

Elyse Best

Somerville, MA

02145

ADA Commission and Human Rights Commission

Department of Social and Racial Justice

Somerville, Massachusetts

To Whomsoever this graciously concerns;

This past Monday, I went to the soulful, moving, and memorable flag raising on Juneteenth. I was incredibly moved. However, I could feel the intensity and clear messages in the poetry, rally, and experiences of many of the speakers. The time to act is now since there has never been a greater emergency involving human rights.

While I have had my own struggles with mental illness, for me, sitting by and idly watching my community and community members still fighting age-old wars since this inception of this country is no longer an option, regardless how I feel. This does not mean my own struggles will interfere in my service to the community! If I am given an opportunity, and I prove myself as a useful and dedicated member, you won't be disappointed.

How may I be of use for your organization(s) as a member, volunteer, advocate and responsible ally in whatever capacity you feel I can be on the community's commissions? I am here to be of service. I am outspoken about mental health care accessibility (or lack thereof) in the city and how it seems to be the bottom of consideration in disability-related issues and discussion – and especially when it intersects race, gender, and class.

I volunteer with Somerville and Cambridge Elder Services and am a Participatory Budget delegate even though I am not currently employed (I am working at Mass Rehab to return to the job). Through their

Center for the Adult Learner Program, I received a degree in Arts of Liberal Studies from Lesley University in 2022 with a focus on social justice and global studies.

I believe that I would be a solid addition to your commission and the community at large with my communication, listening, teamwork skills, education, and care and concern for my community and members affected by social injustice, racial injustice, and disability injustice. I am willing to learn, hardworking, and compassionate.

By the way and importantly, I spoke with Latoya from Human Rights, and she informed me that they desperately need volunteers for seats with Human Rights Commission. Adrienne and I spoke as well regarding seats on the ADA commission. In the hopes that I will be chosen and wherever I am most needed, I will utilize this letter of intent for both commissions.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Furthermore, thank you for your powerful work you do for our community!

Sincerely,

Elyse Best

Community Member