**Cambridge Citizens Coalition**

 **2023 Questionnaire for City Council Candidates**

 **Carrie Pasquarello**

I How strongly do you support these issues before the city? #1 is high (for); #2 is moderate; #3 is low (against)

1. **More Accountable City Government:** Your support for greater transparency/accountability in the city.
	1. 1.X 2. 3 \_Circle the number that most represents your views.
	2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_How have you personally been involved in addressing this? Explain.

In my efforts to advocate for transparency, I have contributed to the drafting of legislation (An Act Protecting Students Abroad). This led me to a meeting with officials from Cambridge CRLS, where I expressed my concerns about the safety of students and the need to prevent and reduce harm. My aim was to identify risks while highlighting risk mitigation and prioritizing transparency.

1. **Housing:** Your support for new AH0 (Affordable Housing Overlay) up-zoning amendment
	1. 1. 2. 3 X \_Circle the number that most represents your views.
	2. How have you personally been involved to address this? Explain.

I have spoken with members of the community who are deeply worried about the proposed new building heights, setbacks, and sizes. Zoning should be a part of a comprehensive plan to safeguard our environment and green spaces, while also preserving the character of our neighborhoods, squares, and historical landmarks. It is crucial that we do not rush this amendment, but instead take the necessary time to ensure affordable housing is done correctly to improve livability and neighborhood enhancement.

1. **Transportation:** Your support for re-evaluating city’s bike lane/traffic/parking infrastructure and plans.
	1. 1. X 2. 3 \_Circle the number that most represents your views.
	2. How have you personally been involved to address this? Explain.

I have been actively involved in watching council meetings, participating in neighborhood group sessions, and talking to various business owners and residents who have been adversely affected by the new bike infrastructure. The lack of transparency involved in the process has left them feeling disillusioned. As a community, it is important for us to reassess what has worked well and build on those efforts. We also need to identify areas that require mid-point corrections to ensure safety and functionality.

1. **Environment:** Your support for keeping our mature trees (in schools, housing, parks, & other contexts)?
	1. 1. X 2. 3 \_Circle the number that most represents your views.
	2. How have you personally been involved to address this? Explain.

I support more green spaces and keeping mature trees. In fact, I had the opportunity to pollard trees that were believed to be more than a hundred years old and slated for removal because of rot, but this technique not only resulted in saving the environmentally friendly canopy but restored their health. We are especially grateful that we are regular visitors to Fresh Pond, Cambridge Cemetary, Mt. Auburn Cemetary, and other locations throughout the city where these magnificent trees (and bird populations) flourish and need our support to prosper.

II. We are interested in how knowledgeable and active candidates are in city issues. (Short answer – 1-2 sentences)

1. What is the one key problem/issue you want to achieve in City Council next term?

I want more transparency and collaboration in the city council, which I hope will patch the splintering that has taken place in the city.

Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

I have facilitated community conversations related to BEUDO, CSO, AHO, and public safety with neighborhood groups throughout the city, which inspired me to run for the city council.

1. What City Council decision over the last term are you most supportive of?

The calls for the implementation of universal pre-K for the 2024-25 school year. This is a great step to help close the educational gap between students. Cambridge Preschool Program is a great investment in the future of our Cambridge youth.

 Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

Listening to City Council Meetings and the community. Student education is a top priority, one that I am passionately involved in. To close the safety gap, I've created a Student Online Safety program to educate students and families about the risks students face online and risk mitigation strategies to keep students safe.

1. What City Council decision were you most disappointed in the last Council term?

Most disappointing was passing the CSO with little community collaboration to identify a strategy to prevent harm to small businesses and neighborhoods. I was also disappointed that with the uptick in crime, there weren’t more public safety meetings to develop strategies to reduce crime and make Cambridge a safer place to live and work.

 Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

I talked with small businesses on North Massachusetts Ave.; many of the business owners shared their stories about how they felt left out and excluded from the CSO conversation.

1. What City Staff decision over the last Council term are you most supportive of?

 Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

1. What City Staff decision were you most disappointed in the last Council term?

The lack of public transparency and accountability with CSO, AHO, and BEUDO.

 Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

I listened to City Council and committee meetings and talked with community members.

III. What Issues Help Define You? Highlight those core interests/goals for the 2024-6 Council and explain why.

As a candidate, I will prioritize public safety, transparency, and accountability. If elected, my goal will be to work collaboratively with council members and citizens to ensure a fair and balanced process. Our citizens deserve to be part of the decision-making process. This will ensure the Cambridge we know, and love remains a place where our history is celebrated, our values are respected, and our future is vibrant and inclusive for all.

\_\_X\_\_More balance in commercial and residential needs. Keeping a balance between the two is key with the focus on the livability of our community. Shopping local with small businesses is the heart of a community and is an important tax base.

\_\_X\_\_More budget accountability

\_\_X\_\_More engagement by residents – The community members I spoke with indicated a lack of engagement and outreach.

\_\_X\_\_More equity in healthcare, environment, schooling, housing, and related issues -

\_\_X\_\_More transparency in Council and City decision-making

Unfortunately, community members have shared with me that they feel excluded and disconnected and that their voices are not being heard. This feedback is concerning and needs to be addressed.

\_\_X\_\_More prioritization of historic building reuse

\_\_X\_\_More support for local businesses

As a small business owner, I understand the importance of making sure customers can find parking. The loss of parking spots has directly affected many small businesses on North Mass. Ave. Business owners in other parts of the city have told me they are worried that they will not be able to stay in business with the upcoming changes to the streets. There has to be more support for our local businesses.

\_\_X\_\_A more multi-dimensional and resident-engaged city planning

It is important for neighborhood communities to be involved in the decision-making process for planning.

\_X\_\_\_A more inclusive environmental policy

We can do more to make our environment cleaner, healthier, and greener. To effectively implement climate policies in Cambridge, there should be more plans to incentivize and educate residents.

\_\_X\_\_A more comprehensive transportation policy

\_\_\_\_Other (explain in 1-2 sentences)

IV. What incident or set of concerns got you interested in running for City Council?

I decided to run for office due to various concerns, such as the lack of transparency and community engagement regarding important ordinances like the Cycle Safety Ordinance (CSO), the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO), and the Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO). Additionally, I am committed to addressing Charter review, public safety, and the rise in crime. It's crucial to listen to citizens' voices on these pressing matters, as many are worried and seeking change.