



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
***MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT***  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

GEORGE PROAKIS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To: Honorable Members of the Somerville Board of Aldermen  
From: Ben Sommer  
CC: George Proakis, Alan Inacio, Thomas Galligani

This memo provides information to the Board of Aldermen for the purpose of the creation of an account in which to deposit jobs linkage contributions.

In December of 2017 the Board of Aldermen approved zoning amendment 2017-16 to create a linkage fee of \$2.46 per square foot of commercial development over 15,000 square feet to provide and enhance employment opportunities for Somerville residents. In 2018, the Board approved ordinance 2018-01 to create the Jobs Creation and Retention Trust and nine-member Board of Trustees entrusted to manage these funds.

As of this writing, five of the six public seats of the Jobs Creation and Retention Trust Board of Trustees have been confirmed by the Board of Alderman. This includes two resident seats, two non-profit representative seats, and one of the two business representative seats.

The funds in this new account will be used to support efforts related to workforce development for Somerville residents including but not limited to:

- Job training programs;
- Skills development programs
- Outreach efforts to identify vulnerable populations facing barriers to employment;
- Purchasing tools, including software, to enable the City and its workforce development partners develop data-driven systems to identify and assess residents skills or match residents with available local jobs; and
- Assist public agencies and non-profit partners to purchase equipment and defray other capital costs directly related to job training and education purposes.

Sincerely,

Ben Sommer  
Economic Development Specialist  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

