

# Timothy Talun AIA

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**October 11, 2018**

Mayor Joseph Curtatone  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Somerville Planning Board Position

**Dear Mayor Curtatone:**

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a member of the Somerville Planning Board. New development is bringing a historic transformation of the fabric of our City, and I would be honored to have both the responsibility and opportunity to help guide development towards the realization of the goals our community has laid out for itself as a member of the Planning Board.

From the Somervision Steering committee to the Sustainable Neighborhoods Working Group to the more recent Union Square neighborhood planning process, I have been an active participant in the creation of the plans which have set out our communities' vision for its own future. Through my work on these committees and through my work providing input on the Somerville Zoning Ordinance and numerous proposed development projects, I have gained a broad understanding of the city's goals and needs and earned a reputation among City staff, elected officials and community leaders for thoughtful feedback and detailed analysis that I will also bring to my work on the Planning Board.

In my professional work with Elkus Manfredi Architects, Boston's largest architecture and urban design firm, I have been involved in numerous large-scale development projects around the Boston region and around the country. Currently I am managing projects worth over \$250 million including the redevelopment of Brookline Place in Brookline into a new commercial and medical care center I am also leading the design of the region's largest co-housing development at Ink Block in Boston's South End, which will provide an innovative new model for much-needed attainably priced housing.

I believe it is critical that the Planning Board have a practicing architect as a member, and I bring a real-world understanding of zoning and the opportunities and constraints that shape development. I understand the challenge of meeting the needs of many different constituencies within regulatory and financial constraints, and would use this knowledge to help provide effective review of proposed projects and zoning regulations. I also believe it is important that the Board be active in the planning processes which establish the goals which the Board is tasked with implementing, and I would hope to continue to engage in these processes as they take place. I also hope to strengthen connections between the Planning Board and the Design Review Committee.

My wife and I have two young sons who are growing up in Somerville and I am most interested in the work of the Planning Board because what is built in our city will shape the future they will live in. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a member, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Sincerely,**

**Tim Talun**