

Date: November 1, 2021
To: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
From: Appointments Advisory Committee
CC: Javier Torres Trinidad
RE: Recommendation for Appointment to the Urban Design Commission (UDC)

The Somerville Appointments Advisory Committee (“AAC” or the “Committee”) recommends Cheri Ruane and Timothy Houde for appointment to vacant positions on the Urban Design Commission (UDC).

The Committee was impressed with Cheri Ruane for her continued commitment to the city and willingness to serve the public good. She is a practicing landscape architect and previously served on the Design Review Committee. She demonstrated a depth of knowledge about Somerville, especially a love for its diversity and inclusivity, and will bring an important focus on our public realm to the UDC. We recommend that Cheri be appointed to the Full Member position that expires or is up for renewal in 2025.

With a background in architecture, the AAC recommends Timothy Houde to the Alternate Member position with a term expiring in 2023. Tim has broad experience professionally and prides himself on decision-making that leans to the greater good. In our conversation, he admitted that his weakness is public speaking but believes in the work of the UDC so much that he is willing to participate outside his comfort zone.

We had terrific conversations with all the candidates from this round of applicants and were genuinely awed by the qualifications. Please let us know if we can answer any further questions.

Sincerely,

Appointments Advisory Committee:

(Jennifer Blundell and Martin Cawsey)