

Somerville Commission for Women Application

Stephanie Galaitsi

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

A friend recommended the Salary Negotiation Workshop, back in May, which I attended and thoroughly enjoyed. It was the first time I'd heard about the Commission for Women?

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

Democracy is predicated on citizen contributions. I think my knowledge and life experiences will enable me to make positive contributions to helping the women of Somerville. This is a topic that I think is important for everyone's prosperity.

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

At my last job, I led our Women's Group in 2016, which involved conducting research about representation in our projects, organizing meeting topics, and presenting. My favorite meetings that I led examined benevolent sexism, considered the inputs for excellent public presentations, and had role playing to help people face uncomfortable situations that women often face. We did a lot of research about the challenges that face women, and my thoughts are threefold 1) Identify a pattern/give it a name 3) talk about it with other women so they know it's not just them 3) Mobilize to address it.

Additionally, I worked for 2.5 years as an immigration paralegal (my clients were from all over the area), and I know that the immigrant community represents a large part of Somerville's demographics, so I can offer insight to the types of legal challenges that immigrants may face, since I was immersed in that field.

Personally as a new mom, I think that there is so much that Somerville can do to help.

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

I want Somerville to be an example for other communities – to show that good things happen when you help women help themselves. I also want to learn more about the challenges that women face and what to do about them.

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

- a. Ending employment discrimination
- b. Support for new moms
- c. Reproductive education and support for teenagers
- d. (Also I know the Commission already has priorities. I support those too!)