Petition to Establish a Special Subcommittee to Focus on the Issues and Concerns of Older Adults

January, 2022

To the City Council of Somerville, Massachusetts

We, the undersigned residents of Somerville, petition the City Council to create a Special Subcommittee to Focus on the Issues and Concerns of Older Adults living in Somerville. This subcommittee would aim to foster community and civic engagement, facilitate communication between the City and older adults, and advocate on behalf of the interests of older people. Their recommendations would include, but not be limited to: city services, safety and mobility issues, access to affordable healthcare, taxes, housing that supports aging in place, and an awareness of the variety and complexity of how city department decisions affect older adults in Somerville.

As the city changes rapidly, we are asking for a stronger voice. Those aged 60 and older are 11% of Somerville's population and we include residents from all racial, ethnic and income groups.

Aging is not a disease. It is a process, which if you are lucky, you will experience too. However, we feel as though our needs – which are not always the same as younger people's – are being ignored. This Special Subcommittee would help ensure respect for those differences. This request is in recognition of the urgent need for seniors to have a stronger voice.

Signed: (All addresses are Somerville, MA)

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