



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 17, 2024

Honorable Members of the City Council,

The Mobility Division is writing to recommend seven new members for appointment to the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee (SBAC). We received a total of 47 applications and interviewed 11 of those applicants. The interview panel for this round of recruitment included Mobility Division staff Viola Augustin, Greg Hanafin, and Lucey Gorrill, and current SBAC members Greg Ely, Tom Lamar, and Lena Webb. We selected applicants for interviews based on their diversity, skills, and enthusiasm to participate. In particular, we hoped to balance gender, age, and ward representation within the Committee, and recruit people excited about community outreach. An overview of the applicants recommended for appointment is detailed below.

The first candidate being recommend for appointment is Sari Kayyali, resident of Ward 4. He is being recommended because he is a car-free bike commuter, and recreational cyclist with experience working with community nonprofits. This candidate is a top choice because he is eager to improve access to biking by reducing language barriers and he lives in an underrepresented Ward.

The second candidate being recommended is Amanda Rychel, resident of Ward 3. She is being recommended because she has been actively involved in the community, volunteering in pedestrian counts with the Mobility Division and advocating for safer streets. This candidate is a top choice because she brings the perspective of a mother in the community and is enthusiastic about expanding access to bikes as well as improving safety for children biking.

The third candidate being recommended is Maria Salim, resident of Ward 2. She is being recommended because she has experience as a graduate student studying climate policy and a bike commuter. This candidate is a top choice because she has demonstrated outreach experience and wants to expand SBAC's capacity to engage with the residents of Somerville. She also would bring a younger perspective to the Committee.

The fourth candidate being recommended is Adrienne Agarwal, resident of Ward 5. She is being recommended because she has been an active volunteer for San Francisco's Bike Coalition and has attended SBAC meetings in Somerville. This candidate is a top choice because of her interest in expanding outreach and the intersection of bikes and sustainability.

The fifth candidate being recommended is Katharine Lange, resident of Ward 2. She is being recommended because she has experience volunteering at Somerville Bike Kitchen and has been involved with the City's Climate Forward focus groups. This candidate is a top choice because she is particularly



interested in expanding bike outreach for women and recent immigrants and would contribute a younger perspective to the Committee.

The sixth candidate being recommended is Kathryn Benesh, resident of Ward 3. She is being recommended because she has been a life-long bike commuter and has professional experience in public transportation. This candidate is a top choice because she brings the perspective of a mother in the community and has demonstrated interest in participating in outreach.

The seventh candidate being recommended is Paul Morgan, resident of Ward 5. He is being recommended because he is an active member of the Somerville community and has experience organizing and leading family bike rides. This candidate is a top choice because of his proven commitment to engaging the bike community and outreach to families. He also brings the perspective of being a father.

Sincerely,



Brad Rawson
Director, Mobility Division
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development
City of Somerville, MA