



FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

10:00 AM

Remote Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet to discuss the American Rescue Grant.

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

Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$65,019,211, received from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the new Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), to the Grant Fund Finance Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used to. **CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN IN COUNCIL JUNE 21, 2021**

A communication was received from David Kale, Assistant City Manager, transmitting documents for the Finance Committee meeting on July 28, 2021



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS, CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

JULY 27, 2021

10:00 AM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Councillor Simmons, the time of the meeting has arrived and you have a quorum.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And good morning. As the Clerk has so mentioned, the time of the meeting has arrived. So I want to wish and welcome everyone to this morning Finance Committee's hearing. The topic of this meeting is as follows:

The Finance Committee will discuss the American Rescue Grant. Let me [audio gap 0:04:34] the meeting. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, adopted by Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation of meetings of the Cambridge City Council and its committees.

In addition to having members remotely, we have also set up Zoom Teleconference for public comment. Please be aware that Zoom is primarily being used for public comment. In order to watch this meeting, please tune to Channel 22 or visit the Open Meeting Portal on the City's website.

If you would like to provide public comment, please visit the City Council section of the City's webpage. Instructions on how to sign up, [inaudible 0:05:21] speak are posted there. Once you have completed this sign-up

procedure, you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting. We will not allow any public comment signup after 10:30.

Mr. Clerk, would you please take the roll for members present.

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

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present

Councillor Timothy Toomey, Jr. - Absent

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Present

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Present

Present-7, Absent-2. Quorum established.

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

Thanks to President Biden's Administration's efforts--hold on. Is it just me or is the screen frozen?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I think we're just waiting.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you. I wasn't sure. Thank you, Mayor Siddiqui.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: I think it's

Councillor Simmons.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Councillor Carlone, you-- I'm trying to reach Councillor Simmons. Now, you may want to take over the meeting as the Co-Chair until she comes back.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes. Was Councillor Simmons complete with her introductory statement from you?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Yes. She gave the introduction. Correct.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, today, we're going to talk about--Here's Councillor Simmons.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: [laughs] For the short term. I apologize. Thank goodness, I have such an apt Co-Chair. I get frozen, he just warms the room up. Thank you, Sir.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Slow on the uptake on my part.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: So very quickly before I freeze again. And thank you to my Co-Chair. As you know, we're going to get \$65 million as a part of this legislation, but the City Council and the community must be mindful of the fact that as this is federal money, there

are restrictions in terms of how we are allowed to utilize it.

We're going to use today's hearing to gain a better sense of the money that we can and cannot--what the money can and cannot be utilized for. Mr. Kale and his staff are going to walk us through a PowerPoint presentation that digs into the details.

Now each of my colleagues should've gotten several pieces of material. The reference guidelines, the fact sheet, the Coronavirus FAQs, the compliance and regulation package, as well as the federal register. We hope that you have read those so that we can have a really robust discussion.

We're also going to use this meeting as a time to take questions for the--from the Finance Committee members and to allow them to submit their ideas about the kinds of projects they would like to see this money utilized for.

As--at a future meeting, we have--we will have the Finance Department put back on whether those are in fact allowable uses. We'll also devote at least one full hearing to taking questions and comments from members of our community so that they can weigh in on this. That meeting

will be held in the evening.

As we will discuss in this meeting, the City has until December 2024 to spend--to expend these funds. We do not have time to figure out the wisest most--We do have time to figure out the wisest and most appropriate use of these funds. So let's look at this not as a sprint, but a marathon, in determining how this process should play out. I repeat, we have time to pace ourselves and make sure we get this correct.

I would also remind people that once this money is gone, it is gone. So we want to be careful not to put forward any projects that are going to accrue annual recurring cost towards projects that could not be completed within the necessary timeframe.

Put another way, if we were to devote this money to a bridge that was going to take five years to build, and we ran out of this funding midway through, we'd be left with an unfinished bridge. So we do not want--We want to be very, very precise on how we utilize this funding.

Before I turn the floor over to David Kale, our City Manager, and the staff, I want to go back to my Co-Chair, who was pinch-hitting very ably, to have him share his

opening remarks. After which, we will hear from the City Manager and David Kale.

Co-Chair Carlone, the floor is yours.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be very brief. We have met with--Co-Chair Simmons and I have met with City staff and you will see that the presentation is very thorough on areas that it appears that we can work in. We all share, I have no doubt--Councillor Simmons and I have no doubt, as does City staff and the manager, that we all want to help the people most hurt. And, um, and that is our goal. And we--we look forward to this presentation and to Councillor and public input. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Okay, before we go to the City Manager, I just want to acknowledge that Councillor Toomey is here. Please have the record show that Councillor Toomey is in, uh, is in the meeting.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: That is so recorded.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: City Manager Mr. Kale, the floor is yours.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS DEPASQUALE: So before I turn it over to David, I really want to thank David and his team

for all the work they've done in monitoring this from the start but also in today's presentation. But I also really want to thank the Co-Chairs for really working with us to set up this meeting.

\$65 million is a lot of money and there's going to be a lot of areas that we can determine where this money should be spent. And I think the more voices we hear, from the Council, from the public, from the City Departments, the better overall outcome there will be. So I think this is an important piece of hearing.

I think one of the things that we make clear is we need to think a little out of the box. And if it meets the guidelines and it's something we can do differently that we've not done but it's clearly in need and it meets the guidelines, we are not opposed to that at all. So this is a discussion, I think when it's said and done, hopefully, we'll have a long list of areas that we want to look at. And then we can work with the Council to discuss, you know, how we prioritize those areas and how we move forward with this money.

But there are a lot of needs in this city. It's a very strong financial city and certainly, we will continue to

support a lot of these needs with our budget, without using this money and then use this money as well to find maybe some new ideas, as well as putting some of the key areas around housing, homelessness.

But again, this is a team effort and we really want to hear from everybody, put it all together before we do anything. So thanks for this opportunity and I'll turn it over to David and Michelle. I can tell you from my point of view, there are no two more people in the State who put more time and effort in understanding the financial implications of this and how it can work.

Michelle's done a phenomenal job already getting us money from other areas, with incredible accounting restrictions and details and we've come up really looking good, and I'm not surprised. So I want to thank them two, especially. I'll turn it over to David. Thank you.

DAVID KALE: Thank you, Mr. Manager. And Taha is going to drive the PowerPoint. So, Taha, if you could bring up the first slide, we can get going.

Okay. So next slide is the--okay. Next slide. So this is the agenda that the Co-Chairs indicated earlier in their presentation of what we will be covering today.

Next slide. Again, we provide this information to the Council in the City Manager's recommendation, in terms of what broad categories the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Grant can be used for. I would just point out that we've already started. Many of the folks on the call today, if not all, are on a working group that has led the process of trying to understand the rules and regulations and the reporting, and the documentation that's going to be required for this grant. So the City has already started to assemble folks to basically make sure that when we do submit expenditures that we've got the reporting and documentation ready to go.

We've also engaged outside consultants or technical resources to help us with making sure that we are interpreting certain aspect of this grant. One of which being the evidence-based component of the grant, to make sure that when we get audited, we've crossed all the T's and dotted all the I's.

And again, as I think the Co-Chairs have said, this is a very unique opportunity for the City to spend \$65 million. I would point out that while that is a very important asset to the City to help constituents and

citizens and businesses and homeless, and the like, I would say that we're also trying to figure out how departments who have programmed initiatives to use this money, can utilize it in a way that fits into the staffing plans and requirements of this staff to implement some of these programs. So we're also talking about that.

And again, as Louis mentioned, Michelle, who is the Assistant Finance Director, is now the point for this to make sure that we keep on the straight and narrow in terms of what we need to do for reporting, which I'll go through in a few minutes.

So next slide. Again, I think Councillor Simmons mentioned, we have to December 31st, 2024, to spend these funds. Again, we're also getting clarity on what it means once obligations are made to basically have that two-year window to December 31, 2026. I suspect to a certain degree at the very least, the infrastructure projects that may be underway prior to December 31st, 2024, but won't be completed, is certainly one of the categories that we'll confirm. But intuitively, that is one--the problematic side is something that we need to get clarification from the Feds.

Again, all funds are spent after March 3rd, 2021, and just to keep in mind that this is a federal grant and is subject to all the rules, guidelines, regulations and requirements for federal grants that the City routinely receives and is subject to our single audit requirements. So again, we have to operate within the boundaries of our federal grant parameters.

Next slide. Again, um, here we've listed the seven broad categories, which we'll go over in detail when we get to the Appendix 1. But when we report, we need to make sure that we have projects that fit into these seven specific categories. And there are sub-categories within these seven overall-umbrella categories so that is a level of complexity we'll get to in a few minutes.

Next. Again, in terms of required information, we are going to have to provide information on the projects. And we're going to have to describe them in a narrative form, in terms of what they're trying to achieve. Again, this is a recovery grant so the focus is on how these grants would be used to help with the recovery. And the programmatic data define to make sure that the Feds, when they get our reports, understand what we're using for metrics to set the

activities and to set the benchmarks so evidentiary requirements. So again, this just gives you an overview of the first set of project reporting and the items that we need to list. There's some more coming.

Next slide. Expenditures. Again, once we've established the project, we'll have to provide this detailed information in terms of period of obligation, of accumulative obligation, period expenditure by quarter, accumulative expenditures, and the like, to keep track of that. And again, I think we have the financial system to do that, but again, it's going to require a significant amount of tracking. And the project status, in terms of where we are, in terms of that specific project and what percentages have been completed, which is going to have to be reported periodically.

Next. Again, information about the program project demographics, in terms of being able to target our economically disadvantaged communities, as defined by HUD. As I said, this is a federal grant and basically, being able to document that, as well as, again, as we get into specifics of projects. If we have sub-awards or sub-contractees to make sure that we provide documentation and

reporting of who we have made some awards to, and what they're doing. And then civil rights compliance is another component of our required reporting.

Next. Programmatic data. Again, is other than infrastructure projects, we'll come up to the slide for Appendix 1, but basically, this is required programmatic data that we will need to provide as part of our reporting in these categories of payroll, household assistance, small business, economic assistance, aid to travel, tourism, hospitality. Re-hiring public sector staff, in our case that isn't going to be something that we've had to do. Education assistance, premium pay, and revenue replacement.

So these are again, data components that we're going to have to routinely provide to the Feds. And then with regard to data for infrastructure projects, project-level information is required. And to report expenditure information as described above.

Next slide. Again, so we talked about the broad umbrellas and now we get into the specificity of what we need to do when our reporting is required, in terms of what we actually spend the money on. And again, I think that these next several slides give you a sense of what we will

have to do. Which is when we create a create a project or we create a plan, we basically have to then go through and take a look at "Appendix 1 Sub-categories", and making sure that we can slot our programs or our projects into one of these categories.

Public health is the first category. And again, we see things that--vaccination, testing, contact tracing, PPE, and the like. And so I think those are things that clearly we've had experienced in terms of reporting and implementing, as part of our CARES funding and part of our FEMA funding. But again, the challenge here will be as we report, to make sure that we can then slot our expenditures into one of these categories for Public Health.

Next slide, please. Again, this is where we'll probably spend some time today. But again, just to give you a sense of the individual categories for household assistance, job training, aid to small businesses, non-profits, and other economic support. So again, this is the second broad category with specific categories of expenditure that we need to report on.

Next item. Again, part of the detailed services to disproportionately impacted communities. Again, this gives

you the individual listing of items that we need to slot our money into as we report and to meet the federal guidelines.

And so again, there's education assistance, healthy childhood environments, housing support, and social determinants of health, and the like.

So again, this is another category broadly defined as Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, but within that category, subsets of monies that we need to be able to demonstrate we're needing with our expenditure, one of these categories.

Next. Premium pay. Again, public sector employees and private sector grants to other employers. We need to provide documentation for it and making sure that they slot into one of those two categories if we go in that direction.

Infrastructure. Again, in our memo to the Council through the Manager, this is one of the items that we can spend our monies on, in terms of infrastructure. For clean water, drinking water, and broadband, in terms of Last Mile and other projects. But again, we have to be able to document that under infrastructure, which expenditure falls

into one of those categories.

Next. Revenue replacement. Again, this is, if in fact, and again, the calculations of what revenues the City lost, starting in '19 through '20, that actually has been--has had several iterations that we've received in terms of how to calculate that. There are right now, it appears, and again we have to do another scrub, that we may be able to apply for revenue replacement. Again, that cannot be used to replenish our free cash or our reserves. It needs to be spent on either one-time capital or potentially, some problematic initiatives that fall into the categories that we just talked about.

Administrative. Again, as I noted, this is a bottom reporting and a lot of double-checking. And so may require additional resources to implement some of these programs. So administrative costs are part of the broad categories of Appendix 1, but also whether or not our expenditures slot into one of those four items listed down below.

Next slide. Again, as part of Appendix 1 and those different categories, one of the things that we are going to--some of those individual categories are going to require us to present some information about evidence-based

intervention and to basically prove that we have made inroads or have used this money to assist individuals or businesses or other programs, and basically have the benchmark to basically measure that to make sure that we can provide evidence that the funds are being used for recovery.

In addition to that, some of the individual categories that are listed in Appendix 1 will require us to make sure we can document, as I noted, that the funds are primarily servicing disadvantaged communities. So again, in addition to those Appendix 1 individual items, there are going to be requirements as part of saying how you spent the money, to provide evidence about how the interventions have been used, and what outcomes you have, but also to talk about how they have served disadvantaged communities. Not all of them have that requirement but a good chunk of them do.

Next slide. Again, this is just a little more information on the evidence-based intervention that I just spoke about.

So again, I think that what we're doing now is we're trying to take all the information that we've received, trying to build templates to make sure that we can have a

reporting mechanism as we get into the specifics of our programming to make sure that we provide information to the Feds that fit into the categories that they want to be reported on. And meet our requirements with regard to servicing underserved communities and evidence-based requirements, if need be, for that specific expenditure.

Clearly, some of them are pretty straightforward as we said, Taha, if you want to go back to Appendix 1 at the beginning. Clearly, some of these are pretty straightforward as you get into the other expenditure categories, that's where we're going to have to spend some times making sure that we document and we categorize correctly.

Michelle and Betty Lyons, who is going to help us on this project, just recently retired from the City, who was our federal grants manager, so she has expertise. I think one of the things that we have going for ourselves that maybe other communities don't, is we do get a fair amount of federal grants and we have departments heads and fiscal staff who understand what the requirements are and what the reporting is. And so I think that's going to help us. But again, I think the enormity of trying to program \$65

million is going to be a challenge. But I think we're up to it. And I think we've already started meeting to make sure that we can help with the reporting. And we can make sure that we spend the money in the right categories and that we're not going to have expenditures that are just allowed by the Feds. Because again, if we spend our monies and it's deemed to be an ineligible expense, then we would more than likely have to come to the Council for a free cash appropriation. We certainly don't want to do that.

So I think we're in a good position. We're going to find--we will find these meetings helpful to help formulate where directions we should be going in. And I think I'm done with my presentation. Michelle, Betty, if there's anything? Or Taha, you want to add, please feel free to do that. But then we can go on to the next item, which is discussion and comments. But Michelle and Taha or Betty, anything to add?

MICHELLE KINCAID: No, David, you did a good job.

DAVID KALE: Thank you. And I think we're ready to go on to the next bullet, which is the discussion and comments. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Kale.

Just a couple of things I wanted you to go over. We had talked in our prep meeting about having a contact person. Would you repeat who that person is going to be?

DAVID KALE: I think for the moment, um, we drew the short straws and Taha lost. So basically, Taha Jennings, 0:30:14]" who is our budget directors will be the point. Michelle, as I said, is the overall point in terms of collecting and reporting and gathering all this data. But in terms of a point of contact for the Council, I think it would be Taha. I mean basically he will disseminate the information and be able to report back if need be. So I think Taha is the person who would be your point.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Excellent. Excellent. And the only thing I would ask is that we run that through the Clerk so we don't want to ever--we don't want to have broached the open meeting laws by having a serial meeting. So this is to get information but not the conversing between colleagues. So I'll work that through with the Clerk so that we'll have the correct way of communicating, but we now know that Jennings is going to be the point person to lead our team to get information back to the Council as it may come up.

So the table's been set by the City Manager, Mr. Kale, and Taha Jennings and their team. And so the questions that we're looking at this day is, we've got a baseline of information. You know, it's about what we want and then what we can do. We have the regulations in front of us. We have an able team to answer any questions for us. So I want us to use this opportunity in this meeting to do that. We'll have discussions and questions. We'll have public comment. And then I talked a little bit about the next steps, and I believe that um, you--we will go over that before we close this afternoon. And as I said earlier that we will be having community meetings. So please do not see this as a last chance.

So what we want and what we can do, I mean, this document that we received was quite rich with information. When I think of things that are important, I just think--I live in the Port, as most of you know, and we have been fraught with a lot of violence and gun activity. I would love to see how we could use some of this money to address the uptick of violence.

Particularly, when it comes to some mental health for--mental health and social services for the community. So

many people have called me just recently just fraught, because they're so concerned and is there a way that money could be used for that, or municipal broadband targeted at the Port? North Cambridge and the Riverside are expanding our community outreach workers, job training.. There's just a lot of things that are important. Particularly when we talk about municipal broadband and disenfranchised communities that, you know, looking at the issues at Last Mile.

So I will come back and speak last. But when I think about, you know, we could take this opportunity to increase things like community outreach and things that are very important to us, we just want to be sure that because we want it, doesn't mean we can do it. We want to be sure that we do that right, do it correctly, and as we're adding services in particular, we are not duplicative of the services that are already existing.

So this is how we're going to go forward. Each member will take the floor, have two questions in the first round, and then come back for a next round, where there will be one question. Because we do want to, one, allow for public comment; and as we--please understand that we will be

having this conversation again. So [crosstalk 0:34:12].

DAVID KALE: Councillor Simmons, just so that--so we set as you just did, I just want to be clear that I--we're not going to be able to be in position today where people throw out a specific idea and say, Is this in or Is this out? Because I think we want to be--

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Exactly.

DAVID KALE: Cautious and prudent about what we say on a particular concept.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: So restate, David, what you would like to hear from the Council so that we're on the same page and we have the same understanding?

DAVID KALE: I--I think clearly we're trying to get feedback from Council about areas, based upon what we just described, what the monies could be used for. And to the degree that they provide some specificity, so that we can then go back and research to see if that is something that can actually be programmed and written up and be able to meet the criteria that I just described. So again--

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: I think we're on the same page. I hope my rendition was not misleading, but that was my intention. So thank you for saying that. [inaudible

0:35:15]. So right now, the queue is as follows. We have Councillor Zondervan, we have Councillor McGovern, we have our Mayor.

I am inclined to give deference to our Mayor first and then have that followed by Councillor Zondervan, and Marc, but some people say, I had my hand up first, so I want to give deference to our Mayor. So, Mayor, you have the floor. After which we'll have Zondervan, McGovern, Nolan, Wheeler.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thank you. Well, I think I've been in touch with Mr. Kale and I have been throwing awesome ideas at him, so I won't do that right now.

I don't really have clarifying questions, as I've been able to look through the material, so I think I'm clear on what's some of--the categories and what's ineligible and so forth. But if there's time at the end after others go, I may try to wrap up some of the general themes that I want to discuss. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Madam Mayor. And the Co-Chair and I will probably do likewise, just to have--the balance of the body have an opportunity because we've had a little bit more access to the Finance Committee. So thank you, Madam Mayor, we'll come back.

We have now in queue as follows: Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Wheeler. I don't see--I thought I saw Councillor Toomey's hand up, but he has an opportunity to put his hand up if he wishes. And I don't think we have the Vice Mayor with us this morning.

So, Councillor Zondervan, the floor is yours.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And through you, my thanks to the City Manager and staff for this presentation. I didn't receive the documents that you referenced earlier, so if those could be sent to us, that would be great.

So I did want to clarify. Inferring from what's been presented and said so far, that this money is not subject to the Anti-Aid Amendment, but I just want make sure that that's true or not.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Mr. Kale? Is the money subject to the Anti-Aid Amendment?

DAVID KALE: I would say that we'll probably need to look at that project-by-project to make sure that that is not the case. Michelle, if you want to weigh in but I think we don't want to make a blanket statement that it isn't.

Because again, I think some of that's going to be driven by what the idea is. And what the concept is. So I don't want to say, yes or no. But Michelle, do you have anything to add on the matter?

MICHELLE KINCAID: No, I agree on that. We need some more information to be able to say whether it's a Yes or No.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Any other comments from the Finance Committee? Hearing none, Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you. Through you, Madam Chair. Let me be more specific. In the presentation, and they go by pretty quickly, but there was reference to rental assistance, eviction prevention. So potentially, could we give money to people who are having trouble making rent? Because my understanding is according to the Anti-Aid amendment, we cannot normally do that, but in this case we would be able to do.

DAVID KALE: I--I think, again, one of the categories is rental assistance. Again, it has to meet the federal guidelines and categories and income eligibility. And again, we have to demonstrate that basically we're helping folks who are in need. So I think the answer is global,

yes, but then I think the devil will be in the details. But I think the answer is, that's the kind of stuff that we're trying to put together in a template that basically checks all the boxes in terms of making sure that it meets all the guidelines and it meets all the criteria in eligibility. So again, I think it's a broad category which was listed but I think then that the drilling down will find for us exactly if we're on solid ground.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS DEPASQUALE: Can I just follow up for one second?

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Yes, Mr. De.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS DEPASQUALE: It will clearly be probably some Anti-Aid Amendment criteria that, under this plan, we could have some capability to then spend money. You just want to make sure what those are to follow up. But you are right. We're hoping to have a little more flexibility. But without knowing the specifics, it's hard to say Yes. But there should be more flexibility as we review this, and we would follow up with the details to confirm that. But that is something that looks like could give us more room.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. De.

Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, I really appreciate that. And as you may know, the CDC moratorium on evictions is expiring and the courts are ruling against extending it. So it's going to be really important that we protect our residents for citizen eviction.

So in that vein, I'm hoping that the final outcome, not today but of this process, will be a more specific spending plan that basically says we're going to spend \$10 million on this, and \$2 million on that, and \$15 million on this. So then we can really have an overview of how we're planning to spend the money even before we [ultimately 0:40:55] spend it.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you. Any further question, Councillor Zondervan?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: That's it for now. Thank you so much.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Councillor Zondervan yields the floor. Councillor McGovern.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. So as you laid out, Mr. Kale, thank you, that

there are specific categories and ways in which we have to spend this--spend this money. Although I was pleased to see in some of the [inaudible 0:41:27], that there is some-- there are a lot of options underneath those four, you know, underneath those four--those four categories.

I want to encourage us to think about not just the, sort of, the \$65 million, which is, you know, a good amount of money, but also how can we leverage this money to, with city funds potentially, to do some really incredible things? I--I've mentioned this before and I know the Manager had agreed with this, but I just want to say it again, is that I don't want to see these funds go to reimburse us for money that we've already spent during COVID. I want to use these funds to really do something dramatic and new and address the issues that we have. And I think that we can leverage with some city money so that, you know, these--as the Chair said, this is sort of funny in that, you know, it's - you get this money once and you don't get it ongoing and so if you do something around programming or, you know, hiring staff to do certain things, at some point, the City is going to have to [inaudible 0:42:32] that spending. And I think we should

keep that as a possibility. I wouldn't want us to only focus on a capital project or something like that, where we spend the money and that's it.

And I would assume also that if we do, you know, if we do use some of these funds for capital projects that we're already, sort of, earmarked some money for the--we can shuffle some of the City money around, too, right? So if we say--I know one of the things, Mr. Kale, you know, in the presentation, was you know, that there could be certain, you know, sewer and water, you know, construction. If we were spending City money on some of those projects already and we used this money instead, that would free up potentially some City funds to do something else. So I just want to think creatively. This is a, you know, it's a great opportunity.

In terms of, uh, you know, in terms of the categories that sort of jumped out at me. And again, there's certainly--there's a lot of need in the City, and I want to agree with the Chair in that, um, certainly in light of a lot of the conversations that we've been having recently, educational assistance, job training, mental health, community violence interventions, support for our unhoused

community. Those are all things that sort of jump out at me in ways that things that we need to address. And could use some of these funds to address. I hope there's flexibility to, I think, it comes down as a good question by Councillor Zondervan around the mutual aid agreement. You know, I think we've probably all had people come to us. I know I've had a number of young people come to me and say, you know, that they're students at Bumper Hill or Roxbury Community College, and they can't afford their tuition, and they have to drop out. You know, is there some way to set up some funds or some ways to help those young people, sort of, stay in school and get their--earn their degree.

And then certainly, job training, you know, is something that, you know, we need to do a better job of in this city.

So those are, sort of, the categories that jump out at me. Educational assistance, job training, mental health, community violence intervention and support for our unhoused community. Obviously, housing is a major issue as well. So I'd like to see this--these funds go more towards social programming and direct assistance to, you know, some of our more vulnerable and under-served communities, as

opposed to, sort of, capital projects and things of that like. I think this is an opportunity really to make a real tangible difference in the lives of folks in our community and we should use it for that.

That's all I've got for now, Madam Chair. Thank you.

DAVID KALE: Madam Chair, if I can, just 20 seconds.

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

DAVID KALE: Just to make sure that we're all clear in terms of ineligible uses. This money cannot be used for federal matching funds. And I just want to clear it because I think there's some, uh, information out there that's incorrect. Premium pay for employees who are able to telework during the public health emergency. It cannot be used. This money cannot be used for funding pension accounts, paying off of outstanding debt, or making deposits to reserve accounts or rainy-day funds.

And so, I just, you know, I think, um, Councillor McGovern, I think you just want to highlight that and I just want to make sure we're clear that we cannot use that, as I said earlier, to replenish our free cash means when it has to be spent on programming. And again, the flexibility

is a different conversation about how we spend it and what that gives us in our budgets for flexibility later on. I just thought--I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Kale. Councillor McGovern, do you yield?

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: I do, Madam Chair.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Councillor McGovern yields the floor. Councillor Nolan, the floor is yours.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Chair Simmons. Thank you to my colleagues who have already spoke and who have identified some really, really important elements that we should consider for funding.

First, can you hear me okay? I want to make sure my microphone is working.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: With a little staccato, but I think everyone can hear you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Alright. I want to ask a question about how we can spend money if there are restrictions or specific ways that we can spend on broadband infrastructure, that is identified explicitly, obviously, in these funds. It's something we've been working on for a long time. It is something that benefits--

could potentially benefit residents across the City. Including the two elements. One is the wide effort that we've been pursuing for many, many years on municipal broadband across the City, and also specifically, the digital equity study that was recently done. So my question is, can these funds be used to advance some of our work in that area?

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Mr. Kale.

DAVID KALE: I think, again, the answer is generally, Yes. But again, I think there is some, in the rules and regs, some specific language about what exactly you can do and making sure that you do serve under-served communities. So the answer—again, the devil will be in the details, but I think digital equity and those kind of initiatives would be globally more than likely. But again, we'd have to see what other program we're going to develop to make sure that we are still within the boundaries. Michelle, is that generally correct?

MICHELLE KINCAID: Yes. And they have specifics on what you can spend it on. So we would have to fall, you know, fall below that, basically. The type of broadband that you would install and it has to be based on their--

their--their qualifications. And it's all in the details that we had sent out to people.

DAVID KALE: So the answer, I think again, is if we have some specific ideas, we then can go back and make sure it fits into that specific category within the parameters that have been outlined. So... okay?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Kale.
Councillor Nolan.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah, thanks for that. Because for me, that--that it's infrastructure and yet it's a critical infrastructure that addresses so many needs across the city. And is one of the few things that would benefit city-wide but including that huge number of people in the city who have been identified as, um, groups who are either lower or moderate income who are finding it difficult to have that essential part of the infrastructure.

I think the other couple of things that I'm curious about. While we don't want to--that the rules are clear on what we can and cannot spend it on, it does seem that over the years some of our other infrastructure, with the water

and sewer we've done an admirable job of advancing our combined sewage overflows. There's so many areas in which that is a public health risk when it happens that we--We are, I think, at a point where more than 55%, I believe in the last report. We have the separation of stormwater and sewage and yet we're still working on it, that again, it affects public health, it affects the ability of residents across the city in those events which are increasing in number of flooding, to be able to have a safe--feeling safe in their homes.

And along with that, is this the kind of thing that could be used--in the past, we have seen our aging infrastructure of the pipes in the ground that have been there for 100 years, have sometimes broken. We've had several instances in the last 10 years. Is that also something that might be considered not currently on our plan? For instance, that we might be able to afford now to replace them across the city, those kinds of pipes. And if there is any testing of lead pipes going into homes, because we also know that's obviously--given how old our city is, that that's been a public health concern for a long time.

DAVID KALE: Take the categories in Appendix 1, drinking water in terms of transmission and distribution includes lead remediation, as well as treatment, transmission and distribution, as I said. Again, as we develop a specific proposal to make sure it meets that criteria, it potentially could.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. I'm--I'm glad you're the--I know it's not perhaps as sexy as starting a, you know, innovative new program and yet it's critically important that we address that. Again, the city has done an admirable job, but even our city, with all of our resources, has not been able to address some of those needs. We still continue to see higher levels of lead that we would want, or the possibility of that being in some of our older buildings where many of our residents live. So I hope that's included in our assessment of how it is that we move forward using these funds for our programs. Thank you. Those were my two. I have a couple more but I'll wait. Chair Simmons, thanks so much.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Councillor Nolan yields the floor. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, the floor is yours. After which, we'll hear from my Co-Chair

and Councillor Toomey.

COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. I was going to talk about three different areas that I have--that we can explore using these funds. The first is just fare-free bus service. I think there's a really strong recovery case for this coming out of the pandemic. And I'm sure everyone is aware there has been a big mode shift in transportation during the pandemic. I chaired on this looking at transportation patterns repeated across the country. Folks who were taking public transit before the pandemic shift to driving more, as we avoided these public spaces. And coming out of the pandemic, if we don't see a shift back to public transit, we're going to see an increase in traffic, an increase in traffic deaths, a decrease in all of the activities we associate with travel.

And we know that the Boston Metro, which includes Cambridge, had the worst traffic in the country in 2019 before the pandemic. And so the chance it gets even worse is really alarming. So we need some way to encourage people to take public transit again. And fare-free bus service is big opportunity for that.

There is also a big equity and efficiency case for fare-free buses and we know a disproportionate number of bus riders are low-income and are people of color. And we also know that doing fare-free service would speed up the service of buses, because unlike other forms of public transit, like subway or the ferry, riders are paying the fares as they board the bus. So every second, every minute that riders are delayed paying while they board the bus, is a delay on the bus service. And so having buses be fare-free would speed up the efficiency of the service, which some of the folks of Cambridge depend on.

Folks are probably aware that Boston now has two different fare-free bus pilots. One, giving CharlieCards to 1,000 residents, and the other that was announced just in the past couple of days, is making the Number 28 bus fare-free for three months.

Then working a bit with the Vice Mayor and the Mayor on some of the regional efforts on fare-free buses, along with groups like Liveable Streets, which has an office in Cambridge and I'd be happy to talk more off-line about that sort of different funding models. And--but there's really a clear case for a couple of different routes. Including the

Number 1, which is of course, the most-travelled route in the whole MBTA system. And one that a lot of Cambridge residents depend on. So that's one area.

A second area is the municipal broadband. We've seen some great temporary solutions to getting internet connectivity for residents and for schools during the pandemic, and broadband would be a huge permanent one. And we can expect future pandemics or, you know, even flare-ups on this one and having a permanent, reliable case for internet access to residents would be really helpful if we do see more shutdowns or flare-ups.

And the last piece I was going to talk on--touch one was permanent spaces for homelessness. We had some temporary spaces in Cambridge, with the War Memorial and the Spaulding, and spaces the State was running, including the shelter on Green Street. But what the pandemic's made clear is that we need more permanent spaces for unhoused residents in Cambridge. So I would like to see some of the funds uses for that.

As well as for a safe consumption site, which sort of spans unhoused populations. And with unhoused population, we've seen a strong uptick in opioid use and overdoses

during the pandemic. Somerville is pushing forward with setting a safe consumption site there. There are efforts at the State level and we should be moving forward with this in Cambridge now and using some of the funds we have available to help explore it and start this process.

So those are the three areas I wanted to touch on. But thank you to the chairs for hosting this and I'll yield back.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler yields the floor. We move now to Co-Chair Carlone. After which, we'll hear from Councillor Toomey. And then we'll go back around. Co-Chair Carlone, the floor is yours.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I support everything. How rarely can we say this? Everything that's been stated so far, they're all good causes and I'm sure there are more. I'm going to talk about one that's not explicitly on the list that David and Michelle showed us. But of all the areas that Cambridge is deficient in that related pretty directly to COVID spreading was lack of open space, lack of meeting place.

We are near the top in affordable housing as far as Greater Boston. Not enough, but we're near the top. We are

sufficiently less in open space. In fact, we have 50% of the average city open space and the neighborhoods who had the highest COVID disease spread, had the least open space. The least places to meet publicly outside. I'm talking about the Port in the neighborhood proper. East Cambridge, parts of North Cambridge, and we are woefully behind.

Now if you include water storage under a new park, which we can't do in the Port for various reasons, in the existing parks. This is another flood prevention area. And you include heat islands, which weakens people, making them more susceptible to catching disease. That's the same neighborhoods.

So I would ask you, even though it's not on the list, it's tangentially on the list, but in my mind, it's more directly related to the COVID invasion that we looked into. I don't expect an answer now. I know this is different than anything on the list but I appreciate you looking into it. Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Co-Chair Carlone. We will now move to--Councillor Toomey, do you have a question before we circle back?

COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY TOOMEY, JR.: Thank you, Madam

Chair. I don't have any clarifying questions. The presentation was excellent, in terms of eligible to spend the money and to make sure that that we are in compliance with the federal rules and regulations.

Just to piggyback on what Councillor Carlone about the open space. Just to add to that. If there is a way to also planting thousands of trees throughout the City. If that would be an allowable expense, too. We're always talking about trees and just to piggyback on what Councillor Carlone said. I just want to echo his comments on that, the open space and the planting of additional trees.

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Councillor Toomey. Before we go back around, let me just put this before the Finance Committee. We know that the money must be spent by the end of December 2024, but what is the ideal zone for when the Council should finalize what we want to spend this money on? And at what point would you say we really need to come up with a final decision on these expenditures? Would it be the Fall? Would it be next Spring? Would it be next Summer? That's question number one.

And in this community, we have a very rich inter-faith, inter-action, whereby there are an extraordinary number of social programs that they offer to Cambridge residents. And I don't know, and maybe you could help me understand, where, if at all, that community would fit into any of this federal funding. So those are my two questions. If you can answer them. And if not, I will--I can get one off-line. So Mr. Kale or Mr. ...?

DAVID KALE: I guess the final decision on the 'when' on the projects, I think this is helpful today to sort of start framing some conversations. I guess the project implementation is something that we'll have to figure what realistically can be done, so I'll have report back.

And then, I guess, the second was on the inter-faith communities, I think. Again, I think probably need a little more specificity just so we can--we can clarify that a little better.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: And I'm--not to belabour it but we have members of the inter-faith community that do enrichment programs, educational enrichment programs. It speaks to educational enrichment.

DAVID KALE: Okay.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Uh, are they--do they-- is some of that funding, um, able--are we able to have them in that call for funding? Just to give you a--an idea.

DAVID KALE: That's helpful. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Very good. We're going to go now to our second round and then to Public Comment. In queue, I have our Mayor and Councillor McGovern. Other members that would like to be heard again, if you could please raise your hand. Thank you. Mayor Siddiqui, the floor is yours.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thanks. I wanted to just quickly mention the funds--the ESSER funds that the schools are, you know, in the process of--we've already received ESSER I that was about a million dollars and we have ESSER II, which will be, you know, voting to accept at next week's meeting. That's about \$3.5 million. And then ESSER III is \$8 million. And those--that application [inaudible 1:02:00] to be filed is going to be used in early October.

So I think as we continue this conversation, making sure that, you know, the budget Co-Chair of the School Committee, the Finance Committee, kind of aware of some of the things that the schools are planning to potentially use

these funds for. Whether it's, you know, you know, for this summer, some of the funds have been used for, you know, some of the programs, summer programs. In the fall, we're willing to continue using them around infection control, ventilation, system improvements, and there is a few other things. So we should probably talk through that.

And then, just to echo on what folks have said on the bus fare, you know, free bus pilot, I think that, you know, Mayor Janey just announced that, you know, their administration has put in for half a million dollars for that route 28 pilot. And so I think, you know, what we do, which bus line we can consider, I think, you know, it is-- there's a case for it and it's, I think, good timing. I know that other cities also are developing guaranteed income, you know, initiatives. You know, Seattle's going to spend, you know, a chunk--um, indirect cash assistance as part of community well-being, for example.

There's parts of California who are using their ARPA funds to do similar things. So it's just something to think about as we--if we don't have the Anti-Aid Amendment to deal with, how innovative can we get? And I think there's-- yes, there are these rules but we have other cities that

have, you know, are paving kind of some of the way. And so there's a lot of good examples.

So you know, I'll leave it at that and then finally, thinking of affordable housing, is really important And it's not--it's you know, I think there are a few things-- properties that we have where, you know, they're smaller. And I think we potentially could use these funds for those types of efforts. So I'll yield the floor. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Madam Mayor, [inaudible 1:04:25] of the Chair to yield. Um, time permitting, would you find it helpful if we had a sort of roundtable with the School Committee? In particular, because as we are putting meat on the bones around this funding, given what we have access to, and ESSER funds, that we don't duplicate but complement each other.

And I would kind of look to you to see if that's something that we should or could do and try to shoehorn it in where we might be able to fit it because I think it would be important to have that kind of conversation. But I will yield to your opinion on that matter, Mayor.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Yeah, no, I think that would be important.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

The Mayor yields the floor. We now will go to Councillor McGovern, followed by Councillor Zondervan. I don't see any other hands up, so right now it's Councillor McGovern and Zondervan. Councillor McGovern, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. My understanding is that cities and towns got a certain chunk of money and then the State is also getting a chunk of money. So are there things that--First of all, if that is indeed correct. Are there things that we can--do we know what the State is going to do in terms of offering grants and other things? Is there a--could we access some of that money as well, the things that we want to do?

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: I was going to say Councillor Kale, but that's not what your position is. So, Mr. Kale.

DAVID KALE: [inaudible 1:05:50] [laughs] I would say that we, I think Ellen and Iram might be better to speak, but I know that Michelle and I talked about some specific grants that the State is starting to roll out from the

monies they received. So I know that we will be either-- there will be either entitlement grants or competitive grants. And if they're competitive grants, we'll have to apply for applications. But I know that those are starting to be rolled by the State, so--I don't know if Ellen has heard about some specifics, but we do know that there are some that are in the pipeline. Ellen, I don't know if you have anything to add to that?

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Ms. Semonoff, do you want to add anything to that?

ELLEN SEMONOFF: Thank you, through the Co-Chairs. Um, I don't have anything specific to add right now, but we are most definitely paying attention to what's possible for us to do across the board on any state funding that may come our way.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Semonoff. Councillor McGovern.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Yeah, and then lastly, you know, as we think about as the Chair has said several times today that this is not the last conversation about this. And that we're going to be doing some other things to hear from the community. I really hope that, you know, I

think a precipitatory budgeting and, you know, those--they become mini-campaigns, right. And again, what we see is, you know, people who are better able to mobilize. People who are better able to organize. People who are, you know, more comfortable and more able to participate. Those projects win, right. Because it's an election.

And so, I hope that as we do this, that we're really, really doing a robust outreach to neighborhoods and communities that don't often participate in these types of conversations. You know, there's obviously a lot of-- there's a lot of need. We've heard a lot of very good ideas here. But the goal of this is to, you know, as was stated in the presentation, is to really improve the conditions of under-represented communities. And if those under-represented communities are not represented in this conversation, then we've done a lousy job.

And so, you know, I want to see a really strong and robust plan of community outreach so that we're really hearing from everybody in the City. And it's not just who can organize the best is going to get what they want, because that leaves a lot of people out.

So I will end there, Madam Chair. I yield.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Councillor McGovern yields the floor. We will now go to Councillor Zondervan, followed by Councillor Nolan. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair, through you. First, I want to add my voice in support of all the ideas that have been put forward so far. I'm for all of them. And in regards to when to spend the money, I would again hope that we could have a spending plan presented back to us soon, that would maybe lay it out in tranches so that we would say, we're going to spend, you know, this much of it in fiscal year '22, and then this much of it in fiscal year '23, and then this much in, I guess, fiscal '24.

And you know, obviously, that would be a plan so it could change a little bit. But that would be a good sense of how the money would be spent. But I would imagine that we're not going to leave it all to the end, or are we going to spend all of it in the next week. So you know, just having a sense of what that looks like over the next three years, I think would be really helpful.

So to add a couple more thoughts in terms of how we

could spend it, I would hope that we could invest some of this money into our universal pre-K efforts. Again, I saw Education in there, and capital projects, like I know that we're always talking about lack of space so, are there opportunities here to invest some of this funding in our universal pre-K efforts.

The other area, and this goes to a little bit of regional justice, is in health care, providing access to healthcare. And through the Cambridge Health Alliance, we could be helping neighboring communities like Chelsea and Everett, where sometimes with Cambridge Health Alliance part of the only hospital available to those residents. So if we can spend money through this program to make our healthcare provision more robust through the Cambridge Health Alliance, that could benefit not just our community members but also neighboring communities.

And then last but not least, I believe, and correct me if I'm wrong, that we could spend some of this money through supporting our local non-profit community. Particularly, non-profits that are providing direct services like the Arts Center, Margaret Fuller House, non-profits like that, that are directly benefitting community

members, again, who are generally underserved.

And so, you know, again, what I'm looking for is really a roadmap that says, Here's how much we're planning to spend when, Here's what we're planning to spend it on, Here's how much would go to rental assistance, This much would go to providing shelters for the unhoused, Here's what would go to community non-profits.

There are some of my thoughts, thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Councillor Zondervan yields the floor. Councillor Nolan.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Chair Simmons. I recognize that as much as \$65 million is a lot of money, it will be a real challenge to figure out how to spend it, because so many of the issues that we have raised would use up probably--or could use up--all of which are great ideas, quadruple this amount of funds. So I look forward to the next stage in which we prioritize and which we understand how it is that we will allocate these funds.

And I want to thank you prior colleagues that had already talked about the two next on my list, which were-- which was the question of free transit. We have had a number of programs in the City. It may be that we could

direct the free transit to low and moderate income populations, which is something that I know the school department has done. And that the City has tried to do in the past, that it may well be, if we have a pilot of--we can't fully-fund transit across the City. I know that there are some issues in working with the MBTA that we may be able to do it in a way of targeted intervention to our residents who need it the most. It would also be a real incentive, as we know, to reducing hopefully people's individual car uses.

And the other thing I want to thank my colleagues for mentioning, and I completely support and reiterate, that it cuts across so many different areas of environmental justice, is the open space and the tree canopy to ensure particularly part of our cities where the most vulnerable populations are scheduled to experience the impact of the increasing number of days of heat. Which is particularly around the latest map shows Central Square, and also the LY area, is something that we would be remiss in not addressing and in doing everything we can to address the oncoming changes in our climate which will adversely affect the public health of so much of residents, particularly the

most vulnerable who are in situations where they--they need that in order to mitigate the heat island effects.

So I endorse those proposals and I look forward, I believe, Chair Simmons, there will be another conversation about the timing and about how it is that these will be allocated and prioritized and I look forward to that. And if you need more information from us or our own priorities or specifics about how we'd want to address and direct these funds, please let us know. I yield.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Councillor Nolan yields the floor. I'm going to go to Councillor Toomey and Co-Chair Carlone to see if they have additional comment. After which, I'd like to open the floor for Public Comment. If there are any questions after Public Comment, we'll take those questions and then adjourn our meeting.

So I will turn now to Councillor Toomey. Is there any question you'd like to--question or comment you'd like to put on the floor? Councillor Nolan, please take your hand--your hand down, uncheck your raised hand. And Councillor Zondervan, I see you have your hand, if you could--okay. Councillor Toomey.

COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY TOOMEY, JR.: Thank you, Madam Co-

Chair. I echo a lot of the comments from my colleagues in terms of how to--the many opportunities that we have to expend this federal monies a lot of very worthwhile projects. And I just would--it's noted in the memo from the City where it says, in the last paragraph that, *"It is important to note that if the City expends funds for a specific project or initiative that is later deemed ineligible for funding through the federal reporting process, the City will be required to fund the entire cost from free cash."*

So I just--as we move forward, I think we have to keep in mind that we do have to comply with these federal regulations. The many worthwhile projects that are out there. But again, we have to be in compliance so I just want to throw caution to the wind. Thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Councillor Toomey. Councillor Toomey yields the floor. Co-Chair Carlone, the floor is yours.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would add to the wind and just say that I'm--I feel so good about this discussion and all the topics brought up.

It's a very communal-oriented list and now we have to work it out. But it's--I'm thrilled with the list that I've heard. I--there's not one that I don't support. There might be one I support more, but I'm a councillor. That's normal. Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Co-Chair Carlone. We're now going to turn to Public Comment. I believe there is at least one person in queue. Clerk Wilson, please open up the Public Comment portal and conduct Public Comment.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: There is one person in Public Comment. Jennifer James.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer James, no address provided, expressed thanks and great interest in the session, admitting being a "thorn in some sides" over recent months due to personal experience with violence in the City. Concerned over pandemic relief, inequities along racial, health, social, and economic lines. And requested that guns be considered as one of the most important pieces to any relief.

Pointed out free transit and affordable housing do not make for safe city, and Council should be realistic about

statistics when using the funds, and pull back the city as one. She implored that traumatized families and kids take precedence, and the needs in the Port and the Coast and North Cambridge are pushed into this pandemic-related crisis. Also commented the city to "do right" and to prioritize safety and mental health.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you so much for your testimony. Clerk Wilson, is there anybody else signed in?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: We have no one else signed up for public comment.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you. I believe there is Isaac Yablo is in the queue to--for public comment, who has his hand raised?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: There's no one else signed up for public comment. If you'd like to open up to people who are not on the list, I believe you would do it by vote to suspend the rules.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Okay, I will do that. With the pleasure of the Committee, I would--if so inclined. Thank you. So the motion by--it sounded like--I don't even know who the voice was. But the Council has--

Councillor Zondervan. Motion to suspend the rules to allow an individual not on the list to speak, the opportunity to speak.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Absent

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor Timothy Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Yes

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

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you. Mr. Yablo, you have the floor for three minutes. The floor is yours.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Isaac Yablo, no address provided, stated he was born, raised and resides on Washington Street. Echoed Jennifer James' statement on issues regarding gun violence being very intersectional, not only at the Port but because of shots fired in an incident involving 50-plus rounds in a

housing development full of families. Commented that the city must innovate.

He quoted James Diego Vigil, "*A complex issue such as gang or gun violence necessitates examining factors such as neighborhoods, affects poverty, conflict of social and cultural marginalization and social control, among other gang and gun effects.*"

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Yablo. The Public Comment, now having occurred, I will entertain a motion to close public comment. A motion by Councillor McGovern to close Public Comment. Mr. Clerk, would you please call up a roll call?

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Absent

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor Timothy Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - No

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Yes

Yes-7, No-1, Absent-1. Motion passed.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Please let the record also show that the Vice Mayor is an excused absence. She did make us aware that for this particular meeting, she would be unable to attend. So please have the record show that. That she's an excused absence from this meeting.

We have now had our first and second rounds of discussion. Is there anyone else that wants to add an additional question or thought to this discussion before we recap and adjourn? Councillor Zondervan, I see your hand up. Is it up because it was up, or you want to speak? Councillor Zondervan has the floor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I did want to briefly explain my No vote on Public Comment because it's been explained to me that we don't do that. So I think we can keep Public Comment open and allow people to speak if they're available at these meetings.

I do want to affirm what we heard in Public Comment, and really focus our efforts around justice, as we think about how to spend this money. Having raised two kids in Cambridge who are now young adults, I hear a lot from them

and their peer group, that there is a lot of disillusionment and a lot of frustration among young people because they don't see us investing in their future, in the way that they need to see to be encouraged. And as we deploy these funds and other funds that are available to us, we really need to think about that.

And you know, I agree with what was said in Public Comment that when we look at gun violence, it's really-- it's the symptom, right. The underlying causes are sort of complex and multi-faceted. And all of these things that we've talked about in this meeting have an impact on that. You know, from open space and trees to education and economic opportunity. They're all related and all affect people's lives in various ways and the more we can invest in the community, the more we will see positive outcomes and the less we will see the negative outcomes that we're trying to avoid.

So again, it's my hope that we can very soon have a clear spending plan for this money, so that we can evaluate that as a Council and say, How does this line up with our priorities? And how does it line up with our goals to creating more positive outcomes for--Especially, for our

young people. I think those of us who have been around for a while, you know, we have a good life and we hope we continue having a good life. But when we talk to younger people, they often are very discouraged about where we're going as a society.

So I hope that we can use this money as a way to make some really needed corrections. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: That was a wonderful speech, that I maybe missed it. [laughter] Mr. Kale, do you want any--to make any closing remarks before I close and go over some of the things that we heard? Then turn to my Co-Chair?

DAVID KALE: No. We appreciate this opportunity and look forward to more conversation, but I think this gets the ball rolling in terms of constructing the framework to have us start thinking about the ideas that the Council has put forward.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: I thank you, Mr. Kale. It's very clear to me that this City Council puts the community at the center of our policy work. And it's quite the privilege to work with my colleagues, because we do center the community. One of the groups that we didn't pull

out specifically but I know we're embedded, that we do need to think about when we think about some of our interventions, is the elderly community. The social and emotional toll COVID has taken on them, just in terms of deaths that they have experienced, the loss of interaction, I hear about that a lot. And so as we center our work around community interventions, I just want to put them in- in the middle of that conversation as we lift up, listen to, support, our youth and young adults.

We also want to acknowledge this community that has served this community, served this State well, and often just do not get acknowledged. So I just want to make sure that's in there.

So some of the things that came before us this morning. Multi-risk, multi-systemic approaches, gun control and violence control, safe injection sites, inter-faith community. The ESSER funds and you know, with what's happening with the school department, a bus line, free transit, affordable housing, anti-aid, open space. We talked about the possibility of a school committee roundtable. [inaudible 1:30:13] authentic and deliberate community outreach. Universal Pre-K, access to healthcare

for neighboring communities, supporting non-profits. Did I put anti-aid? Having a specific roadmap about how we're going to have this money distri--spent, sheltering the unhoused. I think I said safe injection sites.

There may be something I missed, but I'm sure that, one, our Clerk has caught that information. We will have a second meeting, certainly, which will specifically be for the community to hear their voices. We're going to try to have that in the evening, to have as many people participate knowing that we are strapped by not being able to meet in-person because of the Delta variant, making our meeting practices a little precarious. But we will all, each in our own way, collectively enjoin the Committee so we can hear those voices.

Councillor Carlone, do you want to add anything before we close out this afternoon--this morning?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: No. I--I entirely concur with your comments and it's so refreshing when we get down to what's needed, that we fully support each other. Again, I haven't heard anything that I think any of us are against. It's now finding the way to cover as much as we can and hopefully, in the next budget, we can keep

going on the same wave.

But thank you, Madam Chair. It was an excellent meeting. Appreciate it.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair. Having heard from the Finance Committee, the City Manager, from my Council colleagues, from the public in some small iteration, and seeing no hands raised, I will--I just want to remind people again, we will be having subsequent meetings. I will be talking with our Mayor, with my Co-Chair and the Finance team, to try to see if we can squeeze in to already thick schedule a roundtable with our colleagues from the School Committee. We will be having our community meeting. We will get that room back so that we'll have more delineation.

I will ask Mr. Kale to send out the materials that he sent in prep for this meeting again for those that may not have received it.

With that having been said, I want to thank each of you for being here. And I will entertain a motion for us to adjourn.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: So moved.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: So by Councillor--by

Councillor Carlone had his--beat you to the punch, Madam Mayor. Entertain--proposes a vote that we adjourn. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Absent

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor Timothy Toomey, Jr. - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Yes

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

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you. Good morning to all.

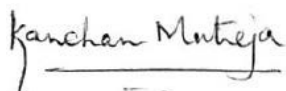
COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Bye.

The Cambridge City Council Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 11:29 a.m.

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 23rd 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