

Dear Shannon,

My name is Calli Masters, and I am a Somerville resident of over five years who is interested in joining the Somerville Fair Housing Commission. Please find my resume attached. My time living in Somerville has been most greatly affected by housing issues - first as a young adult initially securing my first entry-level job and striving to pay increasing rent payments, and then entering into the rental market to move apartments in an increasingly competitive and difficult to navigate environment for the average resident. I am personally and professionally motivated by these issues having firsthand experience as a renter, as well as applicable job experience that has given me a greater appreciation for the policy aspects and legal avenues of fair housing.

Through my current job as a state-level lobbyist working with nonprofit clients, I have only grown more motivated by housing issues in my close work with advocates across the state who dedicate themselves to this issue. In my role, I am the chief lobbyist and strategist for the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center and SouthCoast Fair Housing, two of the Commonwealth's four fair housing agencies. Through this partnership, though not a lawyer myself, I have gained a relative understanding of federal and state fair housing laws and systems, including key options available to fair housing agencies like testing to assess the presence of a discriminatory practice. More than this tangible knowledge, I have grown to deeply value and appreciate the work of fair housing entities who are key enforcers of fair housing law - ensuring that the rights in place in MA can be truly accessed by residents. Through this work, I am also tapped into day-to-day happenings on Beacon Hill (and to a lesser extent, at the federal level) in the housing and fair housing spaces that may be relevant to work with the commission and the city.

My current role also requires adeptness in community engagement and strong comfort presenting issues in meetings with lawmakers and their staff. I am also well-versed in advocacy event planning and management.

I would be eager to learn more about this position and thank you for taking the time to review my application.

With gratitude,

Calli Masters