

Robert Buchanan | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

June 15, 2020

Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Greetings,

I recently learned that Somerville is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy for a *full member* position on the Planning Board. I am currently serving as an Alternate Member on the Planning Board, and I wish to apply for the full member position.

In the short time I've served on the Planning Board, I hope I've shown my ability to critically engage and provide feedback that helps make projects better. I'm honored to have a voice on the Planning Board, and I'm deeply interested in participating in an ongoing voting capacity. I feel strongly that the Planning Board has an obligation and a responsibility to ensure that the development projects that come before it for approval are consistent with our community's values and goals as defined in SomerVision and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance. We must realize our goals for increased housing, affordable housing, commercial development, open space, and equity.

I have been a resident of Somerville since 2009 and have been a community advocate on planning and zoning issues, particularly with respect to transformation areas including Union Square, Boynton Yards, and Assembly Square. In May 2020, I was honored to be appointed as an Alternate Member of the Planning Board and have already been an active and engaged participant. My voice has been informed by my experience as a community advocate, including involvement in the formation of the Union Square Neighborhood Council, advocacy around Union Square zoning issues, and participation in the McGrath Boulevard Project Development Working Group. I am also is a trustee of the Cambridge Health Alliance and was previously involved in Union Square Main Streets and Union Square Neighbors.

Over the past 10 years, I have actively participated in numerous community meetings and planning workshops. When the first iteration of the Union Square zoning was proposed, it did not include any provision for family-sized (3 bedroom) affordable housing units, despite being called for in the Union Square Neighborhood Plan. We were successfully able to add this to the zoning. I also supported the Real Estate Transfer Fee Home Rule Petition as well as the redevelopment and addition of affordable housing units at Clarendon Hill. I am a strong supporter of affordable housing efforts and believe our community needs to make significant inroads to preserve housing options in Somerville for individuals and families of all income levels. Before moving to Massachusetts in 2000, I worked in a homeless shelter for families in Madison, Wisconsin where I was also as an appointee to Madison's Community Development Block Grant Commission.

I believe I am a good candidate to be a full voting member on the Planning Board because of my experience in these issues in Somerville as well as the value I place on the input, ideas, and contributions of residents in our decision-making processes, including people who don't always have an opportunity to voice their perspectives. We need to be mindful of equity and historical social power when it comes to decisions of planning. That requires listening, and I try to be active listener in all that I do. Professionally, I am a health policy consultant and work on issues centered on improving publicly funded health care for vulnerable populations. I bring this health and wellness-oriented perspective to the Planning Board.

I've always been committed to helping in my community and working on issues and efforts that seek to preserve and enhance our lives, including those who don't always have a voice in decision-making. Being a voting member of the Planning Board would enable me to continue in this work. Thank you for the opportunity to apply.

Sincerely,
Rob Buchanan

RESUME

Robert Buchanan | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

EDUCATION

- **Master in Public Policy**, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, June 2002
Concentration in Housing, Infrastructure, and Transportation Planning
- **Bachelor of Arts**, Political Science and Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin—Madison, May 1999

COMMUNITY

- **Somerville Planning Board, Member (Alternate)**, May 2020 – present
- **Cambridge Health Alliance**, Board of Trustees, February 2018 – present
Chair of Strategic Planning and Audit Committees, Executive Committee member
- **Somerville Health Foundation**, Treasurer, February 2018 – present
- **Union Square Main Streets**, Board of Directors, February 2019 – February 2020
- **Union Square Neighborhood Council Working Group**, 2016 - 2017
- **McGrath Boulevard Project Development Working Group** (Advisory to MassDOT), Nov 2015 – March 2017
- **Union Square Neighbors**, Chairperson, May 2016 - November 2017
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay**; Big Brother, June 2011 – July 2012
- **Madison (WI) Community Development Block Grant Commission**; Member; 1999 – 2000

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES, Boston, Massachusetts

Principal, May 2011-present

- Provides strategic and regulatory consulting, policy analysis and assistance to states, health plans, hospitals, and health centers with emphasis on delivery system and quality-driven reforms for publicly funded health care serving vulnerable populations

PARTNERS HEALTHCARE, Office of Clinical Affairs, Boston, Massachusetts

Program Director, Performance Incentives, November 2009 – April 2011

Manager, Hospital Quality Pay for Performance, June 2007 – November 2009

- Administered a portfolio of quality financial incentives and provided analysis on performance measurement and quality benchmarking to contracting and clinical leadership
- Facilitated strategic decision-making among clinical executive groups on a variety of performance initiatives
- Designed and implemented performance incentive reporting processes and dashboards
- Supervised, managed, and evaluated analysts and project teams

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF MEDICAID, Boston, Massachusetts,

Budget Director, Acute, Ambulatory and Behavioral Health Care, November 2005 - June 2007

- Managed and resolved key strategic finance issues with federal officials and safety-net hospitals regarding the Commonwealth's 2006 health care reform effort
- Forecasted and monitored over \$4 billion in spending
- Identified and designed improvements to cost and financial reporting
- Managed team of budget analysts, analytic vendors, and deliverables

MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, Boston, Massachusetts

Fiscal Analyst, July 2002 - May 2005

- Identified and monitored budget and policy issues on the Commonwealth's Medicaid, Uncompensated Care, housing, and economic development programs
- Developed fiscal and policy recommendations for governor's budget and appropriations bills; presented analyses to governor, state budget director, and other officials

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE, Senator Gwen Moore (Milwaukee)

Policy Analyst, May 1999 – August 2000

MADISON EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER – SALVATION ARMY

Shelter Case Worker, May 1997 – May 1998

LGBT Campus Center, University of Wisconsin

Interim Director, May 1998 – December 1998

Assistant Director, May 1996 – August 1997