



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA • MARCH 23, 2026

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Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

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

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## I. ROLL CALL

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## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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## HEARING SCHEDULE

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Hearing Schedule  
HR 2026-31

## IV. SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

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1. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on March 16, 2026

## V. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to recommendations for the block rates for water consumption and sewer use for the period beginning April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2027.  
CMA 2026-66
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$900,000 from the Mitigation Revenue Stabilization Fund and the rescission of funds from two grants in the amount of \$2,000,000 and \$400,000 respectively to support a new off-road bridge over the Fitchburg Rail Line.  
CMA 2026-67

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) Review Board Appointment.  
**CMA 2026-64**
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to classification of the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) Review Board as special municipal employees.  
**CMA 2026-65**
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$5,234,379.00 from Free Cash to support snow operations.  
**CMA 2026-61**
6. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$700,000.00 from Free Cash to support road repairs related to snow operations.  
**CMA 2026-62**
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 26-21 regarding exploration of a potential Snow Corps program.  
**CMA 2026-63**
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the 2025 Town Gown Reports and Presentations discussed by the Planning Board in February.  
**CMA 2026-60**

## **VI. POLICY ORDERS**

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1. That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to light up City Hall in light blue, light pink, and white from March 31, 2026, until April 6, 2026, in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility.  
**MAYOR SIDDIQUI**  
**COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN**  
**COUNCILLOR SIMMONS**  
**COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER**  
**POR 2026-57**
2. City Council support of H.91 and S.2556, An Act to modernize funding for community media programming  
**COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN**  
**MAYOR SIDDIQUI**  
**COUNCILLOR NOLAN**  
**COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY**  
**POR 2026-58**
3. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department and the Transportation Department to meet with Harvard's Office of Community Relations and the Longwood Collective (MASCO) to harmonize institutional bus protocols with public-facing commitments.  
**COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI**  
**MAYOR SIDDIQUI**

**COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER  
COUNCILLOR NOLAN  
POR 2026-59**

4. That the City Manager is requested to direct relevant City departments and staff to examine and report back on whether the city can require single-stall public bathrooms to be gender-neutral.

**COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN  
MAYOR SIDDIQUI  
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS  
COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI  
POR 2026-61**

5. Support A Federal Earmark to Take Plans for the Boston-Cambridge Riverwalk Construction at Science Park to 25% Design

**COUNCILLOR ZUSY  
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY  
POR 2026-63**

## **VII. CALENDAR**

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### **TABLED**

6. 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**

7. 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**

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1. Communications for Regular City Council meeting March 19, 2026  
**COM 2026-13**

## **IX. RESOLUTIONS**

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1. Congratulations to the CRLS Unified Sports Program on achieving recognition as a National Banner Unified Champion School and celebrates its ongoing commitment to inclusion and excellence.  
**MAYOR SIDDIQUI**  
**RES 2026-49**
2. That the Cambridge City Council express its deep appreciation for Minara's contributions to the cultural, social, and civic life of Cambridge.  
**MAYOR SIDDIQUI**  
**COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI**  
**RES 2026-50**

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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1. The Finance Committee held a public hearing on February 25, 2026 to receive a status update on Federal Grants (including ARPA) and the Federal Grant Stabilization Fund, as well as a discussion on establishing future Budget Priorities.  
**CC 2026-30**

## **XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS**

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1. A communication was received from Interim City Clerk Paula Crane, regarding an update regarding legislative activity  
**COF 2026-30**
2. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a memorandum regarding information from the School Committee.  
**COF 2026-31**

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

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1. Supporting East Cambridge Planning Team's Letter in Favor of Boston-Cambridge Riverwalk Construction at Science Park Project  
**POR 2026-62**
2. Condolences on the Passing of Patricia L. O'Connor  
**RES 2026-51**
3. Late Resolution Congratulating Cambridge Community Center 2026 Honorees  
**RES 2026-52**
4. Late Condolence Resolution to the Family of Gloria Thompson  
**RES 2026-53**

5. Condolences To The Family of Yvette Dottin  
**RES 2026-54**
6. Late Condolence Resolution for Leon Braithwaite  
**RES 2026-55**
7. Late Resolution recognizing Eric and Yukiko Toledo for their outstanding volunteer service and commitment to Cambridge Youth Sports.  
**RES 2026-56**

### **XIII. APPENDED INFORMATION**

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1. Awaiting Report Status Update 3.23.26

#### **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 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**
7. 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**
8. 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**
9. 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**
10. 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**
11. 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**
12. 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**

13. 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**
  
14. 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**
  
15. 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**
  
16. 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**
  
17. 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**
  
18. 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**

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