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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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March 30, 2026

Yi-An Huang
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: *Awaiting Report No. 26-17 of 2/9/26, requesting that the City Manager direct the Law Department to draft ordinance language restricting the use of City-owned or City-controlled property, facilities, resources, and personnel for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, as well as other amendments to the Welcoming Community Ordinance.*

Dear Mr. Huang:

I write in response to the above-referenced City Council Order (the "Council Order"), that requests that I draft amendments to the Welcoming Community Ordinance (the "Ordinance"). The Council Order proposes a number of possible amendments to the Ordinance. The Law Department, in consultation with the City Manager's Office, Cambridge Police Department and Office of Equity and Inclusion, reviewed the possible amendments, and drafted the attached recommendations.

The recommended amendments include incorporating the restrictions on City-owned or City-controlled spaces for civil immigration enforcement, and restricting access by Federal Immigration Authorities to non-public City spaces without a valid judicial warrant or court order, as requested in the Council Order. The recommended amendments also include that the City can bring a case seeking injunctive relief against a Federal Immigration Authority to enforce those provisions of the Ordinance.

Other recommended changes build on existing provisions in the Ordinance to make clear that access to City programs is not conditioned on immigration status, City employees other than CPD will not take part in federal immigration enforcement operations, and City resources will not be used for civil immigration enforcement. Additionally, there are several clarifying and cleanup type changes we recommend throughout the Ordinance.

These amendments to the Ordinance are consistent with the provisions of the City Manager's "Executive Order Prohibiting the Use of City Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activities, and Affirming the City of Cambridge Welcoming Community Ordinance and its Commitments to Public Safety and Public Trust," and codify these provisions into the Ordinance.

I will be available to discuss with the Council, and answer any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan B. Bayer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Megan B. Bayer
City Solicitor

Enc.