

From: Rose Raymond [<mailto:roseangeliqueraymond@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:45 AM
To: John Long
Cc: Matthew McLaughlin
Subject: Written testimony for budget hearing

Dear Somerville aldermen,

My name is Rose Raymond. I live at 23 Pennsylvania Avenue, Somerville. I have lived in Somerville for 32 years, I am a voter and I vote because I want to make sure that my elected officials can help me and my community especially Somerville when we need their help. I cannot come to the hearing on Tuesday so I am writing to ask for money in the budget for jobs and job training.

I was working at North Suffolk as a mental health counselor for 13 years. Because I didn't pass an exam, they fired me from my job. I have anxiety and depression. But they didn't care and I was fired. I'm the kind of person who likes to work so it was really hard for me.

When I heard people talking about the First Source program at SCC, I came to one of the workshops. They helped me look for a job. It takes time and patience. They didn't discriminate against me with my disability. They sent me to an interview with Vinfen Corporation and helped me prepare for the interview. I got a job at Vinfen, working with kids who have developmental disability. Vinfen seems to me like a family. They understand me and my disability and they treat me as a human being.

Now I am in a situation where my community needs help. We need money to continue the First Source Jobs program at SCC and to create more job search and training programs, including helping people to learn English and other skills. Without that, we won't have anybody who can stay in our community. It's very important to send money to keep these programs alive, to help the community, to improve the community. Programs to help people get jobs should be the first not the last thing in the budget so other people can get the help they need, like I did.

I know that this money for job training does not exist in the budget this year, but we want to work with you and the other elected officials to find ways that we can give money every year to this important issue. I want to see enough money in the budget that we can create more programs for the community.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope we get a positive result.

Sincerely,

Rose Raymond