

## **Somerville Commission for Women**

*Working Together for a Stronger Community*

50 Evergreen Avenue Somerville MA, 02145

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### **Somerville Commission for Women Application**

#### *Personal Information:*

Name: **Stephanie Goodell**

Address: **56 Church Street #1, Somerville, MA 02143**

Primary Phone Number: **434.989.6308**

Preferred Email Address: **stephanie.goodell@gmail.com**

How many years have you lived in the City of Somerville?

**XXX Less than 1 (but lived here from 2007-2012)**

*What is your current Somerville Commission for Women Status?*

**XXX Applying for New Commission Appointment**

On a separate sheet of paper please respond to the following questions. This information will help us to get an overview of your interests, experience and expectations of appointment to the Somerville Commission for Women. You may also attach a resume to provide further information.

#### **Questions for first time applicants:**

1. How did you first hear about the Somerville Commission for Women?
2. Why do you want to serve on the Commission?
3. Can you tell us about your personal and/or professional experience that you feel would be of value to the Commission?
4. What do you hope to gain from serving on the Somerville Commission for Women?
5. What three issues concerning women in Somerville would you identify as your top priorities?

**The commission's composition is intended to reflect the makeup of the women of Somerville and residents of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.**

**Please be advised that the following information will be used to determine eligibility in consideration of a potential appointment to the Somerville Commission for Women. Further, such information may be deemed a public record and may be disseminated where appropriate.**

**Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Betsy Allen, at 617-625-6600 x2323 or [BAllen@somervillema.gov](mailto:BAllen@somervillema.gov).**

## Questions for first time applicants: STEPHANIE GOODELL

1. How did you first hear about the Somerville Commission for Women?

City of Somerville website, was looking for a way to get involved in local government and it seemed like a good fit given my background in gender parity. Subsequently, I met Kristen Strez at the Boston Women's March organizing meeting.

2. Why do you want to serve on the Commission?

This is the second time I have lived in Somerville in recent years and I have always admired the way Mayor Curtatone leads the city. From cutting edge use of social media to the mayor's daily interactions with citizens in local businesses, there is a special feel about Somerville that is both innovative and makes the most densely populated city in New England feel like a smaller town. It is my desire to learn about local government by becoming an engaged citizen in my community, and this is a great first step in learning how Somerville city government works while also giving back.

3. Can you tell us about your personal and/or professional experience that you feel would be of value to the Commission?

My affinity for working in and for groups of women began in college when I joined a sorority. It was my first experience in an all-female setting. I continued to seek out experiences that brought me in more deeply to communities of women-I participated in a powerful Native American sweat lodge with a group of women, I traveled to India with seven other women, and I managed a leadership development program for women. I took time away from work and lived in India working on an international leadership development program for women. For the last decade, my work has been solely focused on women. Starting with a stint at Wellesley College working in Career Services and continuing with my own company and a focus on women in business, my passion has been clear: work towards gender parity in all ways possible, especially economically. It is my passion that drives my purpose and which will also keep me engaged with creativity and direction on the Somerville Commission for Women.

4. What do you hope to gain from serving on the Somerville Commission for Women?

First, a clear sense of "giving back" to my community. Rather than asking what I can offer the women in Somerville, I'd like to give back by understanding what they need v. what I can offer. Second, I hope to gain a better understanding of how the Commission fits within the city government structure and how the government works. This is practical knowledge that most people don't have. I'd like to understand it better so I can begin to gather information about where I might further involve myself in local politics.

5. What three issues concerning women in Somerville would you identify as your top priorities?

- *Affordable childcare for single mothers:* given the rent prices in Somerville, I'm not sure how single mothers make it!
- *Women and politics:* I'd like to explore training programs that would engage more women from a variety of populations in our community in understanding how to run for office
- *The intersection of women and immigration:* these are my 2 passions and I'd like to understand what the special experiences and needs are of women in our local immigrant community