

Date: March 26, 2019

To: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

From: Appointments Advisory Committee

CC: Kristen Stelljes

RE: Recommendation for Appointment to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Somerville Appointments Advisory Committee (“AAC” or the “Committee”) recommends **Brielle Short** for appointment to Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF).

The Committee reviewed three applications for the AHTF and interviewed two candidates in person. One candidate withdrew their application prior to their scheduled interview. It asked the candidates a uniform set of questions regarding their relevant skills and experience, familiarity with current issues regarding affordable housing in Somerville, the work of the AHTF, and the connection between the work of the AHTF, SomerVision, and other topics around equity and housing development, including Land Trusts and supportive programs.

Ms. Short has a strong desire to live and work in Somerville and to support this goal has relocated to Somerville and recently joined the for the Somerville Homeless Coalition as a Permanent Supportive Housing Program Manager. In this role she oversees seven (7) separately-funded supportive housing programs with responsibility for overseeing case managers, budgets and working directly with clients. Ms. Short has a B.S. in Community and International Development, cum laude, with a minor in Geospatial Technologies, from the University of Vermont.

Prior to joining the SHC, Ms. Short was a Community Engagement Coordinator and Office Manager for the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC), a Boston area organization whose mission is to promote cultural, educational, and socioeconomic development in the refugee and immigrant community through a range of services to support successful resettlement and to promote self-sufficiency. Among many accomplishments she organized the RIAC’s first large community event for World Refugee Day 2018 which attracted over 300 participants.

Ms. Short's strong passion for affordable housing developed out of watching her grandmother lead a workforce housing development project in Wolfeboro, NH, that created 48 affordable units still operating today. She is dedicated to changing community perception around affordable housing and to developing solutions to supplement housing subsidies with programs and support that will provide better outcomes and stability for individuals receiving assistance. The committee is impressed with her dedication to continuing the work of her grandmother in the area of supportive housing and her commitment to serving the community through hard work, perseverance and respect for marginalized populations.

The Committee believes her experience, personal dedication to serving the community and compassionate perspective make her well-qualified for this role.