



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #307
IN CITY COUNCIL
December 22, 2025

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am writing to appoint the following Cambridge residents to the Board of Zoning Appeal (BZA) effective December 22, 2025:

Member (five-year term)

- Wendy Leiserson (currently an Associate Member)

Associate Members (two-year term)

- Miranda Cecil
- Michael LaRosa (reappointment)
- Zarya Miranda (reappointment)
- Esrom Negash
- Bran Shim
- Brendan Sullivan

The BZA has an important role in decisions that help shape the use and appearance of buildings in our community. Under the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, certain uses and types of development may require a variance, special permit, or a comprehensive permit from the BZA, a quasi-judicial body that conducts public hearings on all applications and appeals before it and issues decisions. The Board also hears appeals of Zoning Determinations made by the Commissioner of Inspectional Services.

The City Manager's office posted a request for applications for the BZA on the City website and via a news release on November 5, 2024. The call for applicants was also posted in several of the City's daily email updates and in postings on the City website. The posting resulted in thirteen applicants as of its closing date of December 2, 2024. The panel to review applications and conduct interviews included representatives from the City Manager's Office, Inspectional Services, and the Law Department. The recommended appointees bring a wide range of skills and experience to the BZA.

- **Miranda Cecil** is an attorney representing clients on real estate and land use matters. She has extensive relevant experience working with municipal clients. She was also a law clerk for a judge in the Massachusetts Land Court.
- **Michael LaRosa** is a life-long Cambridge resident whose general practice law firm in East Cambridge includes a focus on real estate. He has served as an Associate Member of the BZA since 2023.



- **Wendy Leiserson** is an attorney focused on land use, non-profit and environmental law. She recently began working for the City of Somerville's Law Department assigned to the Inspectional Services Department. She has served as an associate member of the BZA since 2021.
- **Zarya Miranda** is a long-term resident and graduate of Cambridge Public Schools. She is a realtor who has volunteered at Margaret Fuller House and is on the board of Transition House. She has served as an associate member of the BZA since 2023.
- **Esrom Negash** is an engineer who works as a Building envelope consultant. He is certified as an Engineer-In-Training and a LEED Green Associate. He is a graduate of the Cambridge Public Schools and brings lived experience as an immigrant and with the City's housing programs.
- **Bran Shim** works as a Senior Advisor to the Massachusetts Secretary of Administration and Finance (A&F) with a focus on economic development and housing production. He has volunteered as a Cambridge Participatory Budgeting Delegate on multiple occasions and has served on the Human Services Commission since 2018.
- **Brendan Sullivan** is a lifelong Cambridge resident who has had a long career as a General Contractor. He brings extensive prior experience as a BZA member.

I appreciate the willingness of these community members to serve on the BZA and, with your approval, look forward to their appointments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yi-An Huang'.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager