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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE OF THE CITY CL CAMBRIDGE CITY HALL, 795 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

### TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE:

Liea Griffin - She perd hereby petitions the City Council of the City of
Cambridge to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge, as amended, as follows:
☐ Amend the Zoning Map in the area(s) set forth in the attached text description(s) and map(s) by ☐ changing the base Zoning District(s) from to a new zoning designation(s) of
☐ creating a new Overlay Zoning District(s) entitled
☐ deleting or amending the boundaries of the current Overlay Zoning District(s) entitled
✓ Amend the text of the Zoning Ordinance as set forth in the attached text by  ☐ inserting a new Article(s) and/or section(s) numbered and entitled
☐ deleting the current Article(s) and/or section(s) numbered and entitled
☑ amending the current Article(s) and/or section(s) numbered and entitled 11.206.1 and 11.206.2
with the intent of adding two explicit additional purposes for the Trust's funding, requiring the Trust to include members affected by housing instability, and expanding the Trust board
Contact Person: Kavish Gandhi
Street Address: 376 Windsor St #1, Cambridge, MA, 02141
Telephone Number: 6176104726
E-mail Address: kmbrqandhi@qmail.com
Attach the following materials:
☑ Signatures of 10 or more Cambridge residents registered to vote in Cambridge (if applicable – see attached page template)
$\square$ Map Amendments: a map and text description describing the exact boundaries of the area to be rezoned
✓ Text Amendments: a document providing the exact wording of all inserted, deleted, or amended sections (also provide in a word processing format to <a href="mailto:cityclerk@cambridgema.gov">cityclerk@cambridgema.gov</a> )
FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY - Zoning Petition Number:
Submission Date: March 20, 2024

### **Affordable Housing Trust Zoning Petition**

#### **Summary**

The Affordable Housing Trust (Trust) in Cambridge determines how city funds will be used to build and repair affordable housing. The Trust is run by a nine-person board appointed by the City Manager. This residents' petition aims to address the housing emergency by changing the Trust in three ways. First, it would allow the Trust to directly fund city rental vouchers for vulnerable residents and support for unhoused residents. Second, it would expand the Trust board to require some people affected by housing instability. Third, it would require the board to regularly report on its progress, establishing accountability. The specific voucher and other programmatic activities would be accomplished by separate Council ordinances.

#### **Petition Purpose:**

- Fund City Rental Vouchers: allow Trust funds to fund local rent subsidy programs. This allows the Trust to more directly prevent displacement of vulnerable Cambridge residents.
- Fund Support for the Unhoused: allow Trust funds to be allocated towards low-threshold non-congregate shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing for unhoused Cambridge residents. Trust funds could also be used for services to support residents after being housed.
- Require Representation: Increase the Trust board size from 9 to 13 members. At least six board members must have experienced housing instability or live in affordable housing.
- Pay a Stipend: all Trust members will be paid an annual stipend for their time. This allows for those affected by housing instability to more easily participate.
- Establish Accountability Measures: Require quarterly updates by the City Manager to the City Council about the Trust's activities.

### **Affordable Housing Trust Zoning Petition**

#### AMEND 11.206.1 as follows:

#### 11.206.1 Board of Trustees.

- (a) The City Manager shall appoint and chair a nine (9) thirteen (13) member Board of Trustees of the Affordable Housing Trust. The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the City Manager and representatives from different sectors of the community concerned with housing policy, including members of City boards and agencies, individuals affiliated with Cambridge non-profit housing organizations, and Cambridge community representatives. The Board of Trustees shall include at least six individuals who have lived experience with housing instability and/or Cambridge's housing assistance programs, from at least four of the following categories at the time of appointment or re-appointment:
  - Individuals with experience being unhoused in Cambridge
  - Individuals who live in CHA buildings
  - Individuals who live in other 100% subsidized buildings in Cambridge
  - Individuals with housing vouchers who live in Cambridge, including (but not limited to) Section 8
  - Individuals who live in Inclusionary Housing in Cambridge
  - Individuals who live in affordable homeownership units in Cambridge.
  - Individuals who live in market rate housing in Cambridge and are on the CHA waitlist or the Inclusionary Housing waitlist.
- (b) The Trustees shall establish regulations for the operations of the Trust.
- (c) The Trustees shall administer the Affordable Housing Trust, whose activities shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - i. Disburse funds and property pursuant to the provisions of Sections 11.200 to 11.206;
  - ii. Review and approve or disapprove proposals submitted for use of funds and property;
  - iii. Advise on the establishment of new programs designed to meet the City's affordable housing needs;
  - iv. Provide assistance and reports where appropriate to any special permit granting authority authorized to issue a special permit for any development making use of funds from the Affordable Housing Trust; and
  - v. Advise on policies, standards, and procedures for the implementation of the provisions of Sections 11.200 to 11.206.
- (d) The City Manager shall make quarterly presentations to the City Council that include information on the business of the Affordable Housing Trust. Trustee perspectives on issues relevant to council business, and CDD updates including (but not limited to)

- information on HomeBridge, the Homeownership Resale Program, and Inclusionary Housing.
- (e) The City Manager shall make sufficient funding available to provide each member of the Affordable Housing Trust with an annual stipend intended to offset the out-of-pocket costs incurred by Trust members in connection with participation on the Trust, including (but not limited to) meeting time, advance preparation time, travel, and child care expenses.

#### AMEND 11.206.2 as follows:

#### 11.206.2 Receipt and Use of Funds and Property.

- (a) The Affordable Housing Trust may receive funds and property generated by the provisions of Sections 11.200 to 11.206 as well as funds and property generated from other sources.
- (b) The funds and property of the Affordable Housing Trust may be used for, but shall not be limited to, the following:
  - (i) Creation of rental or owner-occupied Affordable Dwelling Units through such mechanisms as favorable financing terms, capital grants to write down project costs, subsidies for land and acquisition, subsidies for acquisition of existing structures, and subsidies for acquisition of Affordable Dwelling Units within a larger development;
  - (ii) Substantial rehabilitation of distressed multifamily residential properties in a manner that preserves the affordability of units through favorable financing terms or capital grants to write down project costs, interest rate subsidies, and loan guarantees with priority funding consideration given to multifamily housing owned by non-profit housing entities that ensure maximum long-term affordability;
  - (iii) Acquisition and rehabilitation of potential limited equity housing cooperatives or condominium conversions using low interest loans, share loans, or capital grants to write down project costs;
  - (iv) Preservation of existing affordable housing by providing acquisition and/or financing assistance for Affordable Dwelling Units that are part of a larger development
  - (v) Financing of any local subsidy programs, including (but not limited to) City-funded voucher programs established by the City Manager or by City Ordinance for the purpose of expanding housing affordability, access, and opportunity for people at no-, low-, and moderate-income levels:

- (vi) Creation of low-threshold non-congregate shelter, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness in Cambridge, including any related supportive services;
- vi(vii) Reasonable administrative expenses necessary to support
  Affordable Housing Trust activities, including but not limited to
  payment for consulting services such as legal, appraising, or
  engineering services, and other project related expenses.



To view the full petition text and other information, visit https://sites.google.com/view/ahtpetition/home

The Affordable Housing Trust is a 9-member board of Cambridge residents that decides how city funds will be used to build and repair affordable housing. This residents' petition would enable the Trust to directly house and support low- and moderate-income residents.

If passed by the City Council, this petition would:

- 1) Expand the affordable housing options available to the Trust in two ways:
  - a) Fund city rental vouchers for low-income persons
  - b) Fund non-congregate shelter and other housing for unhoused Cambridge residents
- 2) **Expand the Trust board** by adding 6 members who live in affordable housing or who are experiencing housing instability

	Signature	Printed Name	Street Address
	Helale A	Khalida Griffin-Shepere	1 565 Putnam Ave Cambridge
/	A: G	Kavish Gandhi	376 Windson St #1
	Davil Toll	Dant Totten	54 Bishop Allen Dr #2



	Signature	Printed Name	Street Address
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	Magneline Fin	Jaqueline King	40 Essex St.
V	Philles Brenoth	Phyllis BRETHOCTZ	65 ANTRIM ST.
V	Clove From	Charles Franklin	162 Hampshile St 1R
J	Lee Farris	Lee FARRIS	Z69 NOFFOLK ST.



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	Signature	Printed Name	Street Address	
$\bigvee$	Rochelle P. Wortis	Rochelle P. Wort's	106 Berkshive St. Cambridge	
	Kenn H. Worter	HENRY H. WORTIS	106 Berkshive St. 0214/	
/	Rend H Sud	RENA H. LEIB	10 ARNOLD CIRCLE Camb	







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Y.	263	PAYUUS EWEN	H Kenn Rd
	Maution and	Mary Baine Campbell	36 Lunaean St #9
	Richard Kruehnis	RICHARD KRUSHNIC	20 Oak Sty Cambridge
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Signature \	Printed Name	Street Address
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	Aicha Belabes	25 8th St Apt 80



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Karen Demose	Karen Penrose	244 Western Ave Cambridge MA. I



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STREET ADDRESS

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