

Madalyn Letellier

From: Nolan Carrier [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Somerville Lateral Transfers

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Good afternoon,

I would like to submit the following comments into the record regarding this week's meeting to discuss lateral transfer hires for the Somerville Fire Department. I am unfortunately unable to attend in person as I will be traveling. Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Nolan Carrier
[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA 02144
[REDACTED]

Dear Madam Mayor and esteemed members of the Somerville City Council,

First, I'd like to thank Councilor McLaughlin for taking the time last week to reach out to Somerville residents like myself who have been on the Civil Service list for years, eagerly awaiting the chance to serve our city as members of the Somerville Fire Department and who would be negatively impacted by the approval of lateral transfer hires. Had I known sooner this meeting would be coming to a hearing, I would have made arrangements to be there in person, but with such short notice I was unable to reschedule my prior obligations.

I come from a family of firefighters, with my uncle and grandfather both having proudly served on the Boston Fire Department. Ever since I was a kid, it was my dream to follow in their footsteps. Although my path took me to 4 years of college, instead of the military, I never lost sight of the dream and saw the opportunity to continue my pursuit of this proud family profession of serving as a firefighter when I took the exam in 2020. I was lucky enough to find an apartment in Somerville during COVID and have called Somerville home for the past almost 5 years. That is a decent amount of time to wait for a call, but I know there are others who have waited longer than I have for this opportunity. So, you can imagine my frustration when I heard that lateral transfers were being sought over taking current Somerville residents who have been waiting and hoping for many years that they would be called upon.

I firmly believe that such a decision would not only undermine the principle of community representation, but also disregard and miss out on the talent and commitment of local residents who are eager to serve their city as a proud firefighter. By denying Somerville residents the opportunity to pursue

these positions, you not only hinder their personal aspirations but also deprive our city of passionate and committed individuals who are uniquely connected to the needs and concerns of this community and who eagerly want to serve the City of Somerville.

Furthermore, the decision to prioritize lateral transfers sends a disheartening message to current residents, suggesting that their contributions and potential are undervalued in comparison to external candidates. This undermines the sense of belonging and civic pride that is essential for fostering a strong and cohesive community.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge you, Madam Mayor and the Somerville City Council to reconsider this decision and maintain the hiring policy that prioritizes the recruitment and advancement of local Somerville residents within the fire department. By doing so, we can reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity, equity, and community representation, while also ensuring the continued safety and prosperity of Somerville.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter. I trust that you will carefully weigh the implications of your decision and take appropriate action to uphold the values of our community.

Sincerely,
Nolan Carrier

[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA 02144
[REDACTED]

Nolan Carrier