

July 28, 2019

Somerville Planning Board
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Planning Board:

I am writing in application for one of the full member vacancies with the Somerville Planning Board. I am a lawyer with Anderson & Kreiger LLP, where I represent several municipal clients in land use cases.

I moved back to Somerville in early 2019 because I wanted my work to directly impact the community where I was raised. My time with the U.S. Department of Justice, from 2009 to 2011, convinced me that state and local governments are the entities actually making decisions with the biggest impact on people's lives. Following law school and a Masters in Public Policy, I went to Seattle to become a county prosecutor. Even though the work was rewarding, I never felt the connection to Seattle that I have always had with the Boston area. I grew up in Natick, work in Boston, and have lived in Cambridge and Somerville. I came back to Somerville specifically so that I could give back, working on the day-to-day issues that shape the prosperity, livability, and accessibility of a community. The Planning Board would be an ideal way to use what I do professionally to try to help the city where I live.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application. If there is any other information that would be helpful, please let me know. I look forward to talking to you about the Planning Board's work.

Sincerely,

Sam Dinning