

O-16 Aug 7, 2023

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: On April 24, 2023, following a decision released by Commissioner Douglas Rice of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) dated April 3, 2023 not to continue Saturday closures of Riverbend Park, the City of Cambridge committed to the extended access to Riverbend Park by passing [Policy Order PO23#68](#) by a margin of 7-2; and

WHEREAS: There was a recent disclosure of documents related to the state's decision not to open Riverbend Park to pedestrians and cyclists on Saturdays in addition to the statutorily required Sundays that revealed substantial misinformation on the part of State officials; and

WHEREAS: Sufficient access to open space is crucial for the health and well-being of Cambridge residents, and a matter of social equity and justice particularly for underserved communities that may have limited access to these amenities in denser neighborhoods; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to meet with Governor Healey, DCR Commissioner Arrigo and Secretary Rebecca Tepper to discuss resuming Saturday closures to traffic this summer and mitigating the traffic impacts, including by making potential traffic signal adjustments; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back on this matter to the City Council no later than the Sept 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the City Council.

O-17 Aug 7, 2023 **Charter Right - McGovern**

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR TONER

WHEREAS: The Cycling Safety Ordinance was passed in 2019 and amended in 2020 in order to reduce injuries and deaths of people riding bicycles, by requiring safer streets designs with separated bicycle lanes; and

WHEREAS: Outdoor dining and events have become increasingly popular, providing additional public space and additional revenue for restaurants and small business owners, and have strong support in the cycling community; and

WHEREAS: Separated bicycle lanes and outdoor dining have been installed in a complementary way in some locations in Cambridge and neighboring cities yet the current situation is not the best solution; and

WHEREAS: Some concerns have been raised regarding the ability to implement seasonal outdoor dining and separated bicycle lanes on the same streets; including the potential to seasonally change these installations to allow for parking and loading uses during the winter, how to add new outdoor dining in locations where parking-protected bike lanes have already been installed, and the ability to maintain existing outdoor dining installations by aligning a separated bike lane around them; and

WHEREAS: It is not clear if the existing CSO allows for seasonal changes that protect cyclists and support small businesses seeking to use public space outdoors in the public way; now therefore be it

WHEREAS: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back as soon as possible and no later than Sept 11, 2023 on whether change in language to the CSO is necessary to enable installation of permanent, seasonal, and/or temporary outdoor dining and pop-ups alongside separated bicycle lanes consistent with Cycling Safety Ordinance that address concerns about the current situation; and be it further

ORDERED: That if an amendment to the current CSO language is necessary, that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to consult with relevant City departments on whether the attached language is sufficient to protect cyclists and support the goal of enabling flexible use of public ways and if not what language could meet these goals and report back as soon as possible on this matter.

O-18 Aug 7, 2023

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: A majority of graduate student workers at Northeastern University filed for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on February 6, 2023, in order to secure better pay, overwork protections, dental insurance, and protections from racial and sexual discrimination, and ensure equal treatment of domestic and international students, among other improvements to their working conditions; and

WHEREAS: The City Council recognizes the critical value of unionized workers and is home to many of the

4,000 Northeastern graduate student workers; and

WHEREAS: Administrators at Northeastern have untruthfully stated during the NLRB process that graduate researchers, teaching assistants, and graders at the university are not workers and therefore do not have the rights of workers; and

WHEREAS: The law firm Seyfarth Shaw LLP is arguing on Northeastern's behalf to the NLRB that all graduate students across the country should be undemocratically denied their union representation at private universities in what would be a ruinous precedent for labor organizing; and

WHEREAS: Northeastern has taken several anti-union actions by repeatedly attempting to coerce graduate student workers out of organizing through spreading disinformation about graduate worker unions and using campus police to illegally threaten false charges for participating in protected concerted union activity; and

WHEREAS: An election has finally been scheduled for Sept 19, 2023, allowing all eligible masters and doctoral graduate students to vote on creating a union; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in enthusiastic support of the graduate student workers of Northeastern University and their effort to form a union; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the university to bargain in good faith with the union after the election; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to Tim Rupprecht of GENU-UAW and Joseph E. Aoun, President of Northeastern University on behalf of the entire City Council.

### **AWAITING REPORT LIST**

19-66. Report on whether it is possible to reduce or eliminate Building Permit Fees for 100% affordable housing development projects, through an exemption or other means and investigate what types of real estate tax abatements are possible for 100% affordable housing moving forward.

Vice Mayor Devereux, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor McGovern (O-3) from 6/3/2019

19-147. Report on installing hearing loop technology inside the Sullivan Chamber as part of the upcoming renovations to City Hall, and in other critical City meeting venues wherever possible and other accessibility improvements.

Councillor Zondervan (O-4) from 10/28/2019

20-6. Report on the acquisition and implementation of interpretation services for City Council meetings and other public City meetings.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern (O-8) from 1/27/2020

20-27. Report on the advantages and disadvantages of continuing with Civil Service, and the process by which Cambridge could exit Civil Service.

Councillor Nolan (O-5) from 6/22/2020

20-53. Report on how Cambridge might participate in PACE Massachusetts pursuant to the PACE Act including exploring all options for incentivizing participation. **See Mgr #15**

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone (O-2) from 10/19/2020

20-60. Report on analyzing eviction data from 2018 through 2021 and come back with a plan on how to use this data to inform our next action steps.

Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler (O-8) from 11/2/2020

20-72. Report on the condition of 105 Windsor Street and cost estimates of any repairs needed and provide recommendations on how to develop any other underused properties based on an inclusive public process centered in the Port neighborhood. **Report Received and Accepted**

Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Simmons (Calendar Item #1) from 12/14/2020