

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a COVID-19 update.
2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a Home Rule Petition seeking special legislation from the Legislature which would authorize the City of Cambridge to provide police, fire and other emergency services ("Emergency Services") to portions of the Cambridge Crossing project that are partially located in the cities of Boston and Somerville, with one such property wholly located within Somerville.

Agenda Item Number 2 Dec 7, 2020

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record favoring the filing of the attached Home Rule Petition entitled: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO PROVIDE POLICE, FIRE, EMERGENCY AND OTHER MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE AND THE CITY OF BOSTON.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-12, regarding the feasibility of adding bike parking rings to parking meters.
4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-134, regarding increasing funding to the City's HomeBridge program.
5. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of Federal CARES Act funds in the amount of \$1,256,118 to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Department Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to assist residents and small business owners who are impacted by the virus, and to support emergency housing assistance efforts.
6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of new Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$2,268.869 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Services Programs Salary and Wages account (\$106,013) and to the Grant Fund Department of Human Services Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$2,162,856) and will be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless and will support shelter operating costs and provision of essential services to homeless persons outside of a shelter setting.
7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant in the amount of \$36,450 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$32,817), and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$3,633) will be used to fund the classes, advising and coaching of the Bridge to College Program students from July 2020 through June 2021.
8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of

the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant funded by Friends of the Community Learning Center through individual donations in the amount of \$4,550 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$4,550) which will be used to support English for Speakers of Other Languages classes at the Community Learning Center.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Friends of the Community Learning Center (CLC) grant in the amount of \$38,000 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$31,828), to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$4,672), and to the Travel and Training account (\$1,500) and will provide support for Bridge Program advising, coaching and mentoring, advising for the ESOL/Certified Nursing Assistant Program, and education and career advising for other CLC students.
10. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Children's Trust Fund grant for the Center for Families program in the amount of \$55,125 to the Grant Fund Department of Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$48,411) and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$6,714) which will be used by the Center for Families to support family programs targeting parents of children up to eight years, which include a variety of family support and parent education programs and resources; to support a portion of salary and benefit costs of staff who lead parenting education and support programming across the city; and to also be used for parent participation stipends and program supplies.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections. [PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE]
2. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the City of Cambridge Law Department to review the above changes to the language of the Domestic Partnerships Ordinance and report back to the Council. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JULY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPT 14, 2020]
3. A Zoning Petition has been received from BMR-Third LLC c/o BioMed Realty, L.P. regarding a Zoning Amendment Petition for a new Planned Unit Development PUD District CDK. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING AS AMENDED ON NOV 30, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER DEC 21, 2020.]

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Stefanie Cambre representing Massachusetts Institute of Technology, requesting permission for a projecting sign at the premises numbered 45 Carleton Street. Approval has been received from Inspectional Services, Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and abutter.
2. A [Zoning Petition](#) has been received from Amy Oliver, regarding that the City require the installation of GREEN ROOFS vegetated or BioSolar on future construction and

significant rehab of buildings that are 20,000 square feet and larger.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution Wishing Swift Recovery to Dennis Benzan. Councillor Simmons
2. Resolution on the death of Brian Flynn. Mayor Siddiqui

ORDERS

1. 105 Windsor Street. Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone
2. Policy Order re Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund. Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Toomey
3. Supporting Food Pantries & Closing the SNAP Gap PO. Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, communicating information from the School Committee.

HEARING SCHEDULE (until further notice – via Zoom and TV)

Mon, Dec 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Dec 9

1:00pm The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss a communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report regarding contacting the new owners of Jerry's Pond. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Cannabis Delivery-Only Zoning Ordinance petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Dec 16

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Alewife Quadrangle Northwest Overlay petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Dec 17

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Retail Uses Zoning Ordinance petition and the Home Occupations Zoning Ordinance petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Jan 6

5:00pm The Public Safety Committee will meet to conduct a public hearing on the Cambridge Police Department inventory list. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Jan 13

2:00pm Economic Development & University Relations Committee will meet to discuss the proposed Vacant Storefront Policy, and other strategies to address vacant storefronts in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Dec 7, 2020

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR CARLONE

WHEREAS: Envision Cambridge includes the following goals:

- Shared Community Prosperity: Provide opportunities for Cambridge residents of all educational backgrounds and skill levels to access jobs that pay a living wage in Cambridge and the surrounding region so that they can share in the city's prosperity
- Equity and Fairness: Support efforts to erase racial and gender disparities in economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge owns an underutilized property at 105 Windsor Street; and

WHEREAS: The activation of this property is a clear opportunity to create business opportunities for Black and brown community members in the Port neighborhood; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide a report on the condition of the building and a cost estimate of any repairs needed; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to initiate a community process to develop the property at 105 Windsor Street with an eye towards using the building as a community space that will create economic opportunity in the neighborhood, as part of an overall neighborhood plan that includes looking for ways to create affordable housing, open space and urban agriculture opportunities; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back by Dec 31, 2020.

O-2 Dec 7, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to ripple across our community, and thanks to the swift actions of the City, programs like the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund for Small Businesses have offered a lifeline to numerous businesses that have been struggling to survive until this crisis abates; and

WHEREAS: While the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund for Small Businesses stopped accepting new applications from businesses seeking relief on May 29, it remained an open question as to whether this program might be opened back up to new applicants at some point in the future; and

WHEREAS: As we near the one-year mark of this pandemic, the need from many businesses for financial assistance remains as great as ever; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Mayor's Office, the Finance Department, and any other pertinent City staff to determine the remaining balance in the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund for Small Businesses, to determine whether this fund will be opening a second round of fiscal assistance to local businesses, and to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-3 Dec 7, 2020

VICE MAYOR MALLON

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: As the pandemic has caused widespread layoffs and business closures, food insecurity has skyrocketed, with [Massachusetts experiencing the highest increase in food insecurity](#) of any state across the country, rising from 1 in 13 Massachusetts residents being food insecure pre-pandemic, to 1 in 7 residents currently, a 59% increase; and

WHEREAS: [Food insecurity has drastically increased within the two Congressional districts Cambridge is a part of](#) as well, with the Seventh Congressional District rising from 13.7% in 2018 to 18.8% in 2020, and the Fifth Congressional District rising from 6.9% in 2018 to 12.0% in 2020; and

WHEREAS: Food insecurity in Cambridge is currently estimated by the Greater Boston Food Bank to be 13% of all residents, or approximately 15,000 residents; and

WHEREAS: With community need soaring, especially around the holidays, food pantries are struggling to keep up; and

WHEREAS: [The Greater Boston Food Bank](#), for example, currently distributes 2.5 million pounds of food to 660,000 people each week, significantly more than the 1 million pounds of food they distributed to 415,000 people each week before this public health crisis began, and the numbers have only been growing; and

WHEREAS: Anecdotally, food pantries in Cambridge are reporting a 10-15% increase in food pantry usage in recent months, and use has been increasing steadily as we head into what is likely to be another COVID-19 surge, with many unemployment benefits due to expire on Dec 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS: In order to meaningfully intervene and help fight food insecurity in our community during this critical time, we must learn more about what our local food pantries are experiencing and how the City can support them as they fill in this critical resource gap; and

WHEREAS: 7,338 residents are impacted by the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Gap, which is the difference between the number of low-income residents receiving MassHealth who are likely SNAP eligible and the number of people actually receiving SNAP, creating a City-wide SNAP Gap of 46%; and

WHEREAS: One way the City may help alleviate the skyrocketing burden on local food pantries is by launching an educational outreach campaign to close the SNAP Gap in Cambridge and encourage more low-income residents to take advantage of long-term, sustainable government assistance programs; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Human Service Programs, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC), local food pantries, and food access organizations to gain firsthand insight on what these organizations are seeing on the ground, and to develop ways to provide increased support for the food pantry network; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Human Service Programs, the Public Information Office, and other relevant City departments to develop a comprehensive outreach campaign

centered on closing the SNAP Gap in Cambridge, and educating low-income residents on how they may access government assistance benefits; and be it further
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back on this matter by the December 21st regular City Council meeting.