

Madalyn Letellier

From: Jeffrey Maciak [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:31 PM
To: Lance Davis; Mayor
Cc: All City Council; Public Comments; Erika.Uyterhoeven@mahouse.gov; Lori Cook
Subject: Please Cleanup Somerville

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Dear Major Ballantyne and Councillor Davis:

On any given day that I walk along Highland Ave to Boston Sports Club at One Davis Square, where I have been a member for 10+ years, I am forced to walk by the unpleasant odor of marijuana from people smoking in their vehicles parked on the street outside NESH, witness people purchasing cannabis in NESH and reselling it on the street to people driving by in cars, homeless encampments obstructing entrances to businesses like Comica (Gong Cha had to install barred doors to prevent homeless from sleeping in its doorway), the litter from homeless persons outside the former Walgreens site, drug addicts loitering and yelling at each other in front of Brightview and obstructing access to the sidewalk, disturbed individuals in the heart of Davis Square drinking, using drugs and creating noise disturbances, and finally people panhandling outside CVS while drinking out of brown paper bags. Just today I witnessed a fist fight in the heart of Davis Square in front of JP Licks. If I keep going down the bike path behind the Holland Ave T entrance, I must witness people laying on park benches injecting themselves, literally. I wish this was an exaggeration of a daily walk in Somerville.

I no longer feel safe walking around my own neighborhood without the deterrence of tools of self-defense. When my significant other leaves my home at night, I can no longer allow her to walk alone to the T station. I no longer can leave a window open for fresh air after a string of break-ins, including the rumored stabbing of a pet dog. I no longer can park my car on the street and pay for a garage space.

What happened to my Somerville?

It never used to be like this, not 12 years ago when I moved in, and not even two years ago. This is not a continued impact from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The only thing that has changed is the elected officials in City Hall. Cleanup Somerville or you will be voted out of office.

I used to be proud to call Somerville my home. Now I am looking to leave before I am injured and my property is stolen or damaged.

Why can we not learn from the mistakes of failed cities like San Francisco or Portland, OR? Boston's own *The Atlantic* called San Francisco a failed city. Policies with good intentions didn't work for these cities, and they are not working and will not work for Somerville either.

Please cleanup Somerville.

Don't San Francisco my Somerville.

Concerned Constituent,

Jeffrey Maciak