



FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

2:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Finance Committee will meet to discuss the city's ARPA application/funding update status.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burhan Azeem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alanna Mallon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A communication was received from the public, regarding ARPA projects ideas.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Apr 20, 2022 2:00 PM (Committee Reports)



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE, CHAIR

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN, CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 20, 2022

02:00 PM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Apr 20, 2022 2:00 PM (Committee Reports)

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: The Finance Committee will meet to discuss the City's ARPA application funding update status. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 adopted by Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of the Cambridge City Council.

Excuse me. To watch the meeting, please tune into Channel 22, or visit the Open Meeting Portal on the City's website. Today's meeting, like all recent meetings, will be conducted in a hybrid format. If you would like to provide public comment, including, uh, those by members of the applicant's representative, please go to www.cambridgema.gov/publiccomment to sign-up, or visit the chamber. We will not be allowing any additional public comment to sign-up after 2:30, that's in 30 minutes.

With that, all of today's votes will be by roll call.
Mr. Clerk, please take the roll call of members present.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Present

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Present

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present

Present-6, Absent-3. Quorum established.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Uh, the agenda of the meeting will be as follows: Um, the Finance Department, um, headed by David Kale and Michelle Kincaid, will give a brief overview of the status of the applications, funding and approach, including a range of a timetable. As many of you know this is funding over a three-year period, um, and we will talk about that a little later.

Uh, after that, I will briefly ask Council members, if there are any broad questions or specific questions on one application that they would like, um, the presenter, representing the applicant, to include, for instance, a number of the early applications did not list funding request amounts. So that makes it very difficult to, uh, ascertain, um, whether or not that application can be included or not in funding. So if not today, we will ask

that you quickly, in the next day or two, submit a funding request amount.

After that, um, we will ask each of the applicants if they wish to make a short presentation to give a summary or respond to a question that a councillor gave, we're hoping that, that be limited to a maximum of two minutes. I know that's not much time, but this hour--this meeting is required to be completed in two hours. Um, and we have 37 applicants, I believe, including a new one that came in today, it's 39.

So you can see right away that that's almost an hour and 20 minutes right there if everybody uses the full two minutes. After the applicants speak, we will have the Council discuss, um, issues that they wish to discuss, relative to granting funds or priorities if there's a particular application that they feel strongly about to give feedback to the administration.

At the end of the meeting, uh, we will talk about the timetable, um, if it's not discussed in the preliminary presentation by Mr. Kale and Ms. Kincaid. We will then end our meeting and, uh, discuss when we will have a follow-up meeting.

So, uh, with that, Mr. Kale and Ms. Kincaid, you have the floor. I should tell you that the Chairs have met with Mr. Kale and Ms. Kincaid twice now in the last week to understand, uh, what they are going to talk about today, and possible next steps. Um, and I'm sure this presentation will lead to some questions from the Council. Mr. Kale, you have the floor.

DAVID KALE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'll be brief. Um, again, as you noted, today's agenda is for to review the requests that we have received from the public. Um, all these requests have been summarized and the summary document is posted to the City of Cambridge's webpage under the ARPA webpage.

As I noted at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, we, we appreciate the requests that have been made. But we, again, will caution folks that a public request that is made is not a guarantee of funding, or even a grant to an applicant if we move forward on an idea independently.

Um, we should also note that we--the total requests that we've received from the public, um, is over \$118 million, which is \$64 million more than what we have for

allocation. Um, there--as the Chair mentioned, there are 39 public requests that are on the sheet that's on the web and we received an additional one this afternoon.

As a summary, we have a total of \$88.1 million to expend. Um, we will be making a recommendation to approve the additional \$23 million of ARPA funds that we've received from--to Cambridge from the Middlesex County allocation to bring the total allocation, as I noted, to 88.1. Uh, the initial allocation that, uh, was appropriated is \$65 million.

Um, to date, we have allocated approximately \$33 million, uh, based upon the items presented at the last Finance Committee meeting in early March, which leaves a balance of approximately \$55 million. Public requests are still being reviewed for compliance with ARPA guidelines, legal requirements and, uh, being reviewed, uh, the applicable submissions with City departments.

Uh, today's meeting is to receive feedback from the City Council on these public requests. In terms of timelines, uh, we have had several areas that we need to plan for in terms of our ARPA obligate--ARPA obligations. This includes the public requests that we will be reviewing

today. Um, it includes a proposal, yet received, from the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition.

There are City Council priorities that we are working on, um, which includes a Cambridge RISE-type program, which meets ARPA eligibility. The Mayor and the City Manager are working on this program actively. Um, we have a mayor's task force on transit that will generate some recommendations for ARPA funding. Homelessness, we are looking at the recommendations of their recently released report. However, there are already a multiple projects that deal with homelessness that are already funded from ARPA funds.

We also would be looking at initiatives related to the climate crisis, based upon the Climate Crisis Working Group report that has been issued. We also have a City Council order with regard to cash payments and we also have additional submissions, uh, from department heads, they're still being vetted. Um, so therefore, we have a lot of lanes that we have to cover, which includes the ones I just mentioned.

Uh, so what we will be doing is on May 2nd, we will be taking a strategic pause on accepting requests from the

public. This will allow us time to basically sort through the requests that we have on the table or items that we need to formulate funding proposals for that I just mentioned. And I think that will be the basis for future Finance Committee meetings that we will be holding regularly to review the areas that we want to continue to fund or propose to fund with ARPA funds.

Um, we are currently preparing our second ARPA report for the latest quarter that ended March 31st. Um, and we're learning more about how that works and the complexities of that. Applicants, um, are online today, uh, as well as folks to provide public comment, to provide any information, as the Chair said.

And I just like to end to say that I want to thank our department heads for the continued work on ARPA reporting, implementation and compliance. And also thank Michelle Kincaid, our Assistant Finance Director, and Betty Lyons for their efforts in managing the ARPA grant, which is very complex.

So, again, I think we have a game plan to, uh, be methodical in terms of what we're looking at and how we strategize to allocate funds of the ADA point one. And I

mention them in terms of the several areas that we're looking at, including the public requests that we'll be discussing today.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mr. Kale. Just a, uh, quick question. So after May 2nd, your review that you discuss, we'll set-up another meeting time appropriate to update the council and the public. Um I, I hope that prior to that meeting, again, my co-chair, Councillor Nolan, and myself can sit down with you and just go over where things are before that.

Um, what I'd like to do now is, once again, mentioned that four applications did not list any monetary value and I get the two on broadband is open-ended. However, if, if a money, I believe and I think my fellow Chair believes that if there isn't a monetary amount, it's a disadvantage for the applicant in that we have no idea what's meaningful, other than anything is meaningful. And the applications go from 10,000 to multi-millions. Um, so it's important to do that.

The other is the Starlight Square, and Soccer Knight's program that do not have amounts listed. I do want to note that 15 of the lower estimated applications total less than

\$3 million all together. And, um, I think it would be the goal of the council, and my colleagues can correct me, that if they believe like I do that many of these, if not all of these, are worthy, go--problem--programs that we try to spread the money as much as we can, um, where it meets the guidelines established by the Federal Government, and, once again, as Dr.--Mr. Kale--Dr. Kale--Mr. Kale said, we know the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition is going to make a submission. Um but as you heard from Mr. Kale, we are going to pause on May 2nd so we can regroup and review it. So I hope if anyone else has an application in mind and we just got one earlier today, um, they need to submit ASAP.

So dear councillors, other than the dollar amount, are there any questions that anybody has on the council for submitters, after reviewing the summary and the amount requested? Then if so, please notify the clerk that you wish to speak. Councillor No, I'm sorry, Councillor Nolan, do you have an opening comment as well?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: A, a very quick opening comment. Thanks to everyone who sent in recommendations and proposals. I want to reiterate what Mr. Kale and the finance office and Chair Carlone said, which is, we will be

reviewing this. The purpose of this is to get some input and we cannot fund everything that's on the table because it adds up to far more than we have. There, also I want to highlight what something Mr. Kale said, which is, these are proposals that came from the community. There's other proposals that will be coming from the City in several different areas that will also be on the table and will be reviewed by the City, including, as was noted, the climate crisis, some additional possibly for the unhoused community based on the report and the, and the transit program.

So, as we review this, we all, as difficult as it is to understand that money is limited, we have more worthy projects than we can possibly fund. And there are other projects that will be coming from the City itself in areas of critical concern to the City Environmental Justice being a highlight of one that has not yet been on the table or been discussed as much.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: And thank you, Councillor. And clearly on May--after May 2nd, whenever our update meeting is, I assume a few weeks after that we will know what the City Projects are as well. So, so everything will be listed. Councillors, anyone else? No? Okay, no

hands are raised. So, what I'd like to do is go through the list as it--has been presented to us and, and, uh, the representatives listed, or in some cases, in cases, if someone else is planning to speak as a representative, um, if it's a fairly straightforward project, like the Soccer Knight Program, I'm just throwing that out, uh, I will, um, ask you to do it as quickly as you can just because of time. One moment please, the clerk wishes to tell me something. Okay. So we do have a, a question, or a comment from Councillor Zondervan. Councillor, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, just a point of order. Just wanted to, uh, know if we're doing public comment?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: I'm sorry, I didn't say that. After, um, each applicant presents, we thought that was the pro--appropriate time, there will be public comment. We don't have a number yet on that.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: [inaudible 0:17:10]

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, we--um, if it's over 10, uh, we're going to cut the time, um, just so the council has enough time to discuss it at the end. Um but, yes, there will be public comment, but it seemed to make

sense that it would be--that it should follow the presentation if there are people representing each applicant. But yes, there would be public comment immediately after. Thank you for the question. Additional comments, Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. So the first speaker listed is Roy Russell, uh, who proposed money for broadband. Roy, are you online?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: [inaudible 0:18:06]
Russell.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Not yet? Okay. So we'll move on to Michelle Holcomb, for Food For--

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Here.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, please.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Uh, I believe Ben Engle expects me on for Michelle Holcomb for Food--Food For Free and I see him in the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: And is she present, Vice Mayor?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: He is present, yes, his

hand is up.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please present, uh, your thoughts and give us your name again.

BEN ENGLE: Hello?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Hello.

BEN ENGLE: Everyone hear me okay? All right. So I'm Ben Engle from Food For Free.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, sir.

BEN ENGLE: Chief Operations Officer. Thank you very much for having me on. Uh, so I'm participating today to talk about the Weekend Backpack Program. Food For free has been feeding kids through this program for several years now. Uh and through ARPA, we've requested an additional \$200,000 per year, uh, to move all of our children, which is 1385 kids, uh, onto the CARE Card program. It's based on Chelsea Eats and the Cambridge RISE Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot has been giving cash cards as opposed to packaged meals to, to children to, uh, bring home and provide themselves with food.

This would be starting in September 2022. Um it's already a program that we have going. Food For Free has been funding it themselves and, uh, with the recent

increase in, uh, food demand due to the pandemic and resultant inflation, really hoping that the community can step up and help support this initiative.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Ben, did you say 200,000 is what the funding request is? Ben?

BEN ENGLE: Sorry, I, I someone switched my status there, so I wasn't able to speak.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Isn't it?

BEN ENGLE: Uh, the, the funding request is for \$300,000 annually. I believe we're already approved for \$100,000 annually, so it's an increase to a total of 900,000.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay.

DAVID KALE: Mr. Chair, please--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Mr. Kale?

DAVID KALE: So just to be clear, I believe that Mr. Engel is speaking of not on item number two, but a item that's listed later on in the proposals, which number is that?

MICHELLE KINCAID: Number 39.

DAVID KALE: Number 39, I believe, is what he was speaking to.

BEN ENGLE: Yeah, then sorry, if that's directed to me, I don't have any reference numbers or anything like that. But it's the Cambridge Weekend Backpack Funding.

DAVID KALE: So just for clarity, it's item number 39 on the spreadsheet that's on the web and at the spreadsheet that was given to the council. So that's what was spoken about a moment ago.

DAVID KALE: Okay.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, while I have you there, who will speak about the other food security proposal?

BEN ENGLE: Um, so I'm not sure what the application would be. Um--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Michelle Holcomb is--

BEN ENGLE: Yeah, she was our departing Chief Development Officer. She's no longer with the organization, was it possibly a Just Eats Grocery Box program's request?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Mr. Chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, vice mayor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Sorry, if I could just jump in. I believe that the item number 2 is not going to be a funding request. But it is rather item number 39. That

Food For Free will be applying for which is the CARE Card Program, which formerly, the Weekend Backpack Program.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Great. Thank you. So Vice Mayor, I know you're involved, at least in the past, with food supply--is--so this number 2 is no longer valid.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: It's, it's replaced by number 39.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you very much. Thank you both. So the next person speaking is Cathie Zusy from Magazine Beach. You'll--I know you know you have to push the button.

CATHERINE ZUSY: I do.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Of course.

CATHERINE ZUSY: Hi there and I'm here, Cathy Zusy of Magazine Beach Partners, and I'm here with Ken Carson of Magazine Beach Partners. We're here, um, requesting that you support dedicating 1.8 million of ARPA funds to improvements at the park. Together, over the past decade, we've made so much progre--progress at this once very derelict park. This isn't an Environmental Justice Project as the park is in Pa--close proximity to many, many housing projects and has served as the backyard, um, for many

families in our, in our community. Um as you will know, because you supported it, we started out by restoring the Powder Magazine, the boat launch, completing the landscape plan, doing the shoreline plant--path, expanding the patio and terraces, planting new trees, and DCR just brought in Mass Audubon as a tenant for the Powder Magazine.

Um, in this weekend, they'll kick off their, um, art nature and history activities at the park after Earth Day Cleanup. So the park is really about to go into gear with this great new guardian of the park. So we are overjoyed, um, but we're also eager to remove the last eyesore at the park and the ARPA funds would eliminate this. So DCR will be renovating the bathhouse. They're renovating the bathhouse now and they'll renovate the pool next fall winter.

So our goal is to have these ARPA funds so that we need them this year to, um, fold into the renovation of the pool in the pool's decks, the, the creation, the removal of the blacktop, the sunken blacktop between the pool and the river shoreline and to turn that into a half acre of usable park space. Currently, it's not usable at all. So, um, this would be a permanent way to improve Cambridge and create

more parkland. And--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Cathy.

CATHERINE ZUSY: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Our time is up, I'm sorry. I apologize. The next speaker, at least listed, is, um, for Starlight Square's, Matthew Boyes-Watson. Matthew, are you on the line?

MATTHEW BOYES-WATSON: I am. Can you hear me?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, thank you, Matthew. Please, you have two minutes.

MATTHEW BOYES-WATSON: Thank you. [clears throat] Uh, my name is Matthew Boyes-Watson. I'm a CRLS grad who was born and raised in Cambridgeport. Um and along with Nina Berg, uh, I'm a principal of Flagg Street Studio, the group that co-created Starlight Square, along with, uh, Mark Boyes-Watson and Michael Monestime. Um, Starlight's temporary installation has proven that public space can be a catalyst for cultural activity and economic equity. It demonstrated the power of place-keeping during unprecedented loss and displacement. We believe, a permanent civic center framed by affordable retail opportunities and flexible community space can be the

center of our recovery and future success. Cambridge is a world-class city in desperate need of a world-class civic space.

With ARPA funds, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create one. We propose that Municipal Lot 5 be developed into a permanent civic center, modeled on the Starlight Square initiative and Popportunity. The project would fall into four phases: Feasibility, design, construction, and operation. It is our hope that the feasibility phase with a budget of \$150,000 can be funded immediately so that it can take advantage of the community engagement opportunities provided by the upcoming season of Starlight.

We've prepared a hard cost construction estimate and an architectural sketch set that has informed, uh, the phased budget that I mentioned, um, which runs from today to a completion date in 2025. Um that rough budget by category or by phase is feasibility at 150,000 design, and permitting a \$2.5 million construction at \$10 million and operation to be determined based on city requirements. We'd be happy to submit the budget and this documentation to the committee for review. Thank you so much for your time.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you for doing it in two minutes. So the funding request is for what amount?

MATTHEW BOYES-WATSON: It's just less than \$13 million.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So the full amount? Okay.

MATTHEW BOYES-WATSON: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you very much.

MATTHEW BOYES-WATSON: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: The next speaker is the Reverend Lydia Chu.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Reverend Chu is not on the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, we will try later. The next speaker, um, speaking on broadband is Rabbi Yoni Shtiebel.

RABBI YONI SHTIEBEL: Hi, ay, hear me?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, Rabbi, welcome. You have two minutes.

RABBI YONI SHTIEBEL: Uh, so, so I'm recommending that we spend, um, about \$93,000 on connecting residents in Central Square in a inclusionary housing, uh, CDD building

that sits on CityFiber to the digital fiber in the police substation in the physical building. Um the city has already studied digital equity in Cambridge, documents the hardships when households don't have fast and reliable internet.

This project has been, uh, done by the City of Cambridge similarly with CHA buildings and the CHA also has, um, city, uh, broadband wiring in a very close, proximate location to this location. In the event that this pilot project is successful, um, it could be scaled up to about, um, 3000 tenants for CHA residents across the city or about 8000 tenants for IHP residents across the city or some intersection, uh, of them. And I believe this is really critical in a pandemic era, um, because a lot more work and opportunities and socializing and even just life happens from home and it can't happen, um, through slow internet that is, uh, in which net neutrality is not protected, in which upload speeds are slow, in which I, IP addresses are changing all the time and in which customer service is really not customer-friendly. So, um, \$93,000 for this pilot project in Central Square, glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Rabbi. The next speaker is Laura Jasinski with the Charles River Conservancy. Laura, you have two minutes.

LAURA JASINSKI: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to comment this afternoon, councillor. My name is Laura Jasinski and I'm the Executive Director of the Charles River Conservancy, a Cambridge-based non-profit that works to connect the community to the Charles River. I'd like to first highlight a few sectors that we encourage the, the committee in the city to invest in broadly.

First, we are in support of the work led by the Cambridge Non-profit Coalition to develop an equitable strategy to provide grants to cover operating costs, common among, uh, across a wide variety of missions within the Cambridge Nonprofit Community.

Second, we urge the city to invest in public parks and resilient infrastructure. The pandemic has caused our communities to rely on outdoor spaces more than ever for physical and mental health and community connection. Increased demand for these spaces, compounded with the effects of climate change, has intensified the need for investment and opportunity, which ARPA affords.

In line with these goals, I'm also here to support specific projects that meet the ARPA required criteria.

The Charles River Conservancy has submitted a proposal to expand the current pilot installation of an artificial floating wetland in the river. This pilot has proven successful from a water quality, biodiversity and community engagement perspective. We are working closely with the Cambridge Conservation Commission and DPW to plan for expansion.

We asked your support for the expansion that can provide enhanced environmental and community benefits, including innovative and vital stormwater infrastructure, as well as complimentary climate education programming to connect Cambridge Public Schools to the largest outdoor classroom, the Charles River. We are working with the ConCom and DPW to define and submit a budget and will do so ASAP as requested.

Additionally, we support investments in Magazine Beach Park to complete the transformation of Cambridge's second largest park and an important community gathering space. Thank you for consideration of these requests, uh, to address the unique challenges and increased demand for

public space.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Laura, so you will have a budget, um, before May 2nd, is that correct?

LAURA JASINSKI: Yeah, we will, yes, because this is, um, about the community proposal and in combination of working with the City Agency. We are, we are working on that and we will have it before May 2nd.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: That, that's fine. Just want to make sure, thank you. The next speaker is Eric Grunebaum, referring to Jerry's Pond. Eric, you have the floor, two minutes.

ERIC GRUNEBAUM: Hi, everybody. Uh, thank you for hearing me today. I was planning on reading a letter from Dr. Gaurab Basu, who, uh--but I didn't realize I was, I was intended to present for Jerry's Pond, but I'm happy to do that and I will email the letter. Um I wanted to read a little, uh, brief sentence from the Cambridge Life Magazine from the fall. Uh so this is quoting, "We will examine our open space system through an equity lens to assess priorities, based on multiple criteria, including distribution and access park conditions and environmental and public health benefits, emphasis on the public health

benefits."

What we're proposing for the banks of Jerry's Pond is really a restoration of the pond and creation of space there to plant 150 to 175 trees along a very densely travelled part of Rindge Ave, an area that's essentially the on-ramp to Route 16 and Route 2. There are cars backed up there, all the way to Sherman on most afternoons.

This is an area that could truly use a new green space. Uh we've learned through COVID that green spaces and open spaces are critical for giving people the space to separate, to be outdoors, to gather together safely. This should be a green space, not a 5-minute or 10-minute or 15-minute walk away, but literally across the street. Uh, planting those 150 175 trees and restoring nature there will improve air quality, also important with respiratory disease.

And, importantly, as you all know, this neighborhood is already subject climate impacts with heat island and flood, ah flooding risk. Those trees will certainly reduce temperatures and if that--we've just gotten study from a major engineering firm, suggesting that that could reduce temperatures greatly, you know, 70% from where they are now

in 90-degree days. Uh, so it's a 6-million-dollar estimate right now, but we in early conversation with DPW, we think it may be significantly less than that. We look forward to following up with you, uh, in the coming weeks.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Eric. The next speaker is either Pooja or Theo on representing the Cambridge Local First. We are told these are is -

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: They have not joined.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: --joined yet, okay. The next speaker is Manoucheca Lord, representing Popo-- Poppaternity--Popportunity Program.

MANOUCHECA LORD: Hello, can you hear me?

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Yes, we can. You have two minutes. Welcome.

MANOUCHECA LORD: Thank you. My name is Manoucheca Lord. I'm a lifelong resident of Cambridge and a proud graduate of, um, Cambridge Public Schools. I'm here, today, representing Popportunity, a nonprofit organization. Popportunity is a pandemic-inspired initiative that provides low-cost pop up stores and technical support to local entrepreneurs so they can graduate to permanent stores on Main Street.

Popportunity responds directly to the public health emergency and its negative economic impact, specifically the widespread closure of the brick and mortar businesses and the corresponding job losses. Popportunity opened in November 2020, and now consists of 17 pop-up stores. This immediately increased the number of people of color and Cambridge residents own businesses in this--cultural district in Cambridge. The majority of Popportunity--um, entrepreneurs are women, which is 47% and identify as a person of color, which is 61%, who live and or work in Cambridge, and that's a total of 74%.

We've had hundreds of applications and can only support a fraction of them. If given the resources to expand this pop-up infrastructure to new sites in Cambridge, Popportunity can provide opportunities to more entrepreneurs and help restore the COVID-19 losses in our commercial and cultural district. When we apply for ARPA funds, there was no field for allocation requests. We have since submitted a project plan and a budget of 565,000. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. The next speaker, um, if she is available, is Shannon Farrell from

Breakthrough Greater Boston. Shannon, are you online? Yes.

SHANNON FARRELL: Hello. I am online. I believe that the person who is supposed to speak for my organization is actually, um, Elissa Spelman, if she's online?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

ELISSA SPELMAN: I am online. Can folks hear me?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, we can, sorry.

ELISSA SPELMAN: No problem, no problem.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: You have two minutes.

Thank you.

ELISSA SPELMAN: Okay, great. Um good afternoon, everyone, my name is Elissa Spelman. I'm the Executive Director of Breakthrough Greater Boston. Breakthrough has served 7-12 grade students in Cambridge for 30 years. We have been a vital resource to marginalized Cambridge students, serving 1 in 10 district students.

I am here to ask you to consider our proposal to support our new college success program. Breakthrough is powerfully positioned to leverage our six-year relationship with students through all of middle and high school, to help students most impacted by COVID to enroll, persist and graduate from college. We are concluding a four-year pilot

of college success programming, which will then launch permanently this fall.

The program delivers one-on-one coaching to address the academic, social, emotional and financial challenges faced by low income students, students of color and first generation college students, who face disproportionate impacts of COVID as they navigate through college. This pandemic is an educational crisis. Over the past eight years, 96% of our seniors have matriculated to college and now with our college success program, over 80% are on track to graduate far exceeding the national average of 14% for low income students. I thank you all for your consideration. Happy to answer any questions.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, um, for all that you do. We're going to go on. The next speaker is from the Cambridge Housing Authority, Michael Johnston. Michael's office has a number of applications. Michael, the first one on our list is sewer mitigation 1.3 million, if you could start there. Or is there another representative from the Cambridge Housing Authority?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: I don't see Mike Johnston, Margaret Morin was on earlier, but she seems to

have left the Zoom at this point.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, we will come back if they come back to them. Um so the next speaker is Steven Nutter for Green Cambridge and this is the urban farm proposal. Steven, are you there?

STEVEN NUTTER: Ah, yes, I am here, thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Steven. You have two minutes to talk, uh, on your first proposal which is the Urban Farm.

STEVEN NUTTER: Alright, thank you. I'm Steven Nutter, I'm the director of Green Cambridge, uh, here to talk about the farm. Just want to say that outdoor activities that involve community engagement like Urban Farming, they really help to break, break the cycles of disempowerment and isolation that many have felt during the pandemic, especially with our youth and that growing food provides a sense of agency to alleviate ment--mental health effects and food insecurity caused by the pandemic. A large growing space on the CRLS campus has been--to be used by multiple curricular has been a perennial desire by both faculty and students.

And, and following this we've been working with, with

the faculty and students to create, to create this proposal for an outdoor classroom, uh, and have been reaching out to the Director of Facilities to--through, through our faculty partners. Um so we have--we wanted to just say that Urban Agriculture as learning spaces is featured--also featured prominently in the recently released Cambridge Food Plan by the Department of Public Health. Um, and that we have extensive experience creating, managing educational growing spaces using a collaborative model and in partnership with other organizations.

So we're here today to ask for funding for this project of at least \$380,000, which includes not just building it, but, but also employing youth apprentices, a farm coordinator and educator and to helping to, to determine the feasibility. I will have an updated finalized budget before May, May 2nd. In addition, um, as you know, we also submitted one this morning, uh, for, uh, for a, a trial feasibility study for the [inaudible 00:41:42], then one more that will be coming before May 2nd.

Lastly, we support the proposals of Jerry's Pond, Cambridge Heart, Magazine Beach and Cambridge Non-profit Coalition because our outdoor spaces are really important

as lawyer from the Cam--CRC noted.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Steven, did you submit a budget with the trail, um, write-up?

STEVEN NUTTER: I, I did, yes. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your other applications later.

STEVEN NUTTER: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: The next speaker is for the Outdoor Church. It's Steven Bengamin, Bingaman. Steven, are you there?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: I do not see Steven on the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, thank you. If they come, we'll let them speak. The next speaker is Sara Suzuki for Heart. Sara, you have two minutes.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Sorry, I don't see Sara, was it Stephanie?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, I was told by Stephanie that Sara was going to speak. Stephanie, do you wish to speak?

SARA SUZUKI: Hello.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Sarah is here. Okay.

Sara?

SARA SUZUKI: Thank you. Um my name is Sara Suzuki. My name is Sarah Suzuki. I, I'm a Cambridge resident and the Volunteer Development Director for Cambridge Heart. We'd like to urge the city to dedicate at least 5.5 million in ARPA funds to Heart, which is a community-based public safety and public health program. ARPA funds are for supporting communities that have been negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. This is the work that Heart is doing: serving the needs of the most marginalized community members. Heart can provide mental health support, employment and income support, housing support, legal support and more to communities that have been devastated by the pandemic. Um Heart is a nationally recognized model. Um and we are the leader and convener of the Massachusetts-wide Network of Alternatives. We're currently actively growing our Mobile Crisis Response Team; we've hired eight peer responders err--and are in the process of training them to serve the community.

Heart responders and the rest of the workforce represent the most marginalized communities in Cambridge. Uh we seek input and leadership from those who have lived

experiences with being underserved by existing systems.

This means the Heart is led by a group of formerly undocumented peoples, formally incarcerated peoples, disabled and formally unhoused community members.

It's also important to point out that ARPA funds are not subject to the Anti-Aid Amendment. This is important because Heart has been denied funding previously, uh, due to the City Solicitor's interpretation of the Anti-Aid Amendment. Because ARPA is not subject to this, it's the perfect opportunity for the City to provide Heart with the funding that it needs.

We want to emphasize that Heart supports low income people in Cambridge. Without support from the city, we cannot adequately implement our innovative vision. We encourage you to invest in marginalized community members. We have a petition of over 250 names of Cambridge residents, who support the allocation of ARPA to Heart and we have a detailed budget breakdown of our 5.5 million that we can submit to the city. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Sara. The next speaker is Greg, Greg Nicaise. And I apologize if I mispronounced that from the Sustainable Business Network.

GREG NICAISE: That was great. Um I'm actually going to defer my time to Nicola Williams to represent the Sale Business Network in the Cambridge Somerville, Black Business Network. Um if you can unmute Nicola for me. Thank you.

NICOLA WILLIAMS: Hello. Can you hear me?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Hi, hi, Nicola, you have two minutes.

NICOLA WILLIAMS: Okay, thank you. Okay. Thank you. Um so I'm representing the Sustainable Business Network. I am the Volunteer Coordinator among the board as well of the Cambridge-Somerville Black Business Network. And there are four proposals. Do you want me to talk about all four? Or do you want me to highlight all of them?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Just tell us which-- well, the first one that we have listed, might be best to go that way, is Local Business Procurement Fair for \$30,000.

NICOLA WILLIAMS: Yes, okay, sure, um, I did address that. Most businesses --, um, one of the things the City used to do is have, um, a fair, but we don't have any [laughs] at this time. So our request is \$30,000 to really

help our local independent businesses, um, access this institutional sales. Many of our businesses have suffered and this is a great opportunity to connect with larger businesses and we need a procurement fair. Sustainable Business Network does a local food trade show of the year to connect institutions with local food businesses. So this would be sort of an extension of that and will work with the city and community partners.

The other, um, items on the list, uh, that are really important is, um, that for the Cambridge-Somerville Black Business Network, we're proposing a \$2-million seed money funding for--to fund black-owned businesses. Um many of the black owned businesses, um, lack capital, and it has been demonstrated --, um, and they need seed money. So this would be a great way to provide seed money for a fund that will include community capital, and in working partnership with the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, BECMA.

Another opportunities that they--the Liquor Licensing Cambridge, um, a total of four liquor license, uh, is owned by people of, um, color and particularly two are Black-owned over, over 250 liquor license. So we are asking that the city set aside at least 20 full liquor license of which

50% would be target to Black-owned businesses.

Lastly, a shared kitchen model would be great. We have a Residential Cottage Kitchen Program. Um we need to be able to transition that to a shared kitchen. We do not have a shared kitchen that can be used by entrepreneurs in Cambridge, and it is a significant, um, issue. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you very much. The next speaker is for Just A Start, Angela Jang--Chan O'Donnell. So this referring to deal -

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Angela Chan, please go ahead.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: I'm sorry.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Sorry, just letting Angela Chan know they have the floor. They can go ahead.

[? MALE SPEAKER]: Gerry Zipser is going to speak for Just A Start.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: So this was related to -

GERRY ZIPSER: Well, I'm--yes, my name is Gerry Zipser. I'm the Director of Housing in Just A Start. And I will be speaking on, um, three proposals and I have two colleagues who will be speaking on the other two. Um, If

it, if it works for you, I, I'd like, you know, four or five minutes to speak on three and you'll still--you'll still be ahead.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Go right ahead.

GERRY ZIPSER: Great. So the first, um, proposal is to help build an economic mobility hub at the corner of Rindge in Alewife Brook Parkway that we're calling Rindge Commons. And, uh, what this hub will do is, um, we will have a state-of-the-art biotech and IT training lab, um, that will enable Just A Start to double the number of, of graduates each year in these proven programs that enable residents to get, um, sustainable jobs, um, right in the area, in the areas is a bio and IT. Um and the annual salary bump that, uh, graduates, uh, get from these training programs is \$14,000 a year. Uh, it will also be a cutting-edge construction training center for our 16 to 24 year olds who are participating in the YouthBuild program.

For Cambridge Universal Pre-K - Pre-K classrooms, um, will also be in the building as well as 24 affordable apartments. Just to start, would be consolidating all of its programs at Rindge, including housing resources, and financial opportunity to better serve families. Just A

Start programs, serve the people most negatively impacted by COVID, low and moderate income, people of color and immigrants. This would be an investment that will pay dividends for a long time to come from those often excluded from opportunity.

I will fit the other two quickly. The next one is, um, a--to provide for a Digital Navigator Program for Cambridge residents who live in affordable housing. These services that would be offered would be in line with those outlined in the Digital Equity in Cambridge Report that was published last year. Uh the digital navigators would be, um, graduates of the Just A Start It Training Program, and would work very closely with residents' service coordinators who know our folks.

Um services would include signing folks up who qualify for low-cost providers and for the affordable connectivity program. And another unique aspect would be that we would meet people in their homes and troubleshoot. Um, a lot of programs, uh, talk about remote help and that's just not-- that's not what's really needed by folks. Um and we would connect folks with low, um, and free computers and work with residents to identify their goals about, um, what in

the training they need for that.

COVID highlighted the digital divide and, um, impacted our low-income residents. And ironically, um, there were-- to apply for unemployment assistance or for rental assistance, you needed to apply online. Um there were no telehealth, um, appointments for folks who couldn't, um, connect in a lot of isolation. This one--the funding proposed is \$90,000. And that would serve or 600 apartments, but it can be scaled, um, based on additional funding.

If I can do the last one in a minute, please [laughs]. The last one is, um, would--is a--for \$75,000. That's scalable too. Basically what we're trying to do is remove the last barrier to getting lead paint remediated. There are programs in Cambridge that help, um, with lead paint remediation and financing of that. However, none of them actually cover the cost of getting the initial, um, lead paint inspection. And that's often \$500 and it doesn't seem like a lot, but it's a lot for the families we work with. And in addition, we would, um, then provide a grant to folks who move forward with the lead paint remediation work so that, that would enable them to get that done. Lead

paint is a pernicious public health issue that disproportionately impacts communities of color. Thank you very much.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Were there other speakers from Just A Start, or--

GERRY ZIPSER: Um, we do. Um, Ian Davis is going to speak on the financial opportunities center and Corin is going to speak on stipends.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

IAN DAVIS: Okay, I believe I am unmuted. Can you hear me?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, we can. You have two minutes.

IAN DAVIS: Excellent, thank you. My name is Ian Davis. I'm the Financial Opportunity Program's Manager, Manager with Just A Start here in Cambridge. Uh, we requested a little under 292,000 in funding. Um this would include, both finishing construction of our Financial Opportunity Centre in Central Square and the first year of operations with staff.

Um so what this program does, we offer free financial coaching with an accredited financial counselor, who would

be me and AFCPE money management with central certified coach, Jenny Komatsu. We also do free tax preparation. In fact, we just concluded the tax filing season, serving 318 taxpayers, helping to bring in just over \$556,000 in refunds to the community; about 147,000 of that was earned income credit. So I hope, by that alone, you can see there's really good return on investment here.

The Financial Opportunity center would provide easy T accessibility, uh, the option to extend our regular programming beyond the 9 to 5 workday so we can provide greater accessibility to workers. And it provides a standing storefront space right there in Central Square. for community members to access Just A Start myriad services.

Um we've been around at the community for over 50 years; we have deep ties to lots of different organizations and individuals, including community partners, who provide other kinds of direct service like, uh, food pantries, child care and employment advising. Our work would very directly address the negative impacts--the negative economic impacts of COVID through personal, qualified assistance to workers and households. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Korynn.

KORYNN STOYANOFF: Hi, thank you, everyone. Um so my name is Korynn Stoyanoff. I am representing Just A Start as the Director of Workforce Development. Um I oversee our biomedical careers and IT careers training programs. Our Workforce Development Training Programs, support, uh, adults in the Cambridge and surrounding communities that identify as low to moderate income. The majority of our participants, um, identify as immigrants and are people of color. And these programs have been around for over 30 years in the community, supporting um, the, the transition of these students into sustainable careers in biomedical fields and IT fields.

Um, our programs are free, but they don't come at zero cost to our students, who oftentimes have to, uh, reduce their hours at work, make family arrangements, deal with childcare issues, things like that. Um so it actually does come at quite a cost to our students.

We've been able to pilot a very small group of stipended students in the past couple cohorts. And with this ARPA funding, we would like to expand that to provide stipends to all of our students. Um this is especially

important in the, the current time due to most of our students being disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic and the related costs associated with it. We're asking for \$252,000, which would provide \$7,000 stipends to each of our 36 students participating in our bio and IT cohorts. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. The next speaker is Tobin. Uh, we're going to take Margaret of-- representing the Cambridge Housing Authority. Uh just to catch up. Margaret, you have a number of proposals if you can highlight which one you're--you're going to speak about, one by one, it would be helpful.

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: Certainly, and thank you. I'm--my apologies. Somehow I got bumped earlier, and it took me a while to restart my computer and get back. But I'm, I'm absolutely grateful and appreciative of the opportunity to present, um, a number of the Housing Authority's proposals for a potential use of ARPA fundings, um, and I'll go in the order that they're in, um, subcommittee's report in terms of project ideas from the communities numbered [inaudible 00:58:41] on the list. Our first one was sewer mitigation funding, um, requests for

\$1.3 million as part of the plan redevelopment of Jefferson Park up in North Cambridge.

The addition of, of additional units at the site requires us to have mitigation, um, to meet the requirements of the State Department of Environmental Protection because we'll be adding sewer flow, um, to the area and it needs to be offset by either onsite or offsite mitigation, um, at a specific rate, and we've been working with the Cambridge DPW to determine what the cost or the monetized value of that would be. And that, that's \$1.3 million. And obviously, any funds that we can get to support Jefferson Park's redevelopment would be, um, greatly appreciated, but that one was specific to, um, sewer mitigation.

And, you know, the second one, um, following in, in similar fashion, is that we have two projects. Jefferson Park being the first and 1/16 Norfolk Street, that will be adding new hard units to the Housing Authority's inventory. And we have requests in front of the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, for funding for both of them. And we just put a placeholder for ARPA funding should the City feel that that would be an appropriate use for ARPA funding to

support those two projects, um, as, as, as they are going through the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust funding process.

The next one is, um, not--it's in the pre-development planning phases, which would be, um, adding new hard units to on the Millers River site in East Cambridge. We purposefully--we moved the community building, um, back to the heart of the site. They're allowing our residents in the building easier access to an expanded community center and program space, with the hopes of, of someday freeing up and having the funds available to add new units on the, uh, Cambridge Street parcel, and potentially, in addition, off of that wing of Noah's River Apartments, and we're requesting, um, some of the hardest money to come by, which is pre-development funding to begin the pre-development, architectural and engineering work to enable us to come up with the design and, and work through the Affordable Housing overlay to, um, add new units. And, you know, obviously, hard units is a, a equalizer in terms of the impact that COVID has had, particularly on the low income community and, and those who were at house are, are stressed by not having, um, affordable housing. And so that

was one and--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Margaret, could I ask you to pause we have--

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: Certainly

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: --we have one other speaker that, um, just joined us and she has to leave -

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: Oh that's okay.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: --by 3:05. It, It's just two minutes. Theo Skeadas for Local First.

THEODORA SKEADAS: Hi guys, so actually Pooja just joined us wow and she doesn't have to leave in two minutes so I'll defer to her. Um and that way we're not under the time constraint. Does that work?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, thank you, Margaret. I--you're back on Margaret.

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: Back on. All right, thank you. So number 15 on our list, um, is, is funding, which would be for \$3 million over three years that would allow us to, um, create at our larger elderly sites, uh, onsite, meals programs similar to what we have at John F. Kennedy Apartments on Erie Street. Um, um, we found particularly during COVID, that access to, um, good food, um, and, and

just access to a, a meals program was a real challenge to our residents.

And so the--we've been creating commercial kitchens as part of all of our revival, revitalizations at the elderly sites with the hopes that we would be able to have, have an onsite meals program that would allow a chef or cook at each location to supply fresh quality and healthy meals, um, which serve us up to 880 residents daily. It also would provide the foundation of um, of um, a program that could actually support our family sites as well in the adjacent area. We feel strongly that ensuring the food, food security for hundreds of low-income families would be a real, uh, benefit and determinant in terms of health.

Um and it also would counter the isolation that many elders experience, um, just in general, but certainly that's been exacerbated in the pandemic. And that's something that we've seen, um, time and time again with the meals program that we've had at JFK because it embraces a real social atmosphere and enhances the quality of life, but also allows for, um, social opportunities around a cooking program or, or just a, a special meal that the, uh, larger community can partake in and it really helps combat

the isolation that can exist. As you get older it's certainly it was, uh, so prevalent during the period of time, where, um, where folks were self, self-isolating. So that's a three-year program, um, 1 million each year, 2 million over the course of the three-year program.

The next one is also something that, um, we would like to see an expansion of a wellness program and it was very fortuitous the wellness program started about a month before, um, COVID at, at our pilot site, Manning, and it's a, uh, joint collaboration between the Housing Authority, the Cambridge Health Alliance and Boston Medical Center, where the, um, the Health Alliance in the medical center funds like full-time wellness advocate and part-time nurse and they were stationed at Manning Apartments during the pandemic and proved to be an incredible resource to our, our building residents, in terms of accessing, um, medical care to, um, providing some onsite consultation around health care and insurance options, improving the medical management, um, for residents and making connections to, um, to doctors and health specialists. Over 150 of the 200 residents at Mannings were--are active participants in the program. And many have seen significant benefits from their

participation in the program.

And so I ask for the ARPA fundings, again, for three years, a total request over those three years of \$4 million that would allow us to sustain the program at Manning because it was just a pilot program. So we've been seeking additional funding, but then to also expand it to our other large family sites, such as Millers River in East Cambridge, Burns Apartments, up in North Cambridge, and LBJ in Cambridgeport. Um and then being able to serve some of the smaller sites in, in the neighborhoods, surrounding the large sites. And then it would enable us to really affect the quality of life and care for a 1000 low-income seniors as well.

And then our set on number 17th on the list is, I think, something that others have put forward and, and it's just--reiterate the Cambridge Housing Authority support for the RISE program, and the positive outcome that a guaranteed income program has shown just in the short time that it's been in Cambridge, but certainly what is shown, uh, through studies of other programs, both elsewhere in the US, but, but globally, as well.

And so we, you know, put in that request, but we'll

also defer to others who will speak probably much more. I know much more eloquent than I can on that. And but that was something that we felt was real, uh, true value and, and real beneficial to the residents from Cambridge Housing Authority that have been able to participate in and even support its expansion.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Margaret. I hope you can get some rest after that long presentation.

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: Thank you for the time.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Take care. Uh, the next is Cambridge Local First Pooja Paode. I hope I pronounced that closely. Uh, Pooja, you have two minutes.

POOJA PAODE: Hello, thank you. Um, and yes, that was totally fine on the pronunciation. So we, um, are - one, we recognize and appreciate the funds already allocated towards small business and small business support, um, that were covered in the previous ARPA meeting. So the ones that we would like to focus on, are just umm really focused on local procurement, um, developing sort of a capacity for technical assistance and specifically supporting local service providers and local businesses in that, um, context. So, um, the biggest one and, I think, across-the-

board, our funding asks for this is approximately, and this can be super flexible, because for us, it's very important that the program be piloted, um, at any, um, capacity is over three years, ideally a 150k for a variety of sort of like small business procurement and technical support programs.

So the first one is to, um, develop a program offering one-on-one technical assistance and implementation support, support for locally-owned businesses in Cambridge. Um there is a model in the cape that has sort of leveraged this sort of specific process and worked very well. So the program would provide finin--financial support to local businesses that are seeking to improve, enhance or elevate current operations in Phys--physical or digital spaces, focus on implementing technical assistance in these spaces, and really focus on engaging with local service providers to implement this technical assistance and sort of create that multiplier effect in the community.

Um our goal would be to really target newer business owners, those not eligible for previous types of funding and businesses owned by, um, LGBTQIA+ populations, um, as well as other disadvantaged, um, communities and businesses

in the creative space. Um this is a supportive grant that can be administered in partnership with an organization as us, but really hoping to have like an assessment of local business recipients to determine and prioritize their service needs, match them with qualifiable service providers and sort of support both at the same time. But to sort of develop, I guess, a broader and--landscape of support for local businesses that support other local businesses.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Poo, Pooja, you're, you're time is up. So was that 150,000? Is that the request?

POOJA PAODE: Across three years, yeah.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: The total was 150?

POOJA PAODE: Total, total, yep. Thank you very much, have a good day. Sure your, your time is up. So was that 150,000? Is that the request? Across three years? Yeah. Total was 150.

POOJA PAODE: Total, total, yep.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you very much. Have a good day. Uh, yes, I'm just looking for - the next speaker is Tobin Scipione for Community Servings.

TOBIN SCIPIONE: Yes, thank you. My name is Tobin Scipione, I am the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Community Servings. In your decision-making of the City's ARPA funding, we strongly encourage the committee to consider the food and nutrition security of those who are mobility impaired, and too sick to access traditional food security programs like food banks or Congregate Meal sites.

Community Servings has a long history of providing home-delivered, medically-tailored meals to Cambridge residents, experiencing poverty and a critical or chronic illness. Since 1999, we have provided nearly half a million medically-tailored meals to Cambridge residents, working with multiple Cambridge-based health and social service referral partners. Our home-delivered, medically-tailored meal model addresses the critical issues of food insecurity and poor nutrition, key social determinants of health that have a profound impact on an individual's health and well-being.

As you identify key investments within the city's ARPA funding allocation, we ask you to consider supports for Cambridge residents who are severely immuno-compromised and nutrition insecure. These residents have faced enormous

challenges due to COVID-19 and accompanying economic disruption and rates of food insecurity are expected to remain at historic levels for years with long-term health consequences.

ARPA funding in the amount of \$250,000 over five years will support the home delivery of 125,000 medically-tailored meals, customized to meet the individual health needs of more than 250 Cambridge clients, their dependent children and caregivers over the funding period. This funding will help drive health equity by addressing long-standing disparities in food access, which have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Tobin. The next speaker is Allison Dale, for the Sustainable Business Network.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Allison Dale is not on. Gregory Nicaise has the hand up.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Gregory, you have the floor, two minutes.

GREGORY NICAISE: Sorry about that, Allison is not here today. Um, yeah, I, I can share about the--just to

reiterate some of the projects that, um, Nicole Williams was presenting in that short time. I want to bring a little bit more attention to the community--or the commercial kitchen idea and the need to support small business owners, um, especially coming after the pandemic, where there was record unprecedented closures of small businesses. And a commercial study--commercial kitchen space in Cambridge would be something that would really support these. Already Cambridge has supported the, um, Cottage Food Act that will support small business owners, but it--at this time there is no good space for those businesses to be working out of. Many of them are going--might be going to churches or renting spaces, but, um, other than Foundation, Kitchen and Commonwealth Kitchen and others like them, there's no good incubator space, um, and this is a need in Cambridge itself. We are proposing what, um, \$3 million for this project. Um, this also could be reduced if there was a viable space, most of that funding would probably go to be to, um, to making sure the space was available.

The other projects I would like to highlight is, um, the one that Nicola Williams had brought up before, specifically about, um, alcohol licenses. Um and I just

like to highlight at this point, I think the number was-- she had mentioned was, um, there is only two black-owned businesses that have liquor licenses. And just to reiterate the importance of, um, of making these more widely available to businesses of BIPOC-owned businesses in the area.

Um, and, um,--and then the last project that, um, we had detailed there was the Equity Fund. And, um, that is-- that along is also in work with Cambridge Local First we had just presented, but, um, I wanted to highlight on that project that, you know, um, these black-owned businesses specifically, um, in the--in this area have been, um, disproportionately affected by the pandemic and would benefit greatly from this fund. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Gregory. The next speaker is Kavish Gandhi for the project Right to Housing.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Kavish Gandhi is not on the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: All right. So, yes, Michael Malmberg for COO Daily Table.

MICHAEL MALMBERG: Hello.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Michael.

MICHAEL MALMBERG: Oh, this Michael Malmberg from Daily Table.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, you have two minutes.

MICHAEL MALMBERG: Great, thank you. Um Daily Table is a non-profit grocery store, um, and our mission is to make healthy food affordable all--to all. We opened our store at 634, Mass Ave in Central Square, um, in January of 2021. Our store offers local residents a wide selection of fresh produce, meat, dairy, grocery and frozen items at truly affordable prices. We also offer a wide selection of made-from-scratch SNAP-eligible prepared meals, soups, salads and sandwiches, um, that are a fraction of fast food equivalents. Um a simple basket of groceries at daily table is consistently 25 to 35% less than other supermarkets.

We built the store, uh, based on strong local outreach and interest in addressing this significant, though often overlooked, population of residents facing food insecurity in Cambridge, and Central Square in particular. Um we created 80 new Living Wage jobs, starting at 16.65 an hour. And in 2021, we helped thousands of local residents

purchase healthy food and save them over \$500,000, um, through our lower prices. Um, in 2022, we're on pace to save customers over a million dollars and, um, allow SNAP customers to save over \$100,000 on fresh produce through our Double Up Food Bucks program.

We are seeking ARPA funds, uh, to support our continued ramp-up period as the mood storm moves toward financial sustainability. Um, new grocery stores typically take several years to break even and, uh, opening our store in the peak of the Delta surge in January 2021 greatly impacted our operating costs, uh, forcing us to deplete, uh, significant reserve capital. ARPA funding would help ensure the continued operation of our store and programs. Um ensure we continue to pay living wage jobs to our employees and share access to our healthy affordable food in a dignified and financially sustainable way for Cambridge residents most in need and ensure that we'll be a resource for, uh, many years to come.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Michael. The next speaker is Mark McGovern, Mark with a K for Cambridge-Somerville Healthcare for the homeless. Mark, you have two minutes.

MARK MCGOVERN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and thank you for your time today. Um, Healthcare for the Homeless has been delivering medical nursing, psychiatric services, dental care and social services in area homeless shelters for the past 34 years. Now, we have always had some ability to provide street outreach. We only recently have been able to provide a true Street Medicine program. With the COVID pandemic forcing an increase in the number of people living outdoors the City of Cambridge provided funding for a 12-hour-a-week physician to work in partnership with Becco's first step outreach team. This physician also works one clinic session a week in our clinic at the 240, Albany Street Shelter, and he's a hospitalist at the Cambridge City Hospital. So he is able to, um, provide care to our patients in all of these, um, locations.

And given the great success of this program, um, we're seeking to expand it and make the Street Outreach team. Um we're looking for \$220--\$220,000 a year for three years for a total of \$660,000 over three years. The expansion would include a 16-hour-a-week physician to provide to Street Outreach sessions and to Shelter Clinic sessions a week as

well as a full time community health worker to provide support to the physicians in both the clinics and on the streets, as well as connect folks living outdoors. Um connect them to existing services, um, help them sign up for MassHealth, connect them with the SEEK and housing programs, um, EAEDC, Social Security Disability Services, etc.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mark.

MARK MCGOVERN: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Next speaker is Sharon Zimmerman for Cambridge Camping. Sharon, are you there?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Sharon is not on the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. The next speaker is John Lindamood with the Cambridge Housing Authority, there are two proposals.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: John Lindamood has not joined the Zoom either.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, that's a Youth Program and Aging in place. And last page--

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Um, Margaret Donnelly Moran has her hand up for--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please. Margaret, uh, I hope you had a rest, uh, two more.

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: I did, I, I -

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: [laughs]

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: --was asked to speak for John, wasn't able to join.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: That's fine.

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: And so I'd like to, um, just--

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Please.

MARGARET DONNELLY MORAN: --highlight what, what we're looking for in terms of, um, supporting the youth in the house employees award-winning workforce program. We're looking for \$742,700, spread over three years to bring on a second, um, alumni coach to work with our students, who are transitioning from the housing authorities middle school, high school program into, um, post-secondary. And we have a existing --, um, one person whose an alumni coach, but they have a, uh, large number of students that they support. So he's spread very thin and so this would seek to bring on a second person to allow for us to assist with those transition and really, um, help support the success.

And then the funding would also help, um, for some sequential training, um, to, to our existing workforce program staff on Trauma-informed practices, um, so that we'd be best and better able to respond to the post-pandemic challenges, um, that are--that we're finding that our students have.

And then the last part of that program would be to support an intergenerational computer literacy program that, um, has been launched at our elderly developments. And we'd like to bring it to it additional elderly, um, locations. Um and then the second request that John had, um, are the resident services program that the Housing Authority had, related to, um, our service coordinator program, um, and seeking, again, \$520,000, which is spread over three years. Looking, um, just over the, the last year, the Housing Authority had previously contracted out service coordination. And we brought the service coordination team in-house, but we'd be looking to expand our, our staff supervision as well as to training that staff has, more specific to the population that they serve, which is our elderly population. And so the funds that, um, are being sought there would be um, um, focused on, on the,

the supervision of the service coordination as well as training, um, as well.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Margaret. Um the, the next speaker is Darrin Kort or Korte from the Cambridge Community Centre.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Darrin Korte--Korte has not joined the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay and I don't if this was covered earlier, the last one is Food For Free, Sasha Purpura.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Mr. Chair.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Yes, Vice Mayor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: That one was, that one was covered earlier, um, by Ben Engle.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay, thank you, I am sorry it's, it's like trying to keep a scorecard and you have different scorecard than the sport in front of you. Um, thank you. Well, that seems to complete the long list. Um evaluating each of these is going to be quite a task. Um and we're looking forward to that. Mr. Clerk, how many people are listed for public comment, was it 30?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: We have about 13 people.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: 13? Okay, given that all our committee meetings are supposed to be two hours and no more, I'm going to ask that you keep your comments to one minute. Um, I'll let you finish a sentence, but we need some time to close out the meeting with comments from the council and the administration staff. So the first speaker, thank you, is Shaithea Anusha Alam.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shaithea Anusha Alam, resident of the Rindge Ave. Community, spoke on providing a better environment along Rindge Avenue for the residents of the Rindge Towers, Jefferson Park and the General North Cambridge Community. She insisted that a natural bank with space for many more trees up to 150 to 175, which much more than the currently envisaged 12 trees. This she believed will create greater biodiversity among both plants and creatures in the tree canopy and in the wetlands. She also added that it will provide enough space to create a two-way bike path, a sidewalk with some distance from the road, and a beautiful nature walk with space for seating covered by shade.

Rachael DeLucas, address not provided, spoke in support of the Jerry's Pond Restoration and Linear Park

Project. She highlighted that the trees and naturalization of spaces were essential not only to offset the negative effects of the industries, but also for the ecological restoration and the capacity for flood storage management. As wanted all parents to have the privilege she enjoys as a parent to have access to the open green spaces of the area.

Suzanna Schell, who lives in North Cambridge, declared that she was there as a Friends of Jerry's Pond. She said it was beyond time for Cambridge to invest in North Cambridge, especially around green space for environmental justice. She asserted that the City had a chance 100 years ago to address this environmental justice, but they didn't. An investment in the infrastructure, trees, bike path and natural areas would bring health and wellness to the community she affirmed.

Kenneth Carson, address not provided, spoke in support of the Magazine Beach improvements. He observed that it was a very friendly family project as it involved families taking their kids to the pool, to the spray deck and to all the programs that Magazine Beach has done, and believed, Audubon will do. He closed by stating that it would a tremendous extension of the experience of Magazine Beach

and Audubon to now focus on the river.

McNamara Buck, who lives on Gold Star Road, stated that he was a member of the Friends of Jerry's Pond leadership team. She went on to read a letter from Dr. Gaurab Basu, co-director of Cambridge Health Alliance's Centre for Health Equity Education Advocacy, which signifies the importance of addressing the restoration of the pond's banks and also in depaving large impervious areas, while creating a safe new green space along Rindge Avenue with a large tree canopy, areas to walk and sit-by-the-pond and fully and separated bikes and walking paths.

Carolyn Magid, address not provided, opened her comments by right away requesting for ARPA funding to Cambridge Heart. She empathetically pleaded that there are residents of Cambridge who won't call emergency responders, who are tied to the City because they are undocumented or unhoused or working in the informal economy. These residents, she urged, needed and deserved an emergency response team they can call without fear of their precarious status being jeopardized because of interacting with the City bureaucracy. She went on to highlight that Heart already has a team of EMT-trained responders, who can

provide the emergency response to these community members' needs. She believed that Heart could be national model of community engagement.

Louise Parker, address not provided, also urged the City to utilize ARPA funds for Heart and project write the housing, both of which, she thought, would help the most vulnerable residents. She revealed that she was a social scientist, who's been working for three decades on evidence-based practices, the integration of Research Theory and expertise with an understanding of community needs. Such practices are widely recognized, producing the best outcomes and hence declared that Heart was a well-designed, evidence-based program that was built on previous experience. She went on to declare that she was extremely impressed with what Heart has done so far with their limited resources.

Elena Sokolow-Kaufman, Managing Director of the Cambridge Non-profit Coalition, spoke on behalf of its 75 Non-profit members, serving the City of Cambridge. She further espoused the cause of Nonprofits, which she said were the backbone of the community, employing residents, offering critical goods and services in improving the

quality of life of tens of thousands of Cambridge residents. Hence, she signified that it was critical that Cambridge Non-profit Coalition leverage ARPA funds to address the pandemic's negative economic impact on the Cambridge Nonprofit sector and also to help in its recovery. She looked forward to having the Council's support and promised to share more details when they were available.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. The next speaker is Nina Berg. Nina, you have one minute.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Nina Berg is no longer on the Zoom.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. The next speaker is Lee Faris. Lee, you'll have one minute.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Lee Faris has not joined.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE So I believe that concludes our public comment. Do I have a motion to close public comments? Councillor Nolan has moved that we close public comment. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Yes-6, No-0, Absent-3. Motion Passed.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. So we have a little over 20 minutes, um, and I was wondering if, um, knowing that we have that we have to share that twenty minutes, um, I would like to hear comments. I am going to start with my fellow Co-Chair [clears throat], excuse me, Councillor Nolan.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Councillor Carlone, I would like to defer to other members of the council since I've had an opportunity to meet with--we, we, we can talk again, you've heard from me, but I will end. I should say that publicly so I also want to make a note that there may have been some people who filled in the form, who may not have gotten notice of this meeting so I don't know

if there's any in that category, but it might be helpful for Mr. Kale to just--30 seconds on how the outreach went to the community for this.

DAVID KALE: Co-Chair Carlone, we took the email addresses of everyone who submitted proposal. Last week we sent them an email, asking them to provide an amount, if they didn't already, and to inform them of this meeting and they called the meeting and, uh, we received the - obviously based upon the response we got today, uh, virtually everybody responded and was able to speak.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Great. I wanted the public to hear that we did do outreach to every applicant, based on, on, on their application for funding, but I look forward to reviewing these and hearing from my colleagues, I am happy to come back if we have time, but I am also happy to defer.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor. Mayor, you have raised your hand.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Yes, thanks, um, Councillor Carlone. I wanted to thank you and Councillor Nolan and the Finance Department for making this meeting happen. Um I know prior councillors haven't had ARPA and so there's a

lot of work, uh, that the City is doing around this and so just wanted to say that I am grateful to everyone at the fence--the finance team. Um I think the ideas that have been shared, I am not going to single any one out, I think they're--all are really great ideas. I think we're gonna have to--we have a tough job to--citizens have a tough job to figure out which ones.

Um, I think it would be helpful for the City to, may be, later, at the next meeting we have to really talk about how KPMG is going through, um, would--the--those guidelines, you know, those guidelines, having now looked at them and I've been working with them, uh, because of the guaranteed income. Uh, they are really complex [laughs] and, I think, for the public to really understand kind of that criteria and what fits and what doesn't, um, there's, there is a lot of details there so I think it's important that we, um, share that with the public.

And then, the second point I'll make is um, you know, I think we um, between now and May 2nd, whatever we can do to have some more outreach around getting ideas submitted, uh, is important, um, and third, you know, I'm--I mentioned that this like a last finance meeting and going forward it

was mentioned tonight, um, and the Council has supported the policy order around, uh, using ARPA money for [inaudible 1:40:49] so I'm excited about, um, really moving forward on that idea and, you know, hopefully we'll in other ways we'll be sharing some news, you know, around what that looks like, um, as further conversations happen between my office, city manager's office and bunch of, um, stakeholders so I'll stop there, but thank you for the time.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mayor. Vice Mayor, you have the floor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Uh, thank you, Chair Carlone. Uh, through you to--um, to you and to Councillor Nolan, thank you for holding this hearing today so we could hear from, uh, the members of our Nonprofit Community, who have submitted ideas and submissions. Um I will say, I'm just--as you know, my work and my background is in food insecurity and um, I think, some of the, some of the submissions really highlighted and--the fact that we are still continuing to see even though we're not at the height of the pandemic anymore, we're still continuing to see a significant amount of, of food insecurity in our community

and that number is going up. Um, it does not seem to be abating and few bunch of the grocery store that you know that because of high food costs, inflation, high gas prices, um, we are going to be in this for a while now, where people are finding their way back. Um, and addressing food insecurity in our community should be at the, at the top of mind for all of us so that's we are looking at these APRA dollars.

So, you know, I just--just an example that Cambridge Weekend Backpack Program had just about 600 students prior to the pandemic. Now, um, we have about 1300 students in the, in the program. We've seen a 100% increase and, I think, anybody who works on food insecurity can tell you that that's, that's absolutely the case in every single program, uh, across the community, across Greater Boston and perhaps the, the State of Massachusetts.

So, um, that's one thing and then the other thing I wanted to say, was I know that Darrin from Cambridge Community Centre couldn't be here today to speak on their submission, which I think is a really exciting submission for us to really think about in addressing mental health. I know that during the pandemic, we all have seen the mental

health toll that has been taken on our families, especially on our teenagers and they have really exciting proposal for, for, um, get these ARPA dollars to address, address some of the mental health challenges that we're seeing here in the community.

So I look forward, um, hearing from them next time, but I do want to say that they, they could not be here today, but that doesn't mean that they don't have a, a real stake and interest in this proposal that they have submitted. So I'll go back at this time, but, again, thanks for allowing this opportunity, uh, for their community and for allowing me this time to speak.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Councillor Zondervan is next, followed by Councillor Azeem. Councillor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks for this great hearing. There's a-- obviously a lot of great proposals for the staff to consider, um, but my priorities remain the same, which is to spend the hard proposal as well as the direct cash assistance to, uh, homeless individuals and families and, um, there's many other great proposals that, that I would

support, for sure, in that list. Do I, I think, you know, as some of my colleagues have said that, that's going to be a challenge, but, I guess, I would like to get more of a sense of how we're going to vet these proposals and, and come up with a final list. So, um, I don't know if you're going to speak to that today or if we'll learn more, uh, over the next few weeks. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Azeem, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR BURHAN AZEEM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Um, I wanted to, uh, first thank everyone who presented. We heard a lot of amazing proposals today. I am very excited to see what we could get funded, um, and then hope further we can get, uh, a good chunk of the projects presented today, funded. Um, I just wanted to echo in support for some projects in particular, um, I think the Heart proposal as, uh, Councillor Zondervan, uh, mentioned is an important one. I am excited to see that.

As well as I think that this is a--it's a great opportunity to invest in infrastructure, especially in our open spaces to make them really great, high quality open spaces so the projects on Magazine Beach, on Jerry's Pond

and others. And I think that this is generally in the process as well, but, uh, the Mayor and I have been working hard on the fair-free working group and I think there's already been, uh, a slot allocated, but very excited to see if we can some of that work funded through APRA funds as well.

Um, but overall I also wanted to say, all the projects presented today were very high quality and I hope that we can see, uh, the majority of them funded and excited to, uh, learn more and follow the process.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. I believe that is everyone. Yes, vice mayor, you came on the screen, did you have something else to say?

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: I didn't.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Okay, well, you looked fine on the screen [laughs]. Councillor Nolan.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thanks. Um, I would just add a, a few things. I agree that, uh, status of these proposals is very, uh, important and daunting for us to review because there are many, many excellent proposals, certainly continuing with fair-free pilot and also the, uh, alternative police safety through Heart and through the

City's own program will be important as move forward to incorporate some of that excellent work.

I was also struck, obviously, by the, um, many proposals with which blend environmental justice along with the climate work. I think those are really critically important for us move forward on. And certainly that--what I--groups that come forward with very specific outcomes, still raveling in my head in Breakthrough Greater Boston to have said, 97% of their kids, who are overwhelmingly students of color and from low-income backgrounds and first generation to go to college and 80% persistence compared to a 14% nationwide is pretty stunning.

And anything we can do for that kind of incredibly effective program because that gets a educational justice, getting kids early on in the educational system to set them on a path to come out in terms of being able to provide for themselves and their family in a way that would have not be able possible. That's the kind of program that I hope that we are able to provide some funding for. I know there's other many worthy programs too. I encourage all of us to dig deep into understand the documentable impact of the programs that they should be able to come forward and say,

that kind of specificity that breakthrough is able to bring to us today.

So I look forward to, um, understanding how it is that the City will be whetting this and whether they, we might ask if they want more specific information or feedback from the council on--from us and if so how would be the best way to deliver that. Then I look forward to your comments as well, Chair Carlone.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Co-Council--Co-Chair Nolan, for everybody's comments and the presentation and the finance, uh, presentation that started all this. Uh it won't come as a surprise to people that I share many of what's already--many of the feelings, uh, that have been stated: health and food are basics in my mind and some people don't share those basics um. But also open space, I mean, as given my background, public meeting places are desperately needed and I've said it before. Cambridge has literally half of the national average of open space.

Um, I think all proposals are sound, positive proposals, but I must agree with my co-chair that education and the success of bringing kids who had a hard time, uh,

in school and bringing them up to the level of succeeding in college is a great achievement. And I didn't know if the statistic was as high as it was 80%, um, is extremely impressive. The program I was involved in was closer to 67% and that was considered a huge success. So, um, so I think it's hard a question to ask and, uh, we both, Councillor Nolan and I, have asked the City, how are they going to evaluate this.

I'll let Mr. Kale answer, but it's really doing a lot of research and evaluation, uh, and I assume, um, Mr. Kale, Miss Kincaid, it's also what other funds these groups have received through the City and other sources in trying to balance all that out. Uh you haven't started this in great depth that's coming up as you stated earlier, after May 2nd, but, um, just give us an overview of how you do [laughs] evaluate all of these, assuming we have more coming in, it will be about 50, I'm assuming, which is a huge number and would at least be doubling the amount available, if not triple, already it's double. So tripling what's available. Mr. Kale?

DAVID KALE: So as I [clears throat] said before, I think when we take our strategic pause on May 2nd, we'll

have listing of the universe of, of public proposals. We then will have or do have the, the listing of City Council areas that we've been asked to look at, that we've mentioned earlier, um, and then the other departmental proposals.

So then, it's a matter of finding and evaluating on the public proposals, anyway, um, with the manager, um, what fits the criteria of ARPA eligible and how those programs may/may not be able to be implemented, whether there are any legal issues that need to be evaluated.

Um, again, I think that I only just say this is that, again, the ARPA funds need to have a hook that we can articulate the harm and the impact of COVID. And while some of these may be good proposals, it may be difficult to elaborate on what the actual harm or impact was, based on COVID, and then identify the targ--target beneficiary class and align with the, uh, enumerated uses that are in the regulations and then, um, identify performance matrix.

So there's a little bit of process, um, and again, I think that, as the Mayor alluded to in working with the, um, RISE program, I think, I think that process while it sounds straightforward, it does have some levels of

complexities as well as trying to then figure out how many dollars we have left and how they can be allocated and how we may have to earmark some funds for council priorities.

So, um, I think this is part of the journey, but I think we have a good roadmap and I think we have been, um, able to allocate \$33 million to City Council priorities as we mentioned last time. Now, we have a better sense of what's on the table with the public and the other City Council areas and will start working at what that means and how those discussions, um, with the city manager and then have further discussions with the Finance Committee.

So there is a path, which is really now trying to figure out how we make sure we don't overspend our monies and making sure that we hear what you said, but also take a look at what else is left on the table.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Mr. Kale and Ms. Kincaid, so I assume in the next week or so, this will be updated, that is the summary of the programs. Some people have added new financial numbers and the requests and any new ones. I think it would be great, um, at the next meeting with the date that will--you and I will--we will negotiate with you to make sure it works.

Sometime in May, I assume that we will, um, have a fuller list and you and your evaluation, eventually that would be on the list as well. The amount of money, why money was given, why it wasn't, whatever you feel is necessary, so the nonprofit groups have a sense of why the decision was made, as well as you can. I mean there's not enough money for everything, we all get that. Um, Councillor Nolan, would you like any concluding comments?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: No, I look forward to this very difficult process and I do think if the City needs more information from us, needs more feedback, let us know what form that would take. Also, want to note that a couple of colleagues couldn't be here today, so we need to make sure we will round on to them and, uh, Chair Carlone and I will, will reach out and see if they have some feedback for you as well.

As Councillor--as Chair Carlone mentioned, our Councillor Simmons had a pre-existing commitment and I know that Councillor Toner told us as well, this is school vacation week, he's out doing some college visits with his family and the time he was working out for, for being able to be here at the meeting today.

But we will certainly do our work, appreciate your work and, again, to remind everybody, as the Mayor said as well, there are some ways that we have to make sure this fits into the requirements of the ARPA funding and there's definitely many, many more projects and requests that we aren't going to be able to fund and so it's important that we focus on the ones that we believe are the most impactful for the City. Thank you, Chair Carlone.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: And we recognize that the hard work is in your laps and, um, and we look very much forward to it in the rationale and we see this is a cooperative effort as much as possible. We realize that the, the manager is initially responsible, you with him. We get that, but obviously we want to understand, um, the decision-making and what is and what is not being financed.

Um, it's a great opportunity, so yes, it's hard work on your part, in particular and frankly this was so tough meeting to even lead, let alone do the work that you're doing. So we look forward to our next meeting. Um, thank you, again, for everything you do. And we are all-- Councillor Nolan and I are always available to talk or meet. I know you know that.

So before I close, does any other councillor wish to have a final statement? We have two-and-half minutes. Nobody? I am very impressed, but there are no comments. Uh, I spoke to-- Councillor Nolan.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: One super quick question. This may seem odd, but is there any chance that there will be change in the ARPA allocation increase, for instance, if other cities can't use it or, definitely not decreased, I am just curious as to making sure that we are understanding?

MICHELLE KINCAID: I have not heard anything about that yet. I mean, things change every month, so I think what the, um, federal government is trying to do is give us a chance to spend the money before they take it away.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Um, when the Urban Development Action Grant was around, one community couldn't get its act together, but the money stayed there for 10 years. So, as Michelle said, they really do want it to go to--completely across the country. Mr. Kale, did you want to add something?

DAVID KALE: I--as Michelle--as I noted, we're doing our second reporting period. So obviously there's several

reporting periods, but clearly that we'll inform the federal government what's going on, but I think it's to-- too soon to assume that there will be any extra dollars hanging around.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: I agree. So, I'm--here a motion for closing the meeting?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: So moved.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Absent

Councillor Paul F. Toner - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Yes-6, No-0, Absent-3. Motion Passed.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
As you all know, there is a 5:30 Ordinance hearing, um, an important hearing on environmental, uh, guidelines and laws

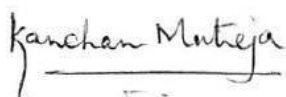
that were put--that is being proposed and we hope the whole council can attend that. Thank you. Have a good night.

The Cambridge City Council Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Kanchan Mutreja**, a transcriber for Datagain, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 25th day of January 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kanchan Mutreja". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature of Transcriber

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Apr 20, 2022 2:00 PM (Committee Reports)