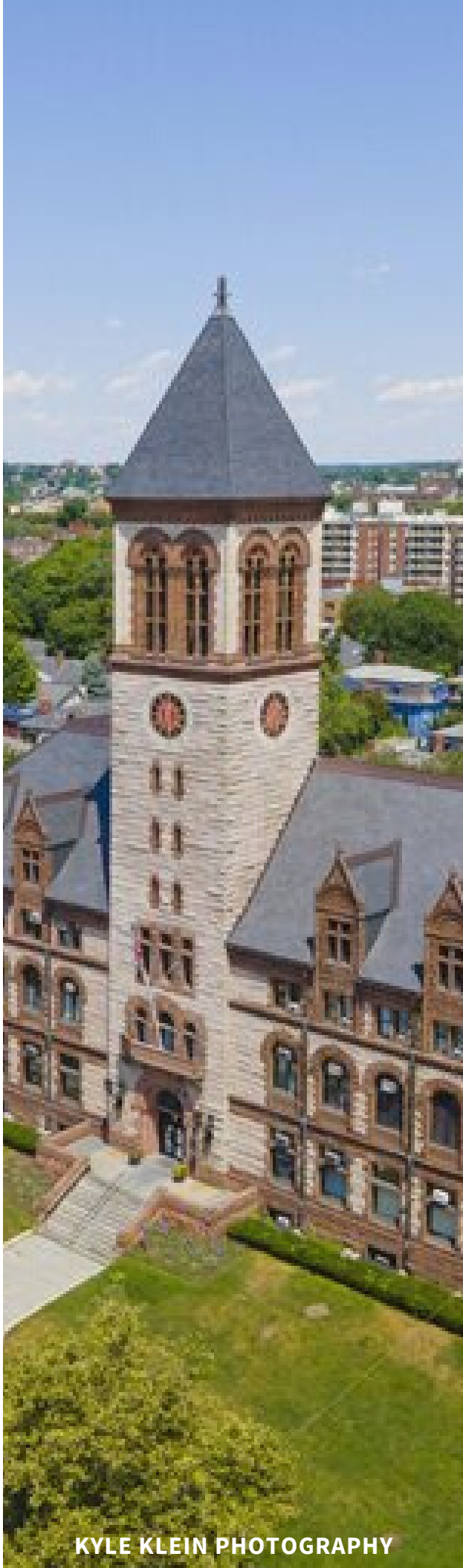




OFFICE OF MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

# 2022 in Review



Dear Cambridge,

When I was sworn into office exactly one year ago at a frigid Starlight Square ceremony — 15 degrees to be exact — COVID-19 cases were spiking and the pandemic continued to underscore inequities in our community. In my inauguration speech, I made a commitment to confronting these challenges. Our drive to solving these issues is what continues to put Cambridge at the forefront of change.

We have accomplished so much in the first year of my second term and I am thrilled to see what lies ahead. My goal over the next year is to continue to make progress on the issues that face our community members and move us toward an even more equitable and just city.

I am always open to addressing concerns and hearing your ideas. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts. We have endured so much over the last few years and I am looking forward to the year ahead with you.

**SUMBUL SIDDIQUI**

MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE, MA

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# Engaging with the Cambridge Community

**In 2022, my office planned events and outreach initiatives with two goals in mind: increasing accessibility and celebrating diversity.**

To keep a consistent line of communication between my office and residents, we held two **Coffee Hours** and began a monthly **Meet and Greet** series. In 2022, I met with hundreds of residents by holding 20 Coffee Hours at City Hall and small businesses like The Little Crepe Café in the Baldwin neighborhood and Bom Dough in Inman Square. Meet and Greets have been held at Corcoran Park, Lincoln Way, Millers River Apartments. I am looking forward to more opportunities to meet one-on-one with residents in 2023.

The year began with the **City Manager Search process**, one of the most crucial and extensive public engagement initiatives my office took part in. Working closely with Vice Mayor Mallon, the chair of the Government Operations Committee, my office facilitated 18 specific focus group conversations in one month which shaped the search process. The City Council hired Yi-An Huang in June to serve as City Manager and he began his term in September.

In early winter, Vice-Mayor Mallon and I also

collected and donated 2,500 wool socks to unhoused residents for the **fifth annual Warm Hearts, Warm Feet Sock Drive**. In celebration of Black History Month, my office provided Cambridge residents **free tickets to the Museum of African American History (MAAH)**. Over 100 residents visited MAAH with our tickets throughout the month.



During the springtime, my office partnered with the City's Employees' Committee on Diversity, CPS Muslim Affinity Committee, the Islamic Society of Boston, and Darul Kabab to host Cambridge's largest **Community Iftar** with more than 600 attendees. For Climate Action Month, we prioritized our city's climate goals with a **Charles River Clean Up** and a **Cherry Blossom tree planting** with Baldwin School first graders. In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, my office gave away 5 subscriptions to Headspace, a mindful meditation mobile app that helps users relax and alleviate stress. The **Headspace giveaway** is an ongoing part of my office's effort to highlight the importance of mental well-being.



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The summer was filled with events like the **Pride Brunch** at City Hall with the LGBTQ+ Commission and the **first annual Juneteenth Freedom Day Parade** in partnership with the Cambridge Families of Color Coalition. Over one hundred residents proudly chanted “Black Joy, Black Excellence.” I was also thrilled to see over 300 residents enjoy performances from Boston Bollywood at our **second annual Bollywood Night** at Starlight Square.

In the fall, we held the first-ever citywide **Diwali Festival** in partnership with the City’s Employees’ Committee on Diversity and the Cambridge Public Library. Over 300 people joined us to celebrate South Asian heritage with the Festival of Lights. We also enjoyed bringing back our **Halloween Trick-or-Treat on the Lawn** with the City Manager’s Office, Cambridge Fire Department, and Cambridge Police Department.

We wrapped up 2022 with the **annual Mayor's Office Winter Support Drive**.

Thanks to partnerships with Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lesley University, Cambridge Savings Bank, East Cambridge Savings Bank and more, we were able to raise over \$40,000 worth of gift cards and distribute them to 11 non-profit organizations across the city. This initiative provides Cambridge residents some needed relief during the winter season and I am so thankful we have institutions, small business, and people in our community willing to support.

**46**  
Events hosted in 2022



**Kyle Klein Photography | Pride Brunch in June, 2022**

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# ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## JANUARY

Inauguration

## FEBRUARY

Sock Drive

Free MAAH Admission

## MARCH

Women's History Month Art Contest

Kindergarten Civic Engagement Unit

## APRIL

Bike Bonanza

Community Iftar

Liberation Library

## MAY

Headspace Giveaway

Yoga on City Hall Lawn

## JUNE

Pride Brunch

Juneteenth Parade

## JULY

Bollywood Night

Eid Community Prayer

## AUGUST

RECESS

Meet and Greet at Corcoran Park

## SEPTEMBER

Back-to-School Fairs

Walden Square Resource Fair

## OCTOBER

Diwali Festival

Halloween Trick-or-Treat

Pumpkin Painting Story Time

## NOVEMBER

Financial Coaching Workshop

Meet and Greet at Lincoln Way

Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon

## DECEMBER

Gift Card Drive

Meet and Greet at Miller's River



# Pushing Policy Priorities Forward

// **We are a better City, a stronger City, when residents have stability.**

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, APRIL 2022

Cambridge is a leader on progressive policy and due to the success of our initiatives, I was invited to share at conferences across the country. I attended National League of Cities in Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor's for a Guaranteed Income in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Council of Urban Boards of Education Conference in Miami, Florida. At these events, I discussed my current policy priorities: affordable housing, community based economic growth, addressing inequities and environmental sustainability.

Last term, one of my biggest priorities was starting the **RISE pilot** - Recurring Income for Success and Empowerment - and showing what a guaranteed income can do for families in Cambridge. Given the success of the pilot, it was clear we needed to expand the work. In April I announced that

the City would allocate \$22 million in American Rescue Plan funding to extend direct cash assistance of \$500 a month to all families under 250% of the Federal Poverty Limit. This expansion will make Cambridge the only city in the country to provide cash assistance to all families in poverty. Since the announcement at the State of the City in April, my team has been working with Finance staff, Cambridge Community Foundation, and Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee to design the rollout of this program. We will be sharing application details early this year!

There are also longer term efforts my office has been spending time on that are making great progress. The **Charter Review Committee** began its work in August 2022 and is set to finish reviewing our Plan E charter in the summer of 2023. The **Universal Pre-K Ad Hoc Committee** that I appointed meets quarterly with the goal of adopting policies connected to early childhood education. We are on track to

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open a new application process through the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood by early 2023 for 4 year old and a subset of 3 year children. In collaboration with the Cambridge Youth Council, we secured funding for all Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, High School Extension Program (HSEP), home schooled, and charter school students who reside in the district to receive a **free MBTA Charlie Card** this school year.

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 implemented. We are currently working to update Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) and put our largest emitting buildings on a path to zero emissions. The **Fare Free Working Group** held it's final meeting in June and provided recommendations that we are currently working with the MBTA and the City of Boston to implement. Based on the

Working Group's recommendations, \$2 million is allocated from ARPA funding ready to spend if we can agree on a pilot with all stakeholders.

I am also looking forward to turning **Jerry's Pond** into an accessible open space with the help of non-profit partners, the state, and all-star environmentalists. The project received \$600,000 in ARPA funding earlier in 2022 and we have to keep working to ensure the potential of the area is fulfilled.

In one of the final policy orders of 2022, I was happy that an order to **review towing repercussions** for street clearing that I cosponsored was passed. The impacts of towing are burdensome and other cities manage to keep their streets clean without towing every month. The City Manager will review and report back to the Council in the near future. You can review City Council meeting agendas and search for all of the policy orders I sponsored on the Open Meetings Portal. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have policy suggestions!





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In the first half of this term, I visited 10 elementary schools in Cambridge.



## School Committee Priorities

As a Cambridge Public School graduate, one of my favorite parts of being Mayor is engaging with students of all ages.

I have been able to **visit 18 elementary school classrooms** and lead discussions about leadership and diversity with about 400 students. Most notably, I led activities surrounding Election Day and World Children's Day that encourage young students to dissect the world around them and discuss ways to make their school and Cambridge better. Time in classrooms has helped me make informed school committee decisions that aim to solve the inequalities that we see in our student success outcomes.

In an effort to support our high school students and increase college graduation rates among first-generation students, School Committee Members Ayesha Wilson and Fred Fantini and my office collaborated with the school district and Lesley University to initiate an **Early College Pilot** in January. Early College programs are proven to retain first-generation, immigrant, and students of color after their first year of college allowing

students to graduate college early and in less debt. Lesley University and CRLS received a **state designation** as a Massachusetts Early College Program, expanding the program from 50 students to over 100 CRLS students and providing the opportunity to earn college credits while fulfilling high school graduation requirements.

We hosted two **community resource fairs** with Cambridge Public Schools. My office collaborated with about 30 community organizations to provide free school supplies, backpacks, and other resources. Over 300 families joined us to get prepared for the 2022-2023 school year.

Finally, I have been able to **meet with our local university students** at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lesley University, and Tufts University to discuss how being the first Muslim Mayor in Massachusetts affects the way I lead and how students who are temporary residents can best support our city.



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# Providing Constituent Services

My goal is for all residents to feel as though City Hall and the Mayor's Office is a space for them. Through a variety of accessible and approachable spaces, we have fostered consistent dialogue between my office and constituents. In 2022, we received **over 2,200 inquiries** from residents who get in touch with our office via phone, email, social media, walk-ins, or attending office sponsored events like Coffee Hours, community resource fairs, and Meet and Greets at Cambridge Housing Authority buildings.

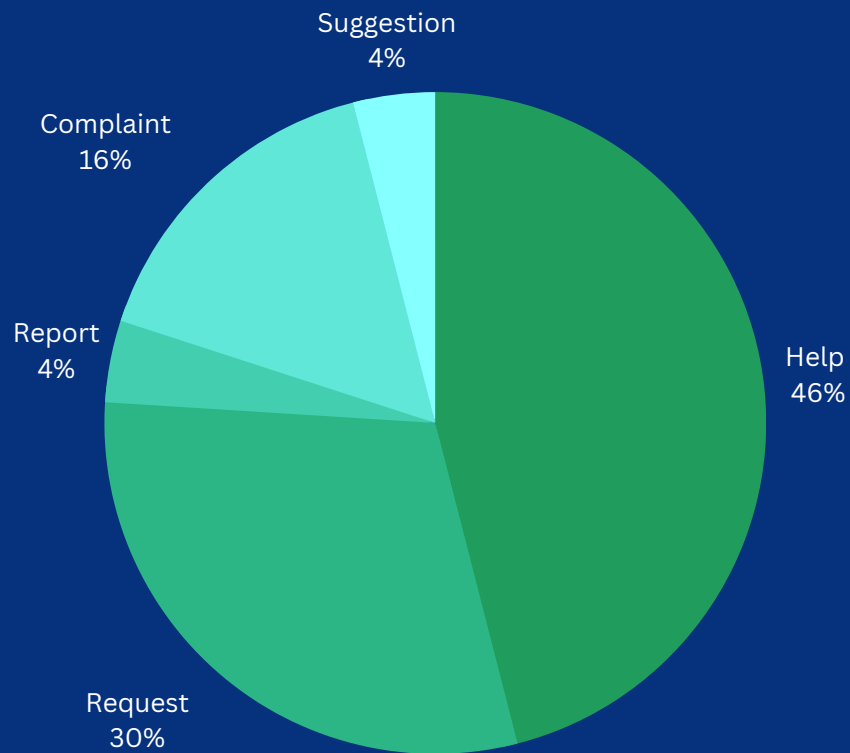
We have continued to **work closely with city departments and agencies** to help residents get the assistance they need: the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee for help with bill payments, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department for mobility needs, Just-A-Start for tenant-landlord mediation services, Greater Boston Legal Services for advice and representation, and Senator Warren and Congresswoman Pressley's Offices for support dealing with state and federal agencies regarding immigration or emergency travel requests.

Recently, I received good news from constituents who have been working with our office since January on an immigration matter. Just in the nick of time, the process has played out in their favor and they gave all the credit to my Constituent Support Manager who elevated their issue through our partnership with Senator Warren's Office. They wrote to me and said:

**"Out of all the people we tried to contact—including our own lawyers—you were by far the most responsive and helpful. If you had not pushed our application to Senator Warren's office, the application would likely have been delayed even more than it already had been, and she may have lost her job."**

It is moments like these that make working directly with residents one of my favorite parts of being Mayor. No matter the issue, I want to support residents with a challenge they are experiencing. It means the world to me when people let me know we were able to help them.





# 2,210

Inquiries from residents who get in touch  
with our office via phone, email, social  
media, or walk-ins.



It has been an incredible year, Cambridge! I am proud of everything we accomplished in 2022 and I look forward to a great 2023!

Thank you for taking time to read my year in review. If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns, you can always contact my office in any of the following ways:

**Phone:** 617-349-4321

**Email:** [Mayor@cambridgema.gov](mailto:Mayor@cambridgema.gov)

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

**Social media:** @mayorsiddiqui

