



2022-2023

TERM REVIEW

**OFFICE OF MAYOR SIDDIQUI
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**





Dear Cambridge,

It is hard to believe this term is coming to an end! When I took the oath of office two years ago in a frigid Starlight Square ceremony, COVID-19 cases were spiking and the pandemic continued to underscore inequities in our community. We have come a long way, and I want to take a moment to reflect.

Over the past two years, your resilience, active engagement, and demand for progress have not only propelled us forward but also led us to make history in multiple ways. From launching the nation's first guaranteed income program of its kind to initiating a universal pre-kindergarten program that has been in the works for decades, this term we equipped people of all ages and backgrounds with the tools to succeed, directly addressing the inequities that the pandemic highlighted.

Through it all, I am incredibly grateful for your support. I look forward to continuing this important work alongside my colleagues on the City Council.

Sumbul Siddiqui

SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE, MA

Engaging with the Cambridge Community

This term, my office planned events and outreach initiatives with two goals in mind: increasing accessibility and celebrating diversity.

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT

Fostering consistent and accessible dialogue has been a key focus. My Office has established approachable spaces to connect with constituents through various channels, including phone, email, social media, walk-ins, and office-sponsored events like Coffee Hours, community resource fairs, and Meet & Greets at Cambridge Housing Authority buildings. This term, we received nearly **5,000 inquiries**, providing direct support and connecting residents with essential services.

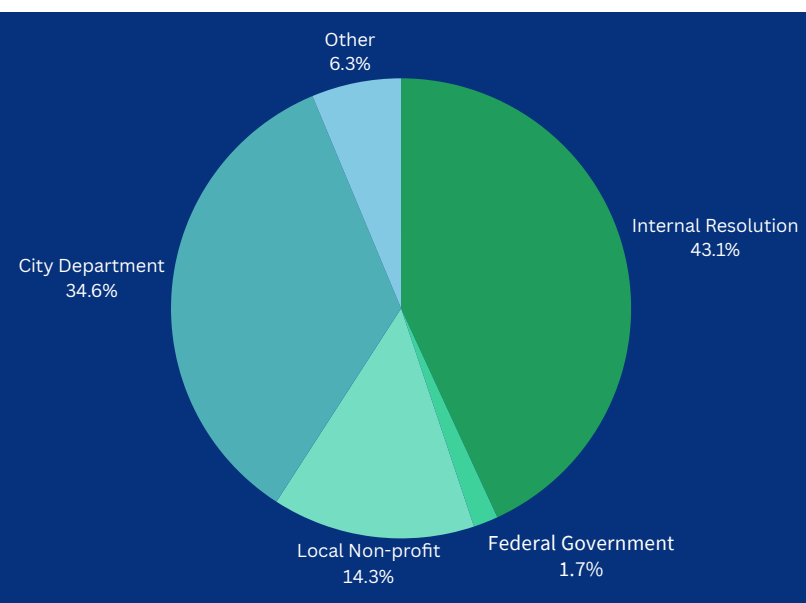
Our collaboration with city departments and agencies ensures that residents receive timely assistance, from bill payments with the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee to mobility needs with the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department. Additionally, partnerships with De Novo, Greater Boston Legal Services, the offices of Senators Warren and Markey, Congresswomen Pressley and Clark, and Representative Decker have facilitated access to representation for our community members.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Engaging with thousands of constituents at events this term, my office continued annual favorites such as Bollywood Night and the Warm Hearts for Warm Feet Sock Drive. We also introduced new initiatives, including a Free Community Skate Day in collaboration with the Canal District Skate Rink and an annual Rindge Reunion.

Other notable moments include:

- Partnering with the City's Employees' Committee on Diversity, CPS Muslim Affinity Committee, and the Islamic Society of Boston to host Cambridge's **largest Community Iftar**, with over 1,000 attendees.
- Continuing the annual **Winter Support Drive** that has raised a total of \$160,000 in support of Cambridge families and seniors.
- Delivering remarks at over **250 community events and gatherings**.



How constituent inquiries, received through phone, email, social media, or walk-ins, were successfully resolved.

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

2022

2023

Inauguration

JAN

MLK Day of Service

5th Annual Sock Drive
Free Tickets to the Museum of
African American History

FEB

6th Annual Sock Drive
Community Skate Day
International Mother Language Day Poetry
Competition

Women's History Month Art Contest

MAR

2nd Annual Women's History Month Art Contest
Women's History Month Trivia Night
Community Iftar

Bike Bonanza
Community Iftar
Liberation Libraries

APR

2nd Annual Bike Bonanza
Eid-Al-Fitr Community Prayer

Headspace Giveaway
Yoga on City Hall Lawn

MAY

Citizenship Day
Mental Health First Aid Training
Voter Registration Ice Cream Social

Pride Brunch
Inaugural Juneteenth Parade

JUN

Glam Up and Go Pride Brunch
2nd Annual Juneteenth Parade
Eid-Al-Adha Community Prayer

2nd Annual Bollywood Night
Eid Community Prayer

JUL

'Who Knows Cambridge' Trivia Night

Back-To-School Fairs

AUG

Back-To-School Fairs
Recovery Month Memorial

Walden Square Resource Fair
LGBTQ+ Starlight Event

SEP

3rd Annual Bollywood Night
It's Basic Documentary Screening

Diwali
Pumpkin Painting Storytime
2nd Annual Trick-or-Treat on the Lawn

OCT

3rd Annual Trick-or-Treat on the Lawn

Thanksgiving Luncheon for Seniors
Rindge Reunion
Financial Literacy Workshop

NOV

Thanksgiving Luncheon for Seniors
Rindge Reunion

2nd Annual Winter Support Drive

DEC

3rd Annual Winter Support Drive
Holiday Toy Drive
Community Skate Day



Pushing Policy Priorities Forward

Building a Better Cambridge

This term, I have worked closely with my colleagues to get a number of important policies passed and implemented. Some of these are ongoing and will continue into next term, but I wanted to share a few that I am most excited about.

Policy Priorities

Community Based Economic Growth

Affordable Housing

Addressing Inequities

Environmental Sustainability

At the last City Council meeting in June, updates to the **Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO)** passed, aiming to decarbonize our buildings and meet our zero emissions goals. By 2035, large commercial buildings responsible for half of our emissions must be at zero emissions. I want to express my gratitude to the activists and building owners who have actively participated in shaping this policy.

Working with my colleagues, we established the City's first **Charter Review Committee** two years ago, and the members are finalizing their work. After working closely with a number of cities in the region, I signed the **Commonwealth Development Compact**, which puts Cambridge on a path to diversify the real estate development pipeline, which is currently a male dominated industry with very little diversity.

I also appointed two Working Groups: the **Climate Crisis Working Group** and the **Fare-Free Working Group** to engage residents and stakeholders and push forward these policy priorities. Working with Councillor Nolan, who chaired the Climate Crisis Working Group, we released a strong report and some of the key recommendations have been acted upon this term.

I must also commend the **Cambridge Youth Council** and our **Student School Committee Representatives** for their exceptional leadership in advancing our policy priorities. Their efforts to register students to vote, advocate for the wider teaching of AP African American Studies courses, and create the Youth Headspace campaign, which aims to destigmatize conversations about mental health, have been instrumental in driving positive change within our community. In collaboration with the CRLS **Title IX Aurelia Advocates** we also updated the language about sexual violence and reporting in the Title IX policy.

Other policies that I worked on and passed include the City purchasing property to utilize for **affordable housing** and modernizing our **Parental Leave Policy** to double the leave time from 8 weeks to 16 weeks and include loss of pregnancy.

Rise Up Cambridge

Providing Financial Dignity and Stability

“We want Cambridge to be a city where all families feel supported, seen, and hopeful for their children.”

MAYOR SIDDIQUI
RISE UP CAMBRIDGE PRESS CONFERENCE,
MAY 2023

This year, Cambridge made history as the only city in the country to provide **cash assistance to all families in poverty**. Our groundbreaking initiative, Rise Up Cambridge, is an expansion of the successful pilot program, CambridgeRISE. The program delivers \$500 in direct cash assistance to low-income Cambridge households with children aged 21 or under, earning at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. This 18-month initiative is a \$22 million commitment from my Office and the City of Cambridge managed in partnership with the Cambridge Community Foundation, using funds received by the City from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Currently, **1,922 households** (6,450 residents) are benefitting from this initiative. I am so glad that we are succeeding in the program’s goal of addressing the growing economic

divide and racial inequities in Cambridge, while maintaining our city’s diverse population and continuing to be a place where all families can thrive.

Our success led to invitations to join Dr. Bernice King and the Economic Security Project at the **Guaranteed Income Now** conference in Atlanta, Georgia. I also spoke at the **Stanford University Basic Income Lab’s symposium** called ‘Guaranteed Income in Martin Luther King Jr.’s Vision for Racial and Economic Justice.’

An exciting highlight throughout this process was attending the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City for the premiere of **"It's Basic,"** a documentary that explores the history of Guaranteed Basic Income in America. The film, put together by Michael Tubbs of Mayor’s for Guaranteed Income and Blowback Productions, features Cambridge, our RISE pilot, and the expansion. In September, hundreds of people joined us for the Cambridge premiere of the film at the American Repertory Theater. Representing Cambridge and our ongoing efforts to address income inequality on the big screen and across the country has been awesome!



School Committee Priorities

Access to equitable education



Ensuring that education remains accessible to all, regardless of financial constraints, has been a huge undertaking. This term, we launched four initiatives aimed at alleviating the financial burdens associated with education at all levels.

Cambridge Preschool Program: In 2022, I established The Universal Pre-K Ad-Hoc Committee in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood Education to move forward on an initiative that has been a City Council priority for decades. With the support of City Manager Huang’s \$10 million Universal Pre-K Stabilization Fund, we launched the Cambridge Preschool Program. This publicly-funded initiative provides free school-day, school-year preschool to every 4-year-old and some 3-year-olds living in Cambridge. Applications are currently open, and families will be notified of their child’s placement in March 2024. I am glad to have collaborated with City and community partners to provide every child with access to a high-quality preschool education.

Cambridge Promise Pilot: Since September 2022, a working group led by my office, City

staff, the Cambridge Public School District, the College Success Initiative, Cambridge School Committee Members, and the Cambridge Community Foundation, has been working to address the inequities in degree attainment and the rising cost of college. In September, we launched the Cambridge Promise Pilot, allowing up to 30 eligible students enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College to receive a “last dollar plus scholarship,” which covers tuition and fees for the 2023-2024 academic year, including school-related expenses not covered by a student’s Pell Grant and outside scholarships. Additionally, each student receives an extra \$250 stipend each semester and a College Success Initiative Coach. In a remarkable show of support, MIT and Harvard University each committed \$25,000 to fully fund the pilot in its first year.

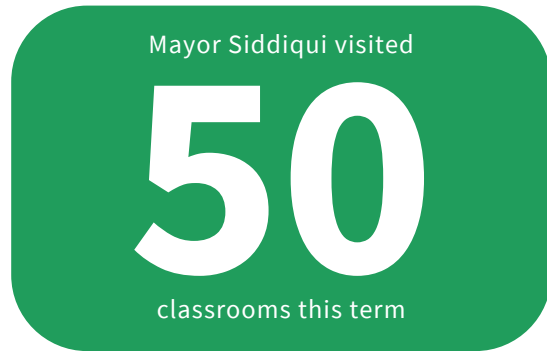


Early College: In 2022, School Committee Members Ayesha Wilson and Fred Fantini and my office collaborated with the school district and Lesley University to initiate an Early College Program. We have since

expanded to include the Benjamin Franklin Institute, and we are actively working on adding an education track to Lesley's course options. Early College programs like ours are proven to retain first-generation, immigrant, and students of color beyond their first year of college, allowing them to graduate college early and with less debt. In April 2022, Lesley University and CRLS received a state designation as a Massachusetts Early College Program and over 100 students have participated in this opportunity to earn college credits while fulfilling their high school graduation requirements.

MBTA cards: In collaboration with the Cambridge Youth Council, we secured funding for all Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, High School Extension Program (HSEP), home school, and charter school

students who reside in the district to receive a free MBTA Charlie Card this school year.



School Visits: Along with developing those initiatives, throughout the term I have connected with 50 Cambridge Public School classrooms. Whether it's welcoming them to City Hall or visiting their schools, it has been a joy to share insights into local government, answer their questions, and hear their thoughts on how we can continue to improve as a City.



Global Citizenship

Fostering Collaboration

Cambridge remains at the forefront of progressive policies and innovation, and it's a privilege to showcase our successes both nationally and internationally. This term, I met with **foreign dignitaries** from Armenia, Canada, El Salvador, Japan, and Turkey. We exchanged ideas, collaborated on common challenges, and highlighted the exceptional work happening in our cities.

I participated in the **National League of Cities** Congressional City Conference in Washington DC with the Cambridge Youth Council where we connected with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Representative Jim McGovern. In Orlando, Florida, the school committee shared our strategies for addressing educational challenges at the **National School Boards Association** CUBE Conference.

I visited my alma mater, **Northwestern Pritzker School of Law** in Chicago, Illinois, to speak with students about the impact of my education on my role in local government and share our local successes.

Welcoming **Governor Healey** and the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe, we showcased the energy-efficient Finch housing development, emphasizing our commitment to a sustainable future.

Through these engagements, we continue to amplify Cambridge's achievements, share our innovative approaches, and learn from communities worldwide.





This term, we addressed the inequities that persist in our city by engaging with thousands of residents, ensuring access to equitable education, tackling climate change, and much more.

It has been an honor to lead this community that continues to push boundaries. With the support of our residents, city staff, and community partners, we have achieved so much and I am looking forward to another term on the City Council to expand on the integral work we started.

Thank you for your support, Cambridge! If you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns, you can always contact my office in any of the following ways:

Phone: 617-349-4321

Email: Mayor@cambridgema.gov

Newsletter: [bit/ly/MayorSumbulSiddiqui](https://bit.ly/MayorSumbulSiddiqui)

Social media: @mayorsiddiqui

