



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL
June 4, 2018

COUNCILLOR MALLON
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
VICE MAYOR DEVEREUX
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

- WHEREAS: August 2020 marks the centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge has a long, progressive history of women's suffrage, including granting women the right to vote in school committee elections in 1879; and
- WHEREAS: Women in Cambridge were active participants in the suffrage movement, founding organizations like the Cambridge Political Equality Association, the Cambridge Woman Suffrage Association, and the Harvard Women Suffrage Campaign Committee, which fought for full enfranchisement of women until the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Political Equality Association and the Cambridge Woman Suffrage Association merged and later became the widely known Cambridge League of Women Voters; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge women involved in these organizations spearheaded a grassroots movement for their full right to the ballot by holding rallies, knocking on doors, and petitioning both the City and the legislature; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the groundbreaking work of these women and their tireless efforts to gain the right to vote, there is no monument to their activism in the City, and while some existing City monuments appear to have female figures (the Irish Famine Monument on the Common, the Revolutionary silhouette figure at Fort Washington Park, and the Park Bench Group in the Pine Street Tot Lot), none of these figures represent an actual, historical woman, and there is currently no monument to the Cambridge Women's Suffrage movement; and
- WHEREAS: The only physical reminder of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage movement, their headquarters at 560 Massachusetts Avenue, was demolished in 1925; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Cambridge Historical Commission, the Cambridge Women's Commission, the Cambridge Arts Council, and the Community Development Department to commission a public art piece, statue, or memorial that would commemorate the dedication of women in Cambridge to passing the Nineteenth Amendment; and be it further

ORDERED: That this project be completed by August of 2020, in time to celebrate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and women's suffrage; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council regarding the progress and timeline of this project in a timely manner.