



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #291
IN CITY COUNCIL
December 15, 2025

I am writing to recommend the following appointments of members to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for a term of three (3) years, effective December 15, 2025:

- Cecelia Cobb
- Asherah Davis
- Nieta Greene
- Erum Sattar

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) was established under Ch. 2.96 of the Cambridge Municipal Code. The eleven (11) member board consists of one (1) representative from the Department of Public Works, one (1) representative from the Department of Human Service Programs, at least five (5) members who identify as people with disabilities, and up to four (4) individuals who are family members, friends, or otherwise connected to people with disabilities.

The City Manager's office posted a request for applications for the CCPD on the City's website and through a news release on September 9, 2025, with an initial closing date of October 7, 2025, which was later extended. During that time CCPD sent a notice to electronic newsletter recipients (about 1000 email addresses), promoted the application process at the City's Disability Pride event, and reached out to individuals who had expressed interest since the last application period. The call for applicants was also included in several of the City's daily email updates.

Thirteen (13) applications were received by eligible candidates. Of those, two (3) candidates withdrew applications during the process. An interview team consisting of CCPD staff and a member of the board conducted virtual interviews with each of the remaining eleven (11) candidates. Of the ten (10) candidates interviewed, eight (7) identified as people with disabilities, two (2) identified as parents of people with disabilities, six (6) had relevant professional interests, and four (3) identified as people of color. One (1) seat will remain unfilled as board needs are further being evaluated. Additionally, two current members will end their first terms and be eligible for reappointment in March 2026.

I am pleased to recommend these four (4) individuals whose expertise and experience will enable them to be valuable members of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities.



1. Cecelia Cobb is an urban designer with a disability who incorporates universal design into her work.
2. Asherah Davis has both personal and professional experience with multiple facets of disability.
3. Nieta Greene is a passionate advocate with disabilities from North Cambridge who is committed to making accessibility part of equity.
4. Erum Sattar has a disability and volunteers assisting with research for the MS Society.

I appreciate the willingness of these community members to serve on the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities and, with your approval, look forward to their appointments.



Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Rachel Tanenhaus, *Executive Director / ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman, *Deputy Director / Assistant ADA Coordinator*

Maya Friedrich, *Administrative Assistant*

Phone (voice): 617-349-4692 • **Relay via 711** • **Fax**: 617-349-4766

CCPD@CambridgeMA.Gov

MEMO

TO: Yi-An Huang, City Manager

FROM: Rachel H. Tanenhaus, Executive Director, CCPD

DATE: December 1, 2025

RE: Appointment of new CCPD Board Members

CC: Kate Thurman, Ellen Semonoff, Maya Friedrich, Francesca Gaines, Matthew Nelson, Lee Gianetti, Nancy Tauber, Deidre Travis Brown

My office recommends five candidates, Cecelia Cobb, Asherah Davis, Nieta Greene, Avanthi Jayasinghe, and Erum Sattar, for appointment to the advisory board of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD).

The City Manager's office posted a request for applications for the CCPD board on the City website and via a news release on September 9, 2025, with an initial closing date of October 7, 2025, which was later extended. During that time CCPD sent the notice out to our electronic newsletter recipients (about 1000 e-mail addresses), promoted the application process at the City's Disability Pride event, and reached out to people who had inquired with us about board openings since the last application period. The call for applicants was also posted in several of the City's daily email updates.

We received fifteen complete applications, two of which were removed from consideration because the applicants did not live in Cambridge. Another applicant withdrew her application due to personal issues. A fourth did not specify their interest in disability issues when asked. An interview team consisting of CCPD staff and a member of the board conducted virtual interviews with each of the remaining eleven candidates. The Committee was very impressed with several of the candidates and recommends five of them to the City Manager. They are Cecelia Cobb, Asherah Davis, Nieta Greene, Avanthi Jayasinghe, and Erum Sattar.

Of the eleven candidates interviewed, eight identified as people with disabilities, and four are people of color. Of the five recommended candidates, all are people with disabilities and three are people of color. Two of the applicants identified as parents of people with disabilities; six had relevant professional interests. The five vacancies being filled were all previously held by people with disabilities, two of whom were people of color.

Candidate Cecelia Cobb is an urban designer with a disability who incorporates universal design into her work. Asherah Davis has both personal and professional experience with multiple facets of disability. Nieta Greene is a passionate advocate with disabilities from North Cambridge who is committed to making accessibility part of equity. Avanthi Jayasinghe is a Quality Assurance tester and a person with a disability who has deep experience navigating the process of acceptance. Erum Sattar has a disability and volunteers assisting with research for the MS Society.

Office location: 51 Inman St., 2nd Fl., Cambridge, MA 02139

Monday: 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. • **Tuesday – Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Friday:** 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

 Elevator access on Basement Floor level