



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL

NAIMA SAIT
WARD 5 CITY COUNCILOR

March 8, 2025

RE: FY2027 Budget Priorities

Dear Mayor Wilson:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my budget priorities that I hope will be included in Somerville's FY2027 budget.

- **Continued funding for the Office of Immigrant affairs**

Funding to support staff and expand the important services offered by the Office of Immigrant Affairs: translation and interpretation services, legal services and know your rights campaigns.

- **Continued funding for flexible rental assistance and legal assistance.**

Providing affordable housing and anti-displacement services are very pressing priorities.

- **City-wide food waste collection**

This will help address environmental justice issues as everyone would be part of this program, not just the ones who can pay for this service. It will also reduce the rodent food source.

- **Food waste collection in schools**

This will help address food waste in our schools and reduce the rodent food source.

- **Funding to establish an alternative emergency response program to respond to non-criminal calls**

This will ensure that first responders to mental health crises are trained and unarmed clinicians.

- **Funding for Community Path safety improvements (improved signage etc)**

- **Continued funding for safe streets**

Funding to launch the Highland Ave community process, expand the safety stick program, and expand the list of the intersection reconstruction projects.

- **Continued funding for food security programs**

Funding for critical food access programs for families, seniors and individuals amid growing community needs.

- **Continued funding for public education**

I urge the Mayor to work with the School Committee to secure funds for all the school programs and expand the out-of-school programming.

- **Funding to conduct a study of Somerville School building decarbonization**

Conduct a study of all Somerville school buildings in order to create a ten year comprehensive plan for decarbonization of building systems and improvement of building envelope performance (e.g., upgrading roofs, fixing energy leaks, ensuring air infiltration systems are of the highest quality). This study must include estimations of current carbon emissions, energy use, and energy cost of operating school buildings.

- **Funding to develop a swing space plan for Somerville Public Schools**

- **Funding for staffing and programming to activate the high school as a youth center + a space for family engagement outside of school hours:**

Enhancing and expanding our youth programming is a great way to promote youth leadership and build a sense of belonging. Participating in intergenerational activities is the best way to build community.

The high school building can also be used as a space for our non-English speaking families to gather and learn about ways to advocate for themselves and their children.

- **Funding to repair the Armory roof**

As the owner of the Armory building, the City must repair the leaking roof.

Thank you for considering these budget priorities. I look forward to working with your administration and my colleagues on Somerville's FY2027 budget.