



City of Cambridge

O-3
FIRST IN COUNCIL
 November 22, 2021

VICE MAYOR MALLON
 COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
 COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
 COUNCILLOR CARLONE
 COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
 COUNCILLOR NOLAN
 COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
 MAYOR SIDDIQUI
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: In recent years, there has been a significant reduction in the number of Arts spaces in and around the City, but especially in Central Square, due to an exponential increase in commercial rental rates; and

WHEREAS: These exponential rental rates, combined with increased development has led to a risk of losing community-based nonprofits in Central Square that serve vulnerable residents, as well as create and maintain critical community infrastructure stability; and

WHEREAS: As these spaces are critical to the ongoing growth and development of Central Square and the City, it is imperative that we find a way to ensure these services and uses survive and thrive within the area; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) is committed to revitalizing City spaces through innovation and mindfulness of the surrounding area to create space for community-based infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: The CRA's stated mission is that they are "an independent, agile public authority bringing a unique set of redevelopment tools to work in close partnership with the City of Cambridge and other organizations"; and

WHEREAS: The CRA has been successful in the revitalization of several projects in the City centered around the Arts, community, connectivity, and growth including the purchase and rehabilitation of non-profit row at 99 Bishop Allen Drive giving The Algebra Project, BARCC, Cambridge Community Foundation, Cambridge Camping, Next Step, the Sustainable Business Association of Massachusetts, and many other vital non-profits updated and below market office spaces; and

WHEREAS: There exists additional opportunities in Central Square to meet stated City Council goals that the CRA can be helpful in identifying and partnering with the City to help realize; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct staff of the Department of Human Services Programs, the Community Development Department and the Arts Council to work with partners including the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) and the Central Square Business Improvement District on identifying spaces in Central Square that would support the creation and protection of cultural and human service spaces that align with the City's goals, and advise how partners including the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority and the Central Square Business Improvement District could assist the City in actualizing these goals; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

In City Council November 22, 2021.

Order Adopted as Amended by a yeas and nays vote:-

Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk