



City View

WINTER 2018-19

Public Health Department Earns National Accreditation



The Cambridge Public Health Department recently achieved five-year national accreditation through the nonprofit Public Health Accreditation Board.

Currently, 200 local health departments in the U.S. meet the Public Health Accreditation Board's rigorous national standards for delivering quality programs and services to the community. Locally, the Cambridge Public Health Department joins the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Worcester Division of Public Health/Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance as the only accredited governmental public health agencies in the Commonwealth.

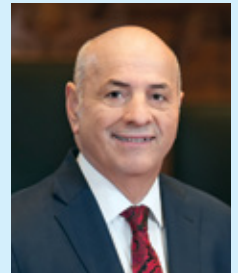
"This is a tremendous honor for Cambridge," said Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale, "and affirms Cambridge's longstanding commitment to leveling the playing field when it comes to health by investing in education, affordable housing, social services, public safety, and public health."

The accreditation process in Cambridge began in 2013 with the development of a Community Health Assessment to identify the City's major health needs. This process brought together local leaders in public health, health care, urban planning, housing, public safety,

education, business, and the nonprofit sector, as well as hundreds of residents. The data and key themes in the 2014 *City of Cambridge Community Health Assessment* informed the City's first ever community health improvement plan, which has set the City's health agenda through 2020. The 2015 *City of Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan* lays out actionable strategies for addressing four health priority areas: mental/behavioral health and substance abuse; violence prevention; healthy, safe, and affordable housing; and healthy eating and active living.

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City Manager's Message



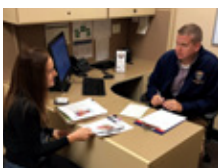
Louis DePasquale, City Manager

A strength of this City is the way in which departments, leadership, and staff work collaboratively with our elected officials. Our team works diligently to accomplish the policies established by the City Council and provide the day-to-day services that are important to our community. It is because of their efforts that the City receives high levels of satisfaction on our resident surveys. I appreciate the work that every employee does and the dedication that they show to the people of Cambridge.

As City Manager, I will always look for ways to improve our operations, efficiency, customer service, and outreach, and seek to build upon the many initiatives underway in the City. From Vision Zero efforts to our regional collaboration on transportation initiatives; from construction of a new family shelter to our operation of a Winter Warming Center for persons experiencing homelessness; from early childhood education to our curbside composting program; our City programs are focusing on supporting and improving the quality of life of our residents and the economic vitality of the city.

Ensuring our neighborhoods, schools, and City workforce are diverse and inclusive is a priority of the City. I hope that you will read about our

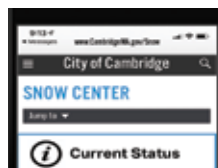
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recent workplace equity and inclusion initiatives in the article on page 7. I believe this work is vital because it helps us better support and grow our employees, and it helps us to best serve our residents.

As someone who spent the last 36 years working on maintaining the City's financial stability, I am proud that for the past 18 years, we have been awarded a AAA bond rating from the three major rating agencies. This achievement—which is a team effort between the City Council and the administration—allows the City to invest more money in capital projects, like new schools and improvements to our streets and neighborhoods, because of our access to low-interest rates. This will be the fourteenth year in a row that a majority of residential taxpayers will see a reduction, no change, or an increase of less than \$100 in their tax bill.

Getting residents more involved in local government, particularly around finance, has been a priority of my administration. I hope that you (and everyone in your household over the age of 12) will vote on

this year's Participatory Budgeting projects. From December 1 – 7, Cambridge resident can vote in-person or online on how to spend \$900,000 on capital projects in the City.

Finally, it is a great honor for me to be able to lead this City that I love. The City Council has been a true partner with the administration. Their leadership on policy issues and their dedication to the residents of Cambridge ensures City Government is responsive to the needs of the community. I hope that you will take the time to read about the remarkable work that is being done by the City. As always, you are welcome to send me your feedback or ideas by calling my office at 617-349-4300 or emailing me at citymanager@cambridgema.gov.

Warmest Regards,



Louis DePasquale

★ Please Mark Your Calendar for the State of the City Address ★

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m., in the Sullivan Chamber of City Hall. Watch on 22-CityView or view online at CambridgeMA.gov.

CPD Launches Social Justice Approach to Policing

Earlier this year, Cambridge Police Department (CPD) established a Family and Social Justice Section to help formalize its new social justice approach to policing and increase its capacity to serve and protect our most vulnerable populations: juveniles, homeless, individuals suffering from mental illness and substance abuse, seniors in need of dependent care, and survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

The new Section will bring together professional staff and specialists to provide specific services to members of the community who would be better served through a social justice approach, rather than what could be afforded to them through a conventional criminal justice approach. The Section is comprised of the Family Justice Unit, Social Justice Unit and Clinical Support Unit.

CPD recently hired Dr. James Barrett as Director of the new Clinical Support Unit. He has an extensive background in psychology, having previously served in roles at the Cambridge Health Alliance and is an Assistant Professor in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry (part-time) at Harvard Medical School. The Unit also includes two licensed social workers, and a director of community



outreach and provides training, consultation, and program development and evaluation support to the sworn officers of the CPD.

"We are committed to providing vulnerable members of the community with a stronger sense of belonging through customized support, while enhancing the public's trust," said Barrett, adding that his team will provide assessments, linkage to services, and prevention programming to the Cambridge community.

Dr. Barrett has worked closely with the CPD since 2007 and helped found the Safety Net Collaborative, a program that resulted in a significant decline in juvenile arrests in Cambridge. This program encompasses the Cambridge Police Department, Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Health Alliance, and Cambridge Human Services Department and has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as a promising approach to preventing juvenile delinquency.

"With a nationally-recognized expert in child and adolescent mental health and juvenile justice, two accomplished licensed social workers, and two community outreach staff members who have strong local connections with residents and businesses, the Clinical Support Services Unit is well-equipped to advance the Department and support the Cambridge community," said Police Commissioner Branville G. Bard, Jr.

Read an interview with Dr. Barrett in the City's blog, TheCambridgeLife.Org.

Investing in Infrastructure for Cambridge Families

Cambridge's commitment to investing in infrastructure, such as schools and other municipal buildings that provide community services remains an important priority for the City administration.

This summer, we celebrated the opening of the new **YWCA Shelter** at 859 Mass Ave. The 3 story, 10 unit family shelter owned by the City and managed by the YWCA Shelter was named Renae's Place Shelter for Homeless Families in honor of Renae Gray, who gave so much of herself to the Cambridge community and was a tireless advocate for women and organizations, including the YWCA.



YWCA Kitchen. Photo: Ed Wonsek

The King Open/Cambridge Street Upper Schools & Community Complex, scheduled to open in September 2019, is the second school being designed and constructed in compliance with the City's Net Zero Action Plan. The 273,000 square foot facility, which will include over one acre of additional green space, includes an Upper (6-8) and Lower School (k-5), pre-kindergarten, after School Programs, and Community



Aerial photo of King Open/Cambridge St. Upper Schools & Community Complex. Photo: lesvants.com

School Programs. In addition, the Valente Branch Library, Gold Star Public Pool, and the Cambridge School Department Administrative Offices, will be housed in this building complex. The school includes 2 gyms, a 400 seat auditorium, cafeteria, performing arts spaces, and an underground parking garage for 105 vehicles.

While the MLK School was designed to Net Zero, the King Open complex will be designed to Net Zero Emissions standards, which means all of the electricity used to operate the buildings will be electricity used to operate the buildings will be produced on-site or purchased from a renewable source.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lower School and Putnam Avenue Upper School Project, which opened in December 2015, earned LEED® Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council in July. This is the highest rating attainable in this category, based on Version 2009 for schools. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) provides third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving environmental performance. The 170,000 square foot building located at 100-102 Putnam Avenue, houses the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lower School, the Putnam Avenue Upper School, and the Department of Human Service Programs' Preschool, After-School, and Community School programs, and was the first near Net Zero school building in Cambridge. Throughout the building are embedded opportunities for students to explore the arts, sustainability, and engineering concepts. The building is designed to use 60% less energy than typical educational buildings in New England and is a literal teaching tool with cutouts in the corridors that show the mechanical system at work.

"We were extremely proud to have built a high-quality sustainable facility that serves the children of Cambridge and also enhances the neighborhood," said Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale.



City officials celebrate opening of new YWCA family shelter.

Winter is Coming...

As we prepare for the winter season, we wanted to provide some helpful reminders and ways for residents to stay informed during a snow storm. Our goals are to chemically treat all major arteries within three hours of when snow begins, to keep main arteries plowed during all stages of a storm, and to clear all streets and the sidewalks bordering City property once a storm has ended. We have also been evaluating our processes to remove snow as efficiently and effectively as possible and are investing in new equipment and techniques to make the City's sidewalks and roadways safe and passable for all users throughout the season.



Are You Prepared?

Register for City Alerts: CambridgeMA.gov/Subscribe

What You Can Do

Help us, help your neighbors, and help the entire community by keeping sidewalks, fire hydrants, and catch basins snow and ice free.

As a reminder, per City Ordinance:

- * Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property or business within 12 hours after it stops falling in the daytime, and before 1 p.m. when it has fallen overnight. Cleared paths on sidewalks must be 3-4 feet wide, to allow wheelchairs and strollers pass through. Corner properties must also clear sidewalks on all sides and clear ramps at crosswalks.
- * Remove or melt all ice within 6 hours of the time it forms. If you are away, it is still your responsibility to ensure someone clears sidewalks and ramps next to your property. The fine for failing to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinance is \$50/day.

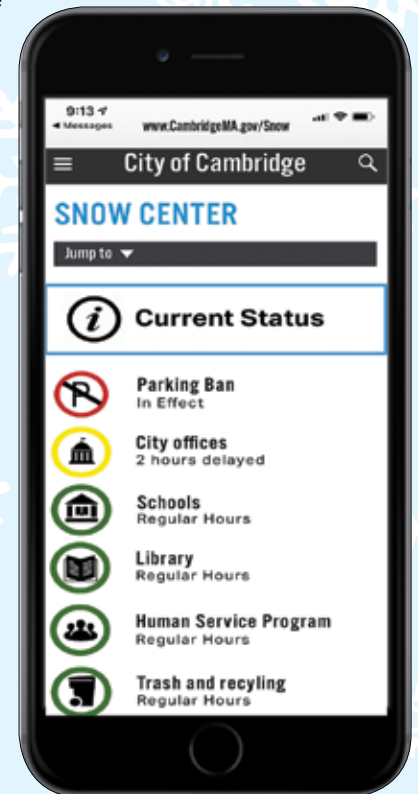
Storm Updates and Parking

Visit Cambridge Snow Center, CambridgeMA.gov/Snow

Visit the newly redesigned City of Cambridge Snow Center, www.CambridgeMA.gov/Snow, for information and updates about snow emergency parking restrictions and alternative off-street parking. Even if no snow emergency has been declared, please remember these general on-street parking guidelines:

- * Park at least 20 feet from street corner so plows can push snow away from crosswalk. Parking away from the corner improves visibility and safety year-round.
- * It is illegal to use space savers to hold a cleared parking space; objects left in on-street parking spaces will be removed.

- * Think safety: dig out fire hydrants and street drains while digging out your car.
- * When digging out your car, think about how you pile snow: don't create new problems in the street or sidewalk.
- * Please don't take it personally if plows push snow back into your driveway or parked car. This may be unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm.



Report Issues Through COMMONWEALTH CONNECT



**See sidewalks that need shoveling
or streets that need clearing?**

Reporting an issue takes only a minute
and helps make our streets and
sidewalks safer.

Download the free app for iPhone or Android,
or visit:



**CambridgeMA.GOV/CommonwealthConnect
to report online.**

Register for City Alerts

Register to receive Snow Emergency Parking Ban notifications via phone, text, or email at www.CambridgeMA.gov/Subscribe, or follow us on Twitter at [@CambMA](https://twitter.com/CambMA) and Facebook at CambridgeMA.Gov. The City is utilizing the hash tag [#CambMASnow](https://twitter.com/CambMASnow) on Twitter to help the public follow the conversation.

Snow Exemption Program and Shoveling Assistance

Low income residents who are elderly or have a disability may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program. For more information, call the Cambridge Council on Aging, 617-349-6220 (voice) or 617-349-6050 (TTY). If you do not qualify, the Council on Aging can provide you with a limited list of professional snow removal companies and students who will shovel for a fee to be negotiated.

Cambridge Invests Extra \$1.1 Million for Preschool Scholarships and Quality Initiatives

Children start learning as soon as they are born and their overall early development has a profound impact on their future success.

The high cost for quality preschools can pose a tremendous challenge for many families in Massachusetts. In Cambridge, the price range for a 3-4-year-old runs from \$42/day to \$125/day (for non-public programs). On average, most households need full-time care at least 261 days per year for a total annual cost of \$11,000 to \$31,000+.

"The city currently deeply subsidizes the costs of preschool in its programs, where costs to families are roughly \$11,000 annually and families receive income-based scholarships to offset some of those costs," said Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, adding that

these scholarships cover up to 90% of the cost for the lowest income families.

As part of its commitment to building a comprehensive early childhood system in Cambridge, the City is investing an additional \$1.1 million in FY19 for the Birth to Third Partnership. The Partnership, a collaboration between

the School Department and Human Services, is working to strengthen the early childhood and care network in Cambridge so that all children can access programs that are affordable, high-quality, and meet the needs of working families. These additional funds will more than double the number of scholarships for low-income children at 15 high quality community preschools, support a new quality initiative for family childcare providers, enhance home visiting programs, and help improve overall quality for birth through third grade program and services. In FY19, Human Services and Cambridge Public Schools will invest a total of \$13.4 million in early childhood education and services.

Cambridge Public Schools also offers three free preschool options that run 180 days per year, 6 hours per day: Special Start, Fletcher Maynard Scholar College, and Tobin Montessori School. Additionally, Junior Kindergarten is available to 4-year-olds, based on the child's birth date.

"There is no question that quality early childhood programs are crucial to positive long-term outcomes for students," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Salim. "Through the Birth to Third Grade Partnership, our community has taken a three-pronged approach by simultaneously increasing access, addressing affordability, and improving quality. We look forward to working through this partnership to analyze remaining gaps in our system and identify the specific changes that will ensure every young child in Cambridge has the opportunity to start down the path to educational success."

Learn more: www.cpsd.us/departments/b3



Photo: Kristen Emack



Photo: Bethany Versory

Accreditation continued from cover

"Through the Accreditation process, we engaged hundreds of residents in identifying the City's top health, social, economic, and safety concerns; built strategic partnerships to tackle these issues; and improved internal systems to better serve our community," said Claude Jacob, Chief Public Health Officer and Director of Cambridge Public Health Department. "I am grateful to our dedicated staff, community partners, and the City's leadership for making this achievement possible."

Curbside Compost Program 6-Month Highlights

October 2 marked the 6-month anniversary of the City's Curbside Compost program.

Here are a few program highlights:



1.6 Million Pounds: Amount of food scraps diverted from the landfill or incinerator;



400 Metric Tonnes: Greenhouse gas emissions avoided by generating clean energy from food waste. Equivalent to 45,000 gallons of gasoline;



8%: Decrease in trash tonnage in the first 6 months.

For more information, email Recycle@CambridgeMA.gov or sign up for updates at CambridgeMA.gov/CompostPickup.

City Allocates Funding for Food Service to Help Eliminate Food Insecurity for Cambridge Families



Photo: Bethany Versoy

When it comes to learning, a hungry body can get in the way of a hungry mind. That's why the City of Cambridge has recently announced an expansion of free lunch and breakfast programs in our public schools and preschool programs.

In Cambridge, approximately 30% of families live below the Federal Poverty Guideline, which is \$24,500 for a family of four. According to a 2015 Report on Income Security in Cambridge, the actual cost for a family of four to meet their basic needs (housing, utilities and food) in our community is \$108,800 annually.

Elected City and School officials have worked in close collaboration with City, School, and Department of Human Services administrators to develop a new program aimed at relieving some of the economic burden on Cambridge families. On October 15, at the recommendation of City Manager Louis A. DePasquale, the City Council voted to allocate \$160,000 to expand free food services for Cambridge Public Schools students and for children enrolled in

Department of Human Services Program preschools.

The funding will allow the School District to provide free lunch to families who qualify for reduced price meals under federal guidelines, and will also provide free breakfast to all Cambridge children in Grades K-8 and in City-run preschools. Hundreds of families who earn too much to qualify for free lunch will be helped by this program.

We hope that as a result of these changes, students can stop worrying about the hunger in their bellies, and focus instead on their hunger to learn.

Photo: Amy Spencer



City Launching New Equity & Inclusion Initiative

The City is advancing a comprehensive initiative that supports the growth, skill building, and development of all City employees to cultivate an environment which reflects values of equity and inclusion.

Cambridge's work on equity and inclusion is vital to our mission to support and grow our employees, and better serve our residents.

Through its newly rebranded Equity and Inclusion Initiative, the City is expanding training opportunities and developing and a citywide workforce diversity, equity and inclusion plan. In FY19, the City will invest an additional \$100,000 to support these efforts.



Photo: iStock.com/pixelfit

In September, City and School leaders joined the City Council and the School Committee for two days of diversity and inclusion workshops, including a scientific presentation on the latest neurological research on bias

from the consulting organization, Beyond Conflict. The workshops provided an opportunity to share best practices and collaborate in shared learnings. Additionally, 25 City staff attended three workshops in October on identity awareness, structural racism, and the development of leadership expectations.

Like many cities across the nation, Cambridge is committed to ensuring that the composition of municipal staff is reflective of the community's diversity. To help understand our organization, we developed two interactive dashboards that allow the public to explore our employee demographics and compare wage data for different employee groups.

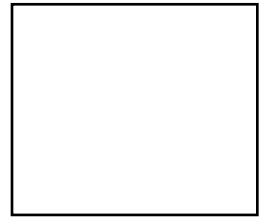
Learn more:

CambridgeMA.gov/equitydashboards.



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795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4300 • cambridgema.gov

Cambridgema.Gov [@CambMA](https://twitter.com/CambMA)



City Manager Louis A. DePasquale

Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson

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Councillor Craig A. Kelley

Councillor Alanna M. Mallon

Councillor Sumbul Siddiqui

Councillor E. Denise Simmons

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

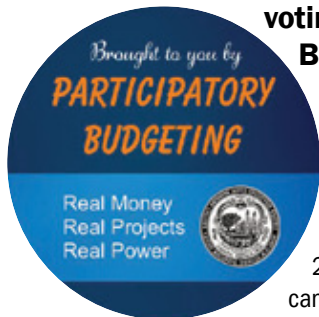
Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan

ECRWSS

**Resident Postal Customer
Cambridge, MA**

Participatory Budgeting: Cast Your Vote Dec. 1-7

Cambridge residents are invited to decide how the City will spend \$900,000 to improve Cambridge by voting for your favorite Participatory Budgeting (PB) projects Dec. 1-7, 2018.



Last year, winning projects included critical resource kits for the homeless, flashing crosswalks for safer streets, and new musical instruments for CRLS. There will be 20 worthy projects on the ballot and voters can choose up to 5. You can vote online at

pb.cambridgema.gov or in person at events

around the city. Any Cambridge resident age 12 and over—including university students and non-US citizens—is eligible to vote in PB.

To learn more, visit **pb.cambridgema.gov** or contact the City's Budget Office at 617-349-4270.

2018 Resident Parking Permits Expire Jan. 31

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to renew your 2018 Resident Parking Permit, which expires on Jan. 31, 2018. The winning entry from the 2018 Resident Permit Photo Contest was submitted by Steven Brown. For more information, call 617-349-4700 or visit: **www.cambridgema.gov/rpp**.

