



City of Cambridge

POR 2026-56
FIRST IN COUNCIL
March 16, 2026

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

- WHEREAS: For many individuals and families, pets are cherished members of the household that provide companionship, emotional support, and meaningful improvements to quality of life; and
- WHEREAS: Numerous studies have shown that pets can help reduce loneliness, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen social connections, particularly for seniors and individuals living alone; and
- WHEREAS: Housing policies that restrict or prohibit pets can force residents to make the heartbreaking choice between keeping a beloved animal companion and maintaining stable housing; and
- WHEREAS: These policies can disproportionately impact seniors, low-income residents, and families who rely on the emotional support and companionship that pets provide; and
- WHEREAS: S. 1022/H. 1559, An Act to maintain stable housing for families with pets, would help ensure that responsible pet owners are not unnecessarily displaced or denied housing due to reasonable pet ownership; and
- WHEREAS: H. 4835, An Act to codify pet-friendly elderly housing policies and ensure pet parity across housing authorities, would establish consistent and humane standards so that seniors living in public housing have fair and equitable access to pet companionship; and
- WHEREAS: No one should have to choose between a well-behaved pet and their home; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council hereby expresses its strong support for S. 1022/H. 1559 and H. 4835 and urges the Massachusetts Legislature to enact these bills to protect stable housing and promote humane, pet-friendly housing policies across the Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to the Cambridge State House delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council March 16, 2026.
Adopted as Amended by Affirmative
Vote of Seven Members:-
Attest:- Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk
A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paula M. Crane".

ATTEST:-

Paula M. Crane
Interim City Clerk