

Madalyn Letellier

From: David Thorpe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 7:02 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council
Subject: Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation Repayment Request
Attachments: City Council Letter.pdf; Letter to Mayor.pdf

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Hello,

Please see attached letters regarding the ongoing issue between the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation and the Mayor's Office.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

David Thorpe
President
Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation

President Ben Ewen-Campen
City Hall
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

October 12, 2023

Dear President Ewen-Campen,

As the President of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation (SHSSF), I am writing to inform the City Council regarding the on-going matter between the City of Somerville (the City) and SHSSF regarding the City's failure to reimburse scholarship monies that SHSSF awarded on behalf of the City in Municipal Scholarships.

I have cc'd you on a letter from SHSSF to Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. I ask that these correspondences be entered into the official record and discussed at your next City Council meeting. SHSSF would also appreciate any assistance the City Council can offer in resolving this matter. Please contact me at [REDACTED] with any questions.

Respectfully,

David Thorpe, President

The Honorable Katjana Ballantyne
City Hall
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

October 12, 2023

Dear Mayor Katjana Ballantyne,

As the President of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation (SHSSF), I am writing you to request for the second time a meeting with you and four Directors of the SHSSF. We were disappointed in your lack of response to our first letter dated January 9, 2023 that you received via Certified Mail, and subsequently, a copy of the letter that was handed directly to you in March 2023.

I know that you are aware of the efforts of the SHSSF to assist the Somerville Municipal Scholarship Foundation (Municipal Foundation) in 2017 and 2018 by awarding \$28,000 to Somerville students on behalf of the Municipal Foundation. This was authorized by Mayor Curtatone and Howard Horton, then Chairman of the Municipal Foundation. We made this agreement in good faith with the City of Somerville (the City) that we would be reimbursed for these scholarships granted to Somerville graduates.

The SHSSF has never been reimbursed for assisting the Municipal Foundation in awarding \$28,000 in scholarships. We remain open and committed to discussing different ways of resolving this issue. However, if the City continues to remain unavailable for a discussion, the SHSSF will need to consider more complex options to recoup these funds so they can be awarded to deserving Somerville students.

I believe that both the City and the SHSSF are committed to the common goal of doing what is best for Somerville students. Please let us know at your earliest convenience, when and how we can meet to resolve this issue and continue to achieve this goal. Please contact me at [REDACTED] with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

David Thorpe, President

cc. Ben Ewen-Campen, Andre L. Green