



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA • MARCH 16, 2026

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

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I. ROLL CALL

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING SCHEDULE

Hearing Schedule

IV. SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

V. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding a federal update including an update on relevant court cases.
CMA 2026-54
2. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding the City's FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
CMA 2026-52
3. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding a response to Awaiting Report 26-05 relative to streamlining the residential permitting process.
CMA 2026-56

4. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding a response to Awaiting Report 26-11 relative to further incorporating plant-based solutions in the City's work.
CMA 2026-57
5. Transmitting a Communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding the appropriation of the FY2026 Massachusetts Cultural District Grant in the amount of \$15,000.
CMA 2026-58
6. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding a response to Awaiting Report 26-08 relative to speed humps on Fayerweather Street.
CMA 2026-55
7. Transmitting a communication from City Manager, Yi-An Huang, regarding an update on micromobility regulation.
CMA 2026-53

VI. POLICY ORDERS

1. City Council support of S1022/H.1559, An Act to maintain stable housing for families with pets, and H.4835, An Act to codify pet-friendly elderly housing policies and ensure pet parity across housing authorities.
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
POR 2026-56

VII. CALENDAR

TABLED

2. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to raise the fee of the parking permit program for all residents to \$75, consider how to include a self-identified check off option so as not to increase administrative costs for a subsidized fee of \$25 for residents who live in affordable housing, are enrolled in a program such as SNAP or are low income, remove the senior exemption for the residential parking permit program and lower the number of cars that individual residents are allowed to get a residential parking permit for from four to two.
CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 9, 2026
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 2, 2026
POR 2026-32

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. AMEND SECTION 4.50 OF THE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS WITH THE INTENT OF PERMITTING THE USE OF LAND FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AS-OF-RIGHT IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS: RELIGIOUS PURPOSES; EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ON LAND OWNED OR LEASED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES, SUBDIVISIONS OR BODIES POLITIC OR BY A RELIGIOUS SECT OR DENOMINATION, OR BY A NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION; AND FOR A CHILD CARE CENTER, SCHOOL-AGED CHILD CARE PROGRAM, FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME, OR LARGE FAMILY CHILD

CARE HOME AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1A OF CHAPTER 15D OF MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL LAWS.
PASS TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL MARCH 2, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ORDAINED MARCH 23, 2026
ORD 2026-01

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Communications for the March 16, 2026, City Council meeting
COM 2026-12

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences to the family of Marion F. Arena (McNally).
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY
RES 2026-37
2. Condolences to the family of Frances E. McCauley
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY
RES 2026-38
3. Condolences to the family of Stanley T. Kotowski.
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY
RES 2026-40
4. Congratulations to the Alibhai-Dadabhoy family on the birth of their son Agha Ibrahim Alibhai.
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
RES 2026-41
5. Condolences to the family of Frances E. McCauley.
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
RES 2026-42
6. Resolution on the 95th Birthday of Toby Cosmo DiFraia.
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI
RES 2026-43
7. Thanks to the O'Bannon family for their involvement in The Oscar Micheaux Family Theater Program Company.
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
RES 2026-44
8. Congratulations to the team behind Eastern Edge Food Hall on the opening of this new space in Kendall Square.
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
RES 2026-45

9. Recognition of and appreciation for Children’s Village and its lasting contribution to the Cambridge community and to the children and families they serve
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
RES 2026-46

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Finance Committee held a public meeting on February 3, 2026 to review and discuss the Operating Budget in advance of the FY27 budget season.
CC 2026-27
2. The Finance Committee held a public meeting on February 11, 2026 to review and discuss the Capital Budget and Public Investment Planning in advance of the FY27 budget season.
CC 2026-28

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Interim City Clerk Paula Crane, regarding an update regarding legislative activity
COF 2026-27
2. Communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting updates from the School Committee.
COF 2026-29

XII. LATE AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING SUSPENSION OF THE RULES PER RULE 36A

1. Condolences to the family of Vincent J. Borelli
RES 2026-47

XIII. APPENDED INFORMATION

1. Awaiting Report Status Update 3.16.26

AWAITING REPORT LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the School Department, the Department of Public Works, and other relevant departments to ensure that all city owned parking lots, with a focus on school complexes, including the still under construction parking at Tobin/Darby Vassal school complex, could be made available for after-hours use by residents. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-29
Councillor Nolan
AR 2026-02
2. The City Manager is requested to consult with the appropriate City departments, including the City Solicitor’s Office, to establish a formal policy that clearly defines the City’s role and financial responsibilities in supporting large-scale public events hosted by Cambridge-based non-

profit and not-for-profit organizations. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-48
Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern
AR 2026-03

3. The City Manager is requested to work with all relevant departments to seek input from the community as well as direct outreach to condo owners and short-term rental operators and develop additional recommendations based on the discussion in the Ordinance Committee. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-51
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui
AR 2026-04
4. Review the previous home rule petition and prepare a new petition that would allow Cambridge to enact a Real Estate Transfer Fee to be sent to the state legislature. Original Awaiting Report AR-25-69
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern
AR 2026-06
5. Restricting Eligibility for On-Street Resident Parking Permits in New Transit-Oriented Developments. Original Awaiting Report 31839
Councillor Zusy, Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor Nolan
AR 2026-07
6. Direct appropriate City departments, including the Department of Transportation, to evaluate and install a series of speed humps along Fayerweather Street, with particular attention to the stretch between Walnut Street and Field Street. Original Awaiting Report #31840
Councillor Simmons, Councillor Flaherty, Councillor McGovern
AR 2026-08
7. Direct the City Solicitor and the Community Development Department to review and report back to the Council on (i) legal parameters related to City funding and Tourism Destination Marketing District restrictions, and (ii) oversight and accountability related to the operation of the visitor information kiosk, and related governance expectations, including alignment with City priorities. Original Awaiting Report ID #31841
Councillor Simmons, Councillor Flaherty
AR 2026-09
8. Work with relevant departments to prepare for a Council discussion on best future uses for City-owned properties and the processes for redevelopment. Original Awaiting Report #31842
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Al-Zubi
AR 2026-10
9. That the City Manager work with relevant departments to incorporate plant-based solutions into the Sustainable Cambridge initiative and purchasing practices in City-operated and School-related events.
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui
AR 2026-11
10. That the City Manager work with relevant City departments to prioritize pilot projects in 2026 without the use of a consultant for an extensive pedestrianization study, and in the medium-term consider how additional pedestrianization of a section of Brattle Street by restoring two-way traffic to JFK Street could enhance the Square.
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zusy

AR 2026-12

11. That the City Manager conduct a comprehensive review of existing safety and security measures at Cambridge City Hall, including an assessment of physical access controls, visitor screening practices, on-site security staffing and training, emergency response and evacuation protocols, and the use of security technologies such as surveillance systems and alarm monitoring.
Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Simmons

AR 2026-14

12. The City Manager is requested to direct the relevant City staff and departments to examine if and how the City may prevent the hiring by the Cambridge Police Department of any sworn officer who was hired by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, or Customs and Border Patrol, and report back to the City Council in a timely manner.
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Al-Zubi

AR 2026-15

13. The City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department (CDD) to examine the feasibility, legal considerations, and administrative requirements of permitting qualified third-party guarantors or co-signers for applicants to Inclusionary Housing units and provide recommendations as to whether such a policy could responsibly expand access to these units.

Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Simmons

AR 2026-16

14. The City Manager is requested to direct the Law Department to draft ordinance language restricting the use of City-owned or City-controlled property, facilities, resources, and personnel for the purposes of federal civil immigration enforcement, and that the Law Department evaluate whether these protections should be adopted as an amendment to the Welcoming Community Ordinance.

Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Al-Zubi

AR 2026-17

15. The City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate departments to review the city's digital equity work to date, including the study's recommendations and all steps taken since the study conclusion in order to update the evaluation of existing internet access programs, assessing whether residents' digital needs are or could be better provided for and to propose how we can better meet their needs and to report back to the Council by June 2026 on internet access programs.

Councillor Zusy, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Azeem

AR 2026-18

16. That the City Manager is requested to assess opportunities to improve the consistency of how meeting information is posted and accessed on the City's website.

Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler

AR 2026-19

17. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to produce and deliver to the City Council, prior to the adoption of the FY27 Capital Budget, a consolidated capital lifecycle reconciliation for all major capital initiatives.

Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Flaherty

AR 2026-20

18. That the City Manager is requested to confer with relevant City staff and report back with information on the exploration of a potential Cambridge Snow Corps program.
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Al-Zubi
AR 2026-21

19. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments as well as the Election Commissioners to review guidance from the IRS and consult with other municipalities in order to simplify our processes for paying election workers.
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy
AR 2026-22

20. That the City Manager is requested to work with the City Council and relevant City departments on the process by which Cambridge can expand free early child care offerings, including models for means-tested programming, and exploration of non-City funding sources, from the state or foundations.
Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui
AR 2026-23

21. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department, Finance Department, Law Department, and other relevant departments to explore all steps towards advancing social housing in Cambridge. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-58
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
AR 2026-24

XIV. ADJOURNMENT
