

Date: February 4, 2019
To: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
From: Appointments Advisory Committee
CC: Kristen Stelljes
RE: Recommendation for Appointment to Planning Board

The Somerville Appointments Advisory Committee (“AAC” or the “Committee”) recommends Tim Talun for appointment to the Somerville Planning Board. Should Mr. Talun withdraw or become ineligible to serve, the Committee recommends the appointment of Amelia Aboff to fill the position.

Tim Talun is an Architect at one of the area’s largest architecture and urban design firms and possesses a wealth of experience in the area of planning and urban design. Tim has been involved in several large-scale development projects in the Boston area and in other parts of the country. Tim has made a strong, long-term commitment to the city and is raising a family here. He has served on several boards and committees, including the SomerVision Steering Committee and helped write the SomerVision plan. He has served on the Sustainable Neighborhoods Working Group and the Union Square neighborhood planning group and provided valuable professional input.

As a community resident and parent, Tim has expressed a strong desire to be involved in the planning process and the implementation of the various developments that will benefit the city’s neighborhoods. Tim is a firm believer that “the Planning Board should have a practicing architect as a member who can bring a real world understanding of zoning and the opportunities and constraints that shape municipal development.”

In his capacity as a practicing architect Tim has been involved in dealing with contentious community meetings and is fully aware of the need to ensure that all parties are heard, decisions reached are explained, and all questions are answered. He is committed to ensuring the Board builds credibility with the broader community, and the Committee believes he offers the leadership and professional expertise necessary to ensure its success.

Tim’s long-standing involvement in community enhancement projects, coupled with his commitment to volunteering his professional expertise to ensure that development meets the needs of various constituencies in the city, make him the ideal candidate for appointment to the Somerville Planning Board.

Amelia Aboff is a professional in the area of urban planning and real estate development. She has experience in private sector real estate development and the permitting process. Amelia expressed an interest in the future of the city and wants to contribute her expertise to ensure that planned development is aligned with the city’s vision for the future. She has a solid academic grounding in all the areas that are involved in the work of the Planning Board. She also has participated in presenting information at public meetings and is experienced in allowing all parties to voice their opinion and ensuring the various groups fully understand decisions

made. Ms. Aboff would be an excellent alternate appointment to the Planning Board should Mr. Tulum withdraw or become ineligible to serve.