

Madalyn Letellier

From: Noa Cohen Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fiscal Year Funding Priorities for a Safer, Stronger Somerville

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Dear Members of the Somerville City Council and Mayor Wilson,

I am writing as a Somerville resident and parent to share my priorities and concerns as you consider funding decisions for the upcoming fiscal year. I appreciate the work you do on behalf of our city and hope these perspectives are helpful as you set budgetary priorities that affect the daily lives of residents.

First, I strongly urge increased investment in improved snow removal and routine maintenance. Reliable snow removal is essential for safety, accessibility, and economic activity, and it requires adequate staffing, equipment, and support for the Department of Public Works. More broadly, our roads, sidewalks, and outdoor public spaces need sustained attention. Addressing long-standing maintenance issues will improve safety, mobility, and quality of life across all neighborhoods.

I also encourage the City to prioritize stronger relationships with our public schools, including meaningful support for competitive teacher salaries. Our educators are critical to Somerville's future, and investing in them helps ensure stability, excellence, and equity within our school system.

Expanding affordable childcare options for families with children of all ages is another urgent need. Childcare access directly affects workforce participation, family stability, and economic vitality. City support in this area would make a significant difference for many Somerville families.

With respect to transportation, I support thoughtful improvements that expand road width for vehicles and parking where feasible, while maintaining safety for cyclists. I encourage the City to explore alternate options for bike traffic that improve safety without creating unnecessary congestion or limiting access for residents, families, and service vehicles.

Finally, I want to clearly express my opposition to any City funding, support, or enactment of BDS-related measures tied to the recent Question 3 ballot initiative. These measures are offensive, discriminatory, divisive, costly, and unlawful. As a Jew and an Israeli citizen, I feel these measures (and the continued discussion around them) place my family's sense of safety and long-term future in Somerville at risk. I urge the City Council to reject any policies that target or marginalize members of our community and instead focus on initiatives that unite residents and address pressing local needs.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of these priorities. I hope the upcoming fiscal year reflects investments that keep Somerville safe, inclusive, functional, and welcoming for all

who live here.

Sincerely,

Noa Hughes

 (Ward 7)

Madalyn Letellier

From: Crystal Huff [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:21 PM
To: City Clerk Contact; Mayor; All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: The words I just said and sang

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My name is Crystal Huff, my pronouns are they/them, and I live in ward 5.

Top-level priorities for focus in the budget:
Accessibility in our streets
Affordability in our housing
Food in our community fridges and food pantries
Immigrant protections in our networks, formal and informal
More mobility options, including budget toward public transit
Less policing, more social investment.
More help for the most vulnerable, without more means testing
Love over fear, as Rachel Mello says.

Lyrics (to the tune of "Modern Major General"):

We are the very model of a great municipality
Communicating our priorities in our plurality
We must push back on FEDerAL issues of immorality
I think this will require us to invest in our plurality

When trying to address the needs of our own weird locality
We have a very high in'TREST in zero street mortality
We want to make sure folks have food and housing in totality
And access to our public life is NOT a triviality

Valuing community is what we must hold very dear.
Our neighbors must have access to our financial resources here.
When immigrants require our help, we must react not out of fear.
We have a lot of aid to give; I think that that is VERY clear.

I hope you have enjoyed this tune – I offer Whimsicality
I thought it useful to provide relief from news' brutality.
At very least, I think we can avoid city banality,
But please, also, do hear my messages on shared morality!

Best,

Crystal M. Huff

Editor of [Recognize Fascism](#)

[Gardening Collective](#) Coordinator, [Mutual Aid Medford And Somerville \("MAMAS"\)](#)

MA candidate in [Tufts University's UEP Program](#)

– I use they/them pronouns. –