

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a member of the Somerville Commission for Women (SCW) for Seat Number 7. As a resident of Somerville, woman of color, and an attorney, I am deeply committed to the mission of the SCW, and I believe my personal experiences, professional background, and dedication to advancing gender equity make me an ideal candidate for this position.

Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to be mentored and inspired by strong female leaders, both in school and throughout my career. These women, whether professors, mentors, or colleagues, have guided me in understanding the significance of advocacy, the importance of representation, and the need for systemic change. These experiences have fueled my commitment to supporting women and I am passionate about advocating for gender equity at every level.

As an attorney, I have had the privilege of representing women from all walks of life, advocating for their rights, supporting them in overcoming legal challenges, and helping them navigate complex systems. My work has given me a deep understanding of the unique struggles women face, especially those who belong to marginalized communities. This experience has strengthened my dedication to ensuring that all women—regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or background—have access to the support and resources they need to thrive. I believe this professional experience will allow me to bring a well-rounded, inclusive perspective to Seat Number 7 on the SCW.

Furthermore, as a proud resident of Somerville, I have a personal investment in my community and am eager to contribute to the SCW's efforts to support and elevate women in Somerville. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute to the upcoming events the SCW is planning. I am enthusiastic about the possibility of engaging in future events, including Financial Literacy Awareness Month and Women's Health Month, and Black History Month. These topics are incredibly important, and I believe the SCW can play a vital role in educating and empowering women in Somerville around these issues.

I understand that being a member of the SCW requires a commitment of at least five hours per month, and I am fully prepared to dedicate my time and energy to this important work. I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with fellow commissioners, the Racial and Social Justice Commissions Coordinator, and local organizations to ensure that the Commission's initiatives are inclusive, impactful, and truly serve the women of our community.

Thank you for considering my application for Seat Number 7. I would be honored to serve in this role and contribute to the SCW's mission of advancing gender equity and social justice for all women in Somerville.

Sincerely,

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Ayerim Decena, Esq.

Suffolk University Law School \ Juris Doctorate 2019

Florida International University \ 2014

(P): 786-803-4849