



# City of Cambridge

## Executive Department

**LOUIS A. DePASQUALE**  
City Manager

**LISA C. PETERSON**  
Deputy City Manager

To: Special Events Committee  
Owen O’Riordan, Commissioner of the Cambridge Department of Public Works  
Branville Bard, Commissioner of the Cambridge Police Department  
Gerard Mahoney, Acting Chief of the Cambridge Fire Department  
Joseph Barr, Director of the Cambridge Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department

From: Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager

Date: July 19, 2018

Re: Policy Relating to Emergency Services Charges for Organized Expressive Events Held in City of Cambridge Parks

As you know, the City has a long-standing permitting process regarding how special events are planned and permitted upon the City’s parks. I am hereby promulgating a new policy relative to charges for emergency services for public safety at organized expressive events in the City’s parks. I expect the following provisions of this policy to be followed by the Special Events Committee and all relevant departments and employees effective immediately.

1. In issuing permits for events in the City’s parks, the City shall continue to apply existing policies and procedures but hereafter will recognize a type of event to be known as a “Demonstration Event.” A “Demonstration Event” shall include non-commercial expressive conduct such as but not limited to demonstrating or rallying, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding of vigils and all other gatherings and like forms of conduct for the purpose of the communication or expression of views or grievances. The City shall timely honor all requests for permits for such Demonstration Events, except that the Special Events Committee may reasonably specify the time, place and manner of the Demonstration Event in order to accommodate competing demands for public use of parklands and to protect the public safety and convenience.
2. The Special Events Committee may direct the organizer of a Demonstration Event to obtain permits from one or more City Departments but in no event shall any City Department charge the organizer of or participants in a Demonstration Event any fees, expenses or costs for police or other emergency services required for public safety in connection with any Demonstration Event in or upon City parks. However, this prohibition shall not relieve the financial responsibility of any member of the public who incurs costs arising from an emergency service provider, such as from an ambulance service, due to provision of emergency services.
3. Questions concerning implementation and enforcement of this Policy should be referred to the City Solicitor.

