



City of Cambridge

O-5
FIRST IN COUNCIL
November 23, 2020

COUNCILLOR NOLAN
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: On July 27th, 2020, the Council unanimously passed a [Policy Order](#) asking the Mayor to call a Special Meeting for the Collins Center for Public Management to present to the Council on the process of charter review; and

WHEREAS: That Special Meeting took place on [September 23rd, 2020](#), and after a detailed presentation on the charter review, the Council had additional questions for the Collins Center staff and wanted more information about the different paths that the City could take to review its charter; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge, which adopted the Plan E Charter in 1940, has not once held a formal review process to consider revisions, making it one of the only municipalities in Massachusetts to go 80 years without reviewing its most important legal document; and

WHEREAS: [Chapter 43B, Section 2](#), in General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts states: “Every city and town shall have the power to adopt or revise its charter or to amend its existing charter in accordance with procedures prescribed by [Chapter 43B]”; and

WHEREAS: Somerville [recently launched](#) a charter review process, starting with the Council voting to appropriate funds to contract a technical expert to guide their work; and

WHEREAS: The City Council expressed interest in furthering its understanding of how a process of charter revision, review and or change would work, and the Collins Center drafted a four-step proposal that would include procuring and presenting Cambridge-specific information to the Council to better inform Councilors of the options and strategies available; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to appropriate the funds necessary to procure the work of the Collins Center as outlined in their submitted proposal.

In City Council November 23, 2020.
Order Adopted by a yea and nay vote:-
Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.
Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony I. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ATTEST:-

Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk