable that this is a fair and reasonable budget as long as we understand that we need to watch and monitor this budget.

And we do that with all budgets. This one we'll probably pay a little more attention to. But I would think, I can tell you, David and Taha and the department heads in the city, even in good times, monitor their budgets incredibly close, and we'll continue to do that.

But I am very confident that the budget we submitted understands the position we're in, understands the revenue implications of COVID-19, but also understands what we feel our residents want and deserve, and what our taxpayers can afford.

And I think we've, uh, come to a budget that provides all of that in very, very difficult times. But obviously, we have to pay tremendous attention. But I think our record of paying tremendous attention to budgets every year, no matter whether it's a good year or a bad year, has put us in this position.

This is a little unusual because normally, we're

paying great attention to see how much of a surplus we're gonna have so we can know ahead of time. Now we're gonna be paying more attention to make sure we're gonna be okay and then moving forward, we're in a good position.

So I know one thing we have--the team here that can handle this and keep it moving forward. And, uh, again, see what the long reunifications are with assessments and with tax bills.

I think the real question, as much as it seems it's FY '21, could be FY '22, '23 as Councillor Carlone had said, and we have to keep that in mind too and I think we will do that.

And we'll also take a look at our vacancies that we have, the a hundred vacancies, and we've started to do that, and we may not fill some of them.

So again, it's priorities, uh, but I think the budget we submitted is something that the residents at Cambridge can feel good about. I know I feel good about it. I know our finance team feel goods about it.

And I think it's something that, again, we--will be the exception to the rule, but that's because we're in the financial position we're in. It's not because we're not

recognizing the financial situation that's going on, it's just recognizing that fortunately, we are in a much stronger position than most cities and towns.

And council deserves a lot of credit for that as well, because they've allowed us to keep the free cash balances, they've allowed us to keep the debt stabilization, they've allowed us to keep the claims trust fund for rainy days.

Now, we never thought it was gonna rain this ho, I'm not gonna lie here, but the fact of the matter is there's no better city prepared for a rainy day than the City of Cambridge.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. DePasquale. Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. I do appreciate the, the answer and, and the confidence. I, um, I guess I tend to be someone who, who worries about these things, so I will remain worried, but, uh, I'm, I'm glad that you're not, um--

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I didn't say that. There's always a caution.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Yeah, fair enough. But, but hopefully you're not as worried as I am. Um, I, I

guess related to that is, you know, in, in the Overview Section, which was very interesting, I, I remember reading that one in five jobs in the city approximately, um, are connected to, uh, our institutions in Harvard and MIT.

And, and again, you know, there's a concern here about the extent to which those institutions will be able to function the way they normally do, uh, come this fall and, and what implications that has on our economy.

So again, not sure you know, how much of that we are anticipating. I, I know that the universities have yet to tell us whether they will be opening or not. Um, but given how dense the city is and, and how deep the concern is around, uh, COVID-19, we may well have a, a very quiet fall around here, which will undoubtedly further impact, uh, our, our economics.

So again, not sure how much that can be factored in or anticipated, but, but that's another worry, I guess that, that I have.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** That's a great point. Uh, our top two employees are Harvard and MIT, uh, they make up 22,000 employees. And when you go to a rating agency, the fact that Harvard and MIT, uh, 16% of our

workforce has always been a positive.

However, based with the concerns we're having now, probably for the first time, it's not as much of a positive it's been in the past, but, uh, it is still a very strong organization and--but it's certainly something we have to keep an eye on. I agree.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. Um, I feel as though I'm right with both of the comments that this is a strong, clear budget. We have the resources to move it forward, we have added things that are in line with our goals, which is heartening to see that we are in a position that, um, many other cities are not.

And I also share the concern looking forward that we don't know what's coming economically, uh, we're in a, a challenging position from a, a social point of view, given that we're now, um, our, our country's literally exploding as we address, um, the, the, the decades and centuries of

racism as--which also tied directly to economic inequality, which ties into our ability to move forward, and COVID-19 is upended all financial summaries.

I think what, what I would like to make sure I heard and understand from the city manager is that we fully expect that much of what's printed in the book now, uh, has not fully taken into account some of the expected, particularly drop in revenues, which is, I believe was around \$15 million related to the hotel and meals, a lot of other, um, uh, places.

However, we are clear of how we're going to fund that should that happen, and including if there was a further decline in state aid, that we are clear on how we're going to fund that.

So while we're all nervous as we look forward, we also can be confident that if those, uh, situations happen, that we know right now how it is that we will fund them

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. D.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, based on our projections, we certainly feel very comfortable now. If the roof drops off even further, we'll have to re-look at it. But based on 15% reductions in state aid, 40% reductions in

hotel and meals, which I think are both very reasonable, as you said, we're in the \$15 million range in, in working with David and Taha, 15 million is a lot of money, don't get me wrong, but we feel like clearly we can take that hit and continue the services we have and, uh, not make reductions in those services.

We may monitor slowing up with hirings and items like that, but, uh, we're comfortable that we can manage that based on the budget we have. Absolutely.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Okay. That's--thank you. I, I think it's important to have that said that we acknowledge there are ways we may be off, and we, we've also proactively thought about how we'll address them, um, because none of us know.

I will say that Harvard itself, um, has said that this year they're ending their Faculty of Arts and Sciences with a 42 million deficit, and that next year, uh, the entire Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which is the heart of the Liberal Arts Education there is, uh, seeing another, uh, 40 to \$48 million less than they had expected being able to do just as a result of this upending of, of institutions of higher learning.

So in that area as well, we may well see, um, some challenges that our key institutional partners have, however, they are likely not going anywhere and we will all--we're all in this together and we'll move forward.

Um, so I appreciate that and, and look forward to as we move, uh, go on about this year. I fully support the idea of being judicious and yet spending the money we did save for a rainy day because this is the rainy day we were saving for. Thank you. I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor Nolan. Councillor McGovern, yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you. Thank you, um, Madam Co-Chair. And just to echo Councillors Nolan's points, I was gonna say something similar. I, I really, I appreciate, um, the work that's put into this budget and, and, and the foresight.

I, I think every year when we, uh, when we have budget hearings and, you know, we, we've been through a lot of them that, um, when we're in, when the economy is good, you know, we're always talking about how we should spend more of the free cash, uh, on services.

And what's always said is, you know, we need to



maintain it because there's gonna be a time where we're gonna have a downturn for some reason. And I don't think anyone expected it that this was necessarily the reason, but, um, this is what it's for.

And, uh, you know, my guess is that if you had come in with a budget, uh, cutting services and cutting programs and not touching free cash, that we'd be sitting here saying, "Well, what's it for?" You know, "Why are you cutting services to people during this difficult time when people need more support, when we have all this money sitting around?"

So I don't envy your, you know, you're, you're kind of damned if you do, damned if you don't, um, Mr. Manager. But, um, you know, I think that we're gonna be, and we're gonna be having these con--there's lots of things we're gonna still wanna do.

We're still have--to have a broadband discussion. We still have to talk about bike infrastructure. We still have to talk about a lot of things that are gonna cost money.

Um, and so we may not always, you know, agree a hundred percent, but you know, you, if there's anything, you know, better than pretty much anybody else is how to,

uh, you know, continue to support programs and services for the residents of this city while maintaining, um, financial stability.

So I, I trust you in that, and I think this budget is a reflection of that, uh, and I appreciate it. And, um, I'm glad that we are using, uh, our rainy day fund for what it's, what it's meant for. And that's, that's why we've made the past decisions we've had, we have, so that we have it for just occasions like this. So I appreciate it and I look forward to voting for it. Thank you.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Anything else, Councillor McGovern? Do you yield the floor?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** I'm sorry. Yes, I do, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Is there anyone else that wants to be heard on this item, the City Overview Section? Hearing none.

Councillor McGovern, would you offer a motion to accept to pass on with a favorable recommendation, the City Overview Section of the budget?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Uh, yes, Madam Chair.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Clerk, please call, call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, thank you, Mr. Clerk. We now moves Financial Summary Section. This was pulled by Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Mayor. And this is, um, really, I have the same question really about the, uh, revenues. So look, we can perhaps talk about both sections at the same time.

Um, but, you know, as the manager has just indicated,

we're expecting significant revenue shortfalls in--on the non-property taxes side, and then we are going to make up for it somehow through a combination of free cash and presumably an increased tax levy.

But I think the, the broader question here is, you know, our, our ongoing dependence on financing our budgets through, uh, property taxes and particularly, uh, commercial property taxes, which has a lot of, um, other negative impacts on our city, including, uh, driving up housing costs and things like that.

So one piece to, to begin thinking about is how can we have a greater diversity of, of revenues? We already have some diversity, um, not our entire budget is, is not funded by property taxes, but it's still, uh, the significant majority of it.

And are we thinking about and exploring other opportunities to diversify those revenue streams so that we're not so dependent on this particular, uh, form of financing our, our budget?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, I'm gonna also turn this one over, through you, Madam Chair. Uh, as you will in find most cities and towns, property taxes is

clearly their number one revenue.

Uh, actually for the City of Cambridge compared to most cities, our reliance on us is actually a little less than you'll find in most cities because our ability to have a sewer rate in all those other type of items.

So we have early on, probably for the last 30 years, recognized the fact that you need other sufficient revenues other than property tax.

Property tax will always be the major revenue, but we have, uh, positioned ourself in many other areas to help support that. Some of these areas, this share will be challenged due to the difficulty, especially our ball--our small businesses are facing.

So how we balance that out is something that's important. And David can talk about this as well, but we have balanced ourselves incredibly well written on property tax revenues.

Uh, that is one of the things that the rating agencies note that, you know, even though there is a reliance on property tax, we have a lot of flexibility.

And I would say this, it is my intent not to have any additional property taxes come from the time we adopt the

budget till the time we set the tax rate. If the percentage cuts are what we're based on, we believe we can absorb that without having any additional property taxes over and above what we stated here.

Now, if those numbers come back completely different, and these numbers are based on everything we're hearing, working with the state, working with other cities and towns, then we'd have to take another look at that.

But it is a concern that we have to look at all our revenues, and David, I know you've spent a lot of time on this, so if you want to comment as well.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** Thank you. Mr. City Manager, through you, Madam Co-Chair to Councillor Zondervan. Again, the manager said it the best, which is we will work hard to make sure that we--even though we have the excess levy capacity, not to increase the property tax levy more than what's projected in the budget.

Um, obviously every year when we come before you, our goal is to come in with a property tax levy that's less than what we proposed in the budget by looking at our non-property tax revenues and seeing what we actually collect in the prior fiscal year to see if we can amend what we

used in the budget submission.

Obviously, this year we're pretty confident that based upon what's going on and looking at the major revenue sources, uh, that are non-property tax that we talked about, the hotel motel meals, um, that--that's probably unlikely that we're going to be able to, uh, um, significantly lower the property tax levy, if at all.

But I, I know we're committed not to raise it more than we need to from what, what's in the budget. And clearly we talked at the overview that, um, we're fortunate because of the, um, policies that the city council and the manager has brought forth, um, over several years, that we do have some opportunities to look at some of our, um, stabilization funds and trust funds to maybe use a little bit more in the rev, revenue category than we initially thought we, uh, should.

And then also taking a look at the fact that last night the council proved some, um, appropriations that may be eligible or are eligible for FEMA or CARES Act reimbursement. So those won't, uh, be actualized probably into the new fiscal year.

So depending upon what the revenues look like at the

end of the day, based upon where we end up in fiscal '20 and what the outlook is in fiscal '20, as I said before, um, '21 is going to be a Bridger, hopefully, things will begin to get better so that we can get through '21 and '22, things will start to rebound so that the non-property tax revenues will, uh, be as robust as they were prior to the COVID outbreak.

But again, I think, um, looking at some of our expenditures, we may be able to look at some rescissions in the fall, uh, to reduce some expenditure budgets where we may have better information. And then, as I said, taking a look at some of our non-property tax revenues that, uh, we may feel, uh, allow us to increase slightly and to look at some of our stabilization funds to see if we can, as well as free cash to see if we can bridge this gap so that, uh, that we have no impact in what we've projected in the property tax obvious as part of the FY '21 budget submission.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I think the good news here is that we have till October to finalize this, that's when you set the tax rate. So we even know we're preparing a budget back in December, it's usually submitted



in April this year, it was May, the council adopts it in June, the actual ramifications, the final steps when you set the tax rate in late September, early October.

So the more time we have to evaluate this, see all its impact will put us in even a better position to be able to address it. So, uh, there will be more to commonness, like I said, as especially when we go to set the tax rate, probably that first week in October. But we would be happy to keep the council abreast of what's going on as we start the fiscal year.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. DePasquale. Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair, through you. I, I appreciate the answer and I, I'm, I'm inclined to believe you that, you know, we can, uh, get through the summer and, and into the fall, um, in, in kind of the way that you are suggesting.

What, uh, I guess I'm thinking ahead a little bit is, you know, are, are we looking at more fundamental changes in the way that people are operating their businesses?

Um, you know, if, if half the restaurants don't make it back, you know, that's a, that's a big revenue impact.

If our office buildings are no longer, uh, operate the way that we're used to where people say, you know, we can do a lot of this knowledge type work from home, then, you know, the, the kinds of rents that they're able to charge or, or pay, uh, we'll have to go down, which means that the property values ultimately will have to go down.

So, you know, longer term, and, and I agree that, you know, we probably won't see this for another year or two, but, but that's still coming up pretty fast.

Um, we may be looking at a very different landscape in terms of, uh, the revenue potential, uh, in our, in our commercial real estate in particular, and that will have some, some impacts on, on how we're able to, to fund our budget.

So I guess, you know, I, I don't expect a different answer, and, and I know there's not a whole lot you can do about it right in this moment, but we should be looking at, you know, how can we diversify our, our revenues even more, and how can we anticipate, uh, some potential changes in the way our economy, uh, functions?

Because what Kale said, you know, a lot of how it used to function is, is kind of dysfunctional, and, and so this

may be an opportunity for our whole society to rethink some of the things that we used to do. And the more we can anticipate that and, and innovate, uh, in, in Cambridge, the better we will, uh, ultimately fair in that, in that changing world. Thank you. Uh, Madam Chair, I yield the floor.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Councillor Zondervan. Does anyone else want to be heard, uh, on the Financial Summary Section? Hearing none.

Councillor Zondervan, do you wanna offer a motion? Can you hear me--

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** So moved.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor Zondervan offer, offers amend, offers the motion. Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

We now moves to the revenue section. The Revenue Section was pulled by Councillor Zondervan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Mayor, uh, Chair. We, we already discussed this, so I, I don't have any further questions.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** There's no further questions. Can we entertain a motion to move this item forward? Councillor Zondervan, would you do that for us, please?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** So moved.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** There's a motion. Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll?

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** I'm moving this matter to the full city council with a favorable recommendation.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes  
Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes  
Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes  
Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes  
Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes  
Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes  
Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present  
Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The last item for, for this evening, um, is Public Investment Section. The Public Investment Section was pulled by the following members, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan.

Uh, the folks--I think the folks in Public Investment are coming in. The floor is opened. And Councillor McGovern, you are the first person to take the floor on this item. Who, uh, count, um, Mr. DePasquale, who's going to, who is going to answer first for, uh, Public Invest-- for Public Investment Section?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** We'll, based on the question, we'll all be ready to answer, this is everyone at

the table and then if we need to bring up a department head, we'll bring them up on the back, so.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Very good.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Councillor McGovern.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Uh, thank you. I was just looking at my notes. Um, I just--could you, uh, Mr. Manager, just give us an update on how this financial situation we're in may or may not impact two projects, the Tobin, uh, School and the River Street redesign?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** So, I, I guess I can start with the Tobin, and then I think I would ask Kathy, I--on the River Street design.

So we are taking a look at the Tobin, it's in the budget as everybody knows, there is a potential delay in terms of when we would move, uh, the students from the Tobin, we're in discussions with the school as we speak.

Uh, but with the process right now, we believe it's still going to move forward in a reasonable timeframe, uh, but we need to get back to the community.

So we actually met, I think about three days ago and went through a plan, and I think we're in a pretty good

place. We've been, like I said, we've been talking to the school, uh, I don't think we're gonna probably make a September, uh, moving, probably maybe closer to January, but that may not delay the opening of the school when it's scheduled to come.

So, uh, the Tobin has been a priority, it's a very expensive project, uh, but at this point in time, again, based on our financial position, based on what we have projected for revenues and based on what we have on our bond schedule, other than a, a potential delay, and as we continue to work with the Neighborhood to make sure we're all on the same page, which I will say, I think when we stop due to the COVID-19 situation, we come a tremendous way with the Neighborhood in terms of really being very close to being on the same page. When--that was not the case when we started.

So, uh, I'm really pleased where we left off, I think we can go back in there. I actually saw some work, uh, like I said about four days ago, that it's incredibly impressive. Uh, I think when people see what we are looking at for that school, it's amazing, uh, it's something we're all gonna be proud of.

Uh, but there's work to do in terms of transportation and parking and fields. I think we heard the Open Space situation, and I think we've done a phenomenal job with that.

So I'm excited to get the process started again. Obviously, there's reasons why we can't, but at this point, the budget's in the bu--the appropriations in the budget, uh, we've lost a little time, but we don't think we've lost enough that they would lose a full year, uh, and that's what we're hopefully gonna pre, presenting shortly. Uh, so that's where we stand, and then I'm gonna have Kathy talk about River Street.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** A, a quick, a quick follow up.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Sure.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Um, you know, so one of the things you and I have talked a lot about, and I know that the, uh, you know, there was a lot of community input around the Tobin and, and one of the ways that, uh, to, to address some of the concerns that some of the Abutters had was to, um, add fewer classrooms for, uh, the city run preschool program, which, um, I was not crazy about, to be



honest.

But one of, one of the things that, um, you and I had talked about and, and, and the city had talked about was trying to find either rental space or other space to make up for those classrooms somewhere else.

Now, I happen to think we need those and not, or, but is there money in the budget to continue with that plan? Are we going to be making up those classrooms in another location as, as we thought?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I committed to you, that I will not, not have those classrooms ready when that school goes through. And I would say we are in a position based on working with some of the housing developments, they're gonna come with the CRA, it is a potential, but we will have space. We'll find it, I can assure--and we'll continue to look. And, uh, I want to thank Ellen Semonoff.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** I know you do, I just wanted to get you on TV.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Now, we're all set, I promise.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Further questions, Councillor McGovern?

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Uh, just the, the River, River Street redesign, is that still any, any financial impacts to that, or, or is that still moving along as planned?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes. The River Street design and its financial impacts.

**COMMISSIONER KATHERINE F. WATKINS:** Sure. Through you, Madam Chair. Um, I would think similar, very similar to Tobin, um, the River Street, both the design and construction, um, is included in the bond schedule, and that is what we're proceeding with. And so I don't think we're seeing a significant financial issue.

Um, similar to Tobin, you know, we've been working with, um, a committee and that, you know, is really led by CDD, Traffic, and DPW collectively working with the committee. We're really getting into the phase of getting into the design detail for Carl Barron Plaza. And I think we all know that's a really complex area, and we wanna make sure we get it right.

And so that work has been a little on hold because of the COVID, and so, you know, we've been really clear, we don't want in any way sort of pressure us through that

process.

And so it will take us a little bit longer to get through the design because we can't have the kind of meetings and discussions that we want, so that's ongoing.

Um, we had originally scheduled, you know, to be completed with the design this year and then move into construction 2021 through sort of probably 2023. And again, that's sort of a little bit influx depending on how the design process goes.

Um, I will say that we are looking at having Eversource Gas begin work on River Street as some of the preparatory work leading into our design--our construction project. So things are moving, and again, a little bit of a delay.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you. And I, and I hope that, um, you know, when we get back to some more of normal we can start doing that. Um, sorry, and we could start doing that planning, maybe we can, we can, you know, uh, congest some of those public meetings in a, in a more tight timeframe so that we can stay on schedule, um, that would be great. I yield the floor. Madam, Madam Chair.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, madam chair,

can I just follow up on one thing? As I mentioned, Ellen Semonoff has been the point with Just-A-Start, and she just texted me to say that she's extremely confident that we are in a very, very good place with Just-A-Start, and we should be making an announcement soon that would address your concerns.

**COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. DePasquale. Thank you, Councillor McGovern. Councillor McGovern yields the floor. Councillor Nolan, the floor is yours.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. Um, I will start with a couple of the questions that I sent in advance. Um, and one of them, since this is on Public Investment related to a range of, uh, projects in the pipeline, I was just surprised to see nothing on the provision of office spaces for city councillors and actually, Chair Simmons, you probably know this, but when I went back into the history, the first order on this was passed in April of 2012.

It is so long ago that you Chair Simmons were the lead sponsor, and the other five members named on it are no

longer with the council, Councillor Cheung, Mayor Davis, Councillor Decker, Councillor Reeves, and Councillor vanBeuzekom.

But there was another order passed two years later, basically on the same thing, reporting findings. And there was another RFQ and there was another order in October, 2018.

And when I first started, or before I started, I was told it was very clear that this was in process, that the, the whole vision all along has been for the second floor of City Hall, the legislative offices, and that the assessor's office would be city councillors offices, and that the, since the cubicles that are next to it are the eight offices, it just continues to surprise me that the city councillors have no space in, um, City Hall. It's only the mayor, which is appropriate.

And yet, as part of the, the leadership of the city, it just, again, surprises me not to have seen this and I don't understand it, having talked to a number of people. If the, if the space is identified, then this is a project that should be able to happen in six to eight months, according to several architects I consulted.

So I just wanna know where we're at with this and when it will happen, and unless I missed it, why it isn't in this list of, um, priority projects.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Uh, Councillor Nolan, uh, thank you for bringing--raising that. And in fact, I could just say a few things. That's someone, you're right, that looked for office, office space.

Unfortunately, what I believe is what has happened in a lot of ways is on the books and from the Charles perspective, the position of the city council is a part-time position. And for time and memorial, it has been one where councillors just came in to go to the meetings and not for much else.

And unfortunately, or circumstantially, the position, the office has not, the office spaces have not grown with the work of city councillors. More and more city councillors are coming to being elected to serve and wanna be able to work in the building. Um, and again, we just have not caught up and we've had a few iterations. It's sort of, I'll call them false starts.

We think we're gonna do something and something else comes up and we take that opportunity and we yield to it.

So let's take for an example, the purchase of the building that the YWCA once owned, you know, became a great place to have it.

But then we had to do some machinations around where, where would the Y go, and council members, at least I could say for myself, demurred it, and said, this is more important.

So I feel the same way you do, and I guess if there's any silver lining, and then I'll yield the floor to the city manager, is that we, I think I'm in better position to do it. And we're doing it in the context of COVID-19, because we would have to do a lot of modifications had we done it earlier.

So I, I'm sort of giving the city manager, not, this is not the city manager that this conversation started with, so we can't lay it all on his lap. But to, to just add that, I, I think we should do it, I think we should do it now. And we are, it's an appropriate time because what it would've looked like before and what it's going to look like now is very, very different. I yield to the city manager.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through you,

Madam Chair. Everyone has the right to be frustrated. The money's appropriated, the money's been bonded. We had to change architects; it has taken far too long as it should have. So let me make that clear.

I am the manager that recommended the appropriation. I understand the importance of this, but there's been concerns from how it was designed and everything else.

So we can have Michael Black, who's on the phone, Lisa Peterson, who's been the point person. Uh, but we have met, there's still plans to do this, uh, but nobody's happy with how long it takes, including myself. So I wanna make that clear.

Uh, and Lisa and Michael can talk about some of the concerns and some of the problems we've had trying to get this done. But this is not a financial issue now as like in everything else, when the numbers finally come in, could it be more than what we have put aside? Possibly, but this has not been a delay because of finances, this has been a delay because we've had roadblocks in the way in terms of coming up with a proper situation.

But I can have Lisa or Michael at any time you want to jump in and get more into the specifics and maybe a



timetable of where we think we're at now coz I know I saw something recently. So--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Peterson, Mr. Black, would you like to take the floor to respond?

**DEPUTY CITY MANAGER LISA PETERSON:** Yes. Um, um, Madam Chair, uh, it's Lisa Peterson. Um, you know, as you mentioned, um, you, you, I mean, quite correctly that when we hired the architect, that was really seen as a three-phase project where the first phase was really was looking at 859 Mass Ave and building the family shelter there that the Y, uh, manages for us.

And then we were looking at doing a master plan that included 831 through Bigelow and City Hall, and then at the same time developing some detailed plans on City Hall.

So, you know, it has been a couple of years and we needed to finish one project before we went into the other. Um, we were ready. They--we did have a couple of month delay, uh, because we had to change architects and we were ready this summer to begin the work on the elevator that needs to happen first.

And unfortunately, that has now been delayed. Uh, and Michael Black may have more of an update and we're gonna be

able to work, um, on the elevator first.

But we need to replace the elevator or upgrade the elevator first and then build the new space for the assessors on the lower level, and then once they're vacated, be able to build the city council space.

So right now we're trying to re-evaluate, uh, what the new schedule is, but we hope that, uh, the elevator will be able--we had hoped it would be able to begin the summer, and, um, Michael may have an update now on recent information we have from our contractor on whether or not, uh, that--w, when that will be able to commence.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Black, are you there?

**PROJECT MANAGER MICHAEL J. BLACK:** Yes, I am. Uh, right today, no, we are going in there tomorrow with the contractor, uh, to take a look at the elevator. But at the same time, we have to follow the DCAM regulations and we have, uh, trade bids coming in on Thursday.

And if we do get a trade bid with the elevator, we'll have to take a little bit of a different route. But if we don't, which is what we suspect, we'll try this accelerated route. So we're--it's still TBD, just that we're getting

restarted and we'll know better information on the next few weeks.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Black.  
Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** So I, is it in the budget book and I missed it. I didn't see mention of city council offices. Is it there? And, and I, I understand it and, and I appreciate Councillor Simmons, it, it just, it, I understand it's a few months, but this literally started in 2012, this is eight years later and we're not even close to a plan.

So it just, I don't quite totally understand. I know the rest of you have a right to be far more frustrated than I am. Did I miss it in the book? Coz I didn't see an explicit mention of city council and when it is that we'd actually be able to do it, I'd love to do it before my term ends.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Um, I'm gonna give that to Mr. Kale.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Mr. Kale, you have the floor.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** So Madam Co-Chair

to Councillor Nolan, an appropriation last year for \$10 million to City Hall was approved by the city council. And that allowed the funds to be appropriated and to the money to be bonded if we had, uh, expenditures that we knew we were going to make.

So we've allocated a million dollars for the elevator for the summer in our latest bond issue. And as more information in terms of schedule becomes available, the funds, as the manager said, are there to do this. So it's, it's not in the budget book because there is no action the city council has to take because they already took the action last fiscal year.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Kale.  
Councillor Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Thank you. And that's explicitly for city council offices? That includes it?

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** That includes renovations to City Hall including city council offices.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Okay.

**DEPUTY CITY MANAGER LISA PETERSON:** And uh, uh, excuse me. Through you, um, Madam, uh, Chair to Councillor--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Peterson. Yes.

**DEPUTY CITY MANAGER LISA PETERSON:** --Nolan. Um, the plans are completed. I, I do, I don't know if you have had a chance to see the plans, um, Councillor Nolan, but the actual design documents are completed and we're ready to move forward.

We have a contractor that is actually on contract W.T. Rich, and we're ready to be moving. We're now in this really, obviously difficult time for moving forward with construction, but we hope, as Mr. Black said, we will have more information within the next couple of weeks on timeframe.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Great. And I hope it's before my term ends coz it seems reasonable. Um, okay. Thank you.

The other, uh, another question I had was about, uh, and, and its about the longer-term plan. This is related to what I had tried to do in a committee meeting, and then we had to stop those about the, the five-to-10-year plan for all school buildings.

And I recognize this may be more appropriate for tomorrow's meeting with the School Committee, but not really because it's actually on the city council to have

that. I don't know if we have that actual plan.

Um, and then I have a question specific to the, to the Tobin & Vassal Lane project. But do, do we have, and will we be moving forward? I, uh, believe Mr. Maloney might be available on a five-to-10-year plan to understand how it is that we're moving forward with the, the range of school buildings in the city.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Kale.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** So, Madam Co-Chair to, uh, Councillor Nolan, clearly we've had conversations about longer term projects for the School Department. Obviously, the Tobin School has taken, um, a significant amount of time and planning to move forward and to come up with a cost estimate.

Clearly, we have five-year plans and, uh, we have projects that we are, um, going to bond or propose to be bond, some of which are included in this budget, such as fire stations, um, and the like.

So we do not necessarily have in front of us a multi-year plan for the schools, just because of the level of complexity and the level of, uh, financing and how we all

bridge that in, into, uh, what our bonding schedule is and what exactly we're looking to do in terms of school renovations.

I know that Mr. Maloney, uh, has talked about that, and I think that you, we've had conversations between the city and school officials about where we need to go, but I think we're trying to be sequential in trying to do the Tobin but also, frankly, um, developing a plan that may not be implemented for several years in some cases doesn't necessarily take you to a better place because that plan may be out of date, uh, because of change circumstances or because of change costs.

So I think we're trying to be logical and prudent about what we do for a longer-term school facilities plan, but I think our attempt was to try to get the Tobin underway and then decide where we go from there, as well as reconcile that with other city projects because again, um, these are, these do cost money, they are expensive, and we're trying to do a lot of things on our capital plan, and we need to be strategic and, uh, in a way that we can fiscally, uh, be prudent.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Just a moment, uh, Mr. DePasquale. Councillor Nolan wants to make a--move suspension on the rules to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. On extension of the minute--meeting for 15 minutes. Mr. Clerk.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Present

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-1. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Councillor Nolan, you can resume the floor.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Can I just follow up with that question?

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I'm sorry. You can have the floor.



**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** It's okay. Please, no problem. So I just--as someone who goes back to when we first started talking about three schools being built in the City of Cambridge, uh, we made it clear that that could have impact on other city projects and school projects while it happened.

Uh, in no way, shape, and form that we think it was gonna be \$500 million. But even with that, we have been able to do a lot of work on the city side and on the school side over and above in terms of roofs and all of those HVAC projects.

So I don't have that list in front of me today. I was gonna have it for tomorrow, but, uh, it is prepared, but we have been able to do that. The issue now is, right now, when you take on a Tobin School project that is in this bonding schedule through February of 2025, so you're not gonna be able to take on a major school project for a large sum of money before that.

I think the discussion that we've had for the last two years off and on is what's next once the Tobins off is done, and is it a fourth school or is it taking a look at three or four schools and say, rather than making one

large, large, large investment, make four large investments that could equal the total of the one school.

I have said since that has come up in front of me, that that makes sense. If that's where the school and the council feels they want to go, then we are fine with that.

And we will continue during this time through 2025 to address major concerns that the school has. If a rules comes up, if a HVAC system comes down, we have the flexibility to do that, but while the Tobin is there, we don't have the flexibility to take on another a hundred million dollar, 152, but we, we need to have that discussion even now that says what is next?

And we've had some preliminary discussions, but there has been no decision that I've seen in my discussion with the school, and I certainly haven't brought it in front of the city council that says, when we finish the Tobin, are we doing a fourth school? The agreement was three. Are--is the time to say these other schools just can't wait till the fourth, the fifth and the sixth or a seventh by the time we get to them, and even though we've been able to put \$2 million there and \$3 million there, it just isn't gonna be enough.

So how do we determine, and I think the school is gonna put together a study working with the city that says, this is where the future is, this is what we're gonna need, and then it's gonna be a challenging financing plan.

But we have been able to take on challenging finances plan when we first took the initiation of taking these three schools on.

So I think we can come up with something that will address school, school needs long range, but also have some flexibility even though it's limited to address immediate school needs like we've done in the past with numerous roofs and HVAC systems.

But it's--when you talk about the future and where you're gonna spend money, this is a, this is one that's, that's really on the board as a big number that really is not on any page before 2025.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAVID KALE:** Madam Co-Chair, to you, uh, Councillor Nolan. In addition to that, in the FY '21 Capital budget, we've increased the allocation of bonded funds for school projects from \$800,000 to \$1,800,000. So over a five-year period, that's \$9 million to support some of the, um, projects that the school have

submitted during the capital budget process.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Great.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** I--thank you. I appreciate that. As I know from my, um, relatively recent, uh, tenure on School Committee, there was as much as 30 to \$60 million of projects that would be a like to have given the, the state of some of the buildings across the, the city, which is why I hope with--when we go back in a few weeks to having committee meetings, we can hopefully start that plan.

Coz as the city manager said, we don't, we don't wanna wait a couple years, we actually need to have it in place now.

My question on the Tobin Montessori & Vassal Lane has to do with, we were, we're being asked to, um, approve a bonding of \$237 million, which is a, a obviously shocking in some ways, or very large figure. And my question is it, is there any way that if we do this, we can still work to ensure that we will be saving as much money and possibly time as possible?

Uh, I ask because when you look at other MSBA using

the, the resource of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, it, it just seems that our projects continue to take more time and more money on a per student basis. So Somerville High School, which is a little bit more, 8% more than Tobin & Vassal Lane at \$256 million, but they're only planning for three years of construction.

It is 396,000 square feet compared to ours of 350,000. It will serve as much as 1,590 students, whereas we're only planning on serving less than a thousand, about a thousand. And it's an unbelievably complex site, if any of you have been to Somerville High, you know that.

And so it seems that for a building to take a whole year less than ours and be in a far more complex environment and other, um, similar si, size school, Saugus just built a high school and middle school combined, it was done in two years and three months, it serves 1300 students. It includes a new sports complex, and yet it only costs 160 million.

So in my context of the budget, what I want us to do is make sure that we're doing everything we can given the bonding capability, given the fact, as the city manager said, this really stretches us in terms of the actual money

available for the needs of the other school buildings across the city.

If we can take a very clear, judicious look, it's, and maybe lessons learned from some of these other projects, many of which are just as complex as ours, um, to ensure that if we can save some time and money, it's better for everybody.

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** Uh, through you, Madam Chair. I would agree with that 100%. I do need the difficulty comparing us with everybody else, and I, I hate to put this this way as if you take a look at what we've done on Cambridge Street and you go to other cities and towns and see what they look like, they're not gonna have the features in the infrastructure and all the things that we as Cambridge expect from our buildings. That's reality.

Uh, that's one of the reasons why even though a lot of the times we're not SBA eligible anyways, it's because how we want our buildings to look, how we expect them to meet certain conditions, it's just not in the SBA guidelines, they would say that's not funded.

So believe me, I can understand the concern when you say, how is the school costing us? And we have to spend a

whole lot more.

I think Lisa and Michael might have some more specifics on why we tend to do spend a little more for our schools, but I think at the end, as, as much as I like to save money as anybody, when we are done, I think we've gotten our money's worth, I can tell you that.

And as someone who used to walk by the old Harrington School and spend some time in there, when you see what's there now, it's a Cambridge project and Cambridge is unique when it comes to that.

So we'll continue to look at that, but I don't disagree because we've got this appropriation. If it can be done for less, trust me, I have no com--argument with that. I assure you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Ms. Nolan, Ms. Nolan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** You know, I'm used to know some of the other schools are just as--Somerville High is gonna be astonishing, it's gonna beat us in some ways. And--

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Ms. Nolan, I appreciate it--

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Sorry.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Yes. Oh, thank you. We only, we have 10 more minutes. I am not going to extend the meeting and we do have to hear from Councillor Zondervan. So if--I would respectfully ask that--this is an important issue, and I understand that we can probably pick it up tomorrow because it is related to the school.

So I thank you for your interest. I thank you for your questions. I would ask that you yield the floor and I'd like to move on to Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN:** Yes. I yield the floor and look forward to more discussion of this.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I thank you for your indulgence. Councillor Zondervan.

**COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I won't take long. I have the same question, um, similar concerns perhaps, um, with a little bit more of an edge. It, it really doesn't make sense to me, uh, to be blunt, to spend this kind of money, um, on, on the school right now.

I mean, the fact that it's half of the \$500 million and, you know, for the previous half we got both the King



School on Putnam Ave and the King Open with the branch library and the full administrative building, uh, for the Public School Department, it, it just doesn't feel right that we would spend the same amount of money on just one, one additional school.

And, you know, it was a shockingly high amount even before COVID-19, but, but now more so than ever. Um, and you know, at the end of the day, um, bonds are just future taxation.

So, uh, again, you know, if, if we have any concerns about our future revenue position, then uh, this is a, a scary time to be bonding a quarter billion dollars, uh, to replace a building.

So, you know, I, I, I have a lot of concerns and questions about, uh, this, this bond appropriation right now, and I don't think ultimately I'll, I'll be able to vote for it. Um, but I, I don't have any real questions at this time, so I will yield the floor. Thank you.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I, I thank you, Councillor Zondervan. Um, there is, that's the last person that has pulled this item. Does anyone else want to speak on it? We have four minutes. Hearing none.

I will, I will entertain a motion to pass this, but-- the Public Investment Section onto the full city council with a favorable recommendation. This was made, this motion is made by Councillor Toomey. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-8, No-0, Present-2. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Before we close out this evening's, uh, budget hearing, Mayor Siddiqui is asking for unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the Community Development budget. I need to entertain a motion to suspend the rules. Vice Mayor, would you, uh, do so?

**VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON:** Uh, yes. I move that we suspend the rules to allow for Mayor Siddiqui to, uh, vote for the CDD budget.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. So there's a motion by Vice Mayor Mallon on behalf of Mayor Siddiqui, who's asking for unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative of the Community Development budget. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-9, No-0. Motion Passed.**

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This concludes the Finance Committee's discussion on the budget as it per, as it pertains to the city budget,

excluding the schools. The school budget will be taken up tomorrow night at 6:00 PM in this chamber. To my Co-Chair, is there any concluding remarks you'd like to make?

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE:** I think, uh, Madam Chair should be honored for getting the whole list completed today. Thank you very much.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** I want flowers. Any concluding remarks from our city manager and the finance team, Mr. Kale or Mr. Jennings?

**CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE:** I would just say thank you and looking forward to tomorrow

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Only You are. Um, thank you, Mr. City Manager. I will entertain-- Did you wanna say something, Mr. Clerk?

**CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON:** I was just saying motion, I was just reminding you of motion to adjourn.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** Thank you. Mr. Clerk is telling me you can't leave until we have a motion to adjourn. So, on a motion by my Co-Chair, Councillor Carlone to adjourn this part of the meeting. Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll.

**City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:**

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor Denise E. Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

**Yes-9, No-0. Motion Passed.**

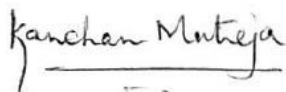
**COUNCILLOR DENISE E. SIMMONS:** On the affirmative vote of nine members, this meeting is adjourned.

**The Cambridge City Council Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 5:10 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 30th 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