

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-
IN THE CITY COUNCIL: _____, 2021

Be it ordained by the City Council, in session assembled, that Chapter 2, Section 2-309.5, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-309.5. Veterans commission.

There is hereby established, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 105, a veterans commission. The commission shall consist of the mayor or his designee, and five members appointed by the mayor, three of whom shall be veterans; two shall be appointed for one year, two for two years and one for three years, and as the term of each member expires a successor shall be appointed for three years. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner for the unexpired term. The commissioner of public works or his designee shall serve the commission in an advisory role.

It shall be the responsibility of the commission to maintain the custody and care of all monuments, memorials, and dedications in the city for the purpose of property commemorating the services and sacrifices of former members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard who have served the country in war, or persons who have served the commonwealth in time of war; to accept gifts or bequests and any appropriations of money made for said purpose, and to expend such funds only for such purpose.

The commission shall have charge and control of the construction of any such monument, memorial or dedication and shall have custody and care thereof after its construction.

In the case of dedications hero squares, the several hero squares in the city shall retain the names by which they are now known, and hero squares hereafter to be determined shall be named by the commission. A "hero square" is defined as a public square or intersection which is dedicated to a service member who served during wartime, regardless of whether they are living or deceased. The commission may, by a two-thirds vote of the whole commission, dedicate a hero square in the city, provided that no deed or contractual restriction prohibits such dedication; and provided further, that whenever the commission intends to make such dedication it shall, before final action thereon, appoint a time and place for hearing all persons interested therein, and direct that notices of such hearing and of its intention to make such dedication shall be given to all owners of land adjoining such street or square in the manner required in the laying out of streets.

The commission shall utilize the following criteria when determining whether an individual shall be honored by a monument, memorial, or hero square:

- (1) An individual must have made a valuable and substantive contribution during wartime.
- (2) The individual must be (or have been) a resident of the ward in which the dedication will be made.
- (3) Requestors must cover all associated costs of the purchase and installation of the memorial.
- (4) Each intersection will have only one dedication designated.

APPROVED:

President
City Council