


Duncan Stuard



To whom it may concern,

My name is Duncan Stuard, and I am interested in the open position on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board for “Representative of a Somerville nonprofit organization whose primary mission is affordable housing”.

I have worked as a Housing Navigator for the Somerville Homeless Coalition since January of 2024, and a resident of Somerville since completing undergrad in 2023. During that time, I have worked with hundreds of clients in their search for housing. Though most of this search has been for subsidized housing, increasingly we have seen an increase in individuals experiencing Category 1 HUD homelessness who are working 40 hours a week but are struggling to find affordable housing, on the market or otherwise. The need for more affordable housing in our community is becoming more dire, as a result I am interested in being a part of the efforts being made to preserve affordability in Somerville.

My perspective working with unhoused individuals can contribute to our understanding of how the housing crisis impacts individuals at its extremes. Certain affordable housing options are more accessible to individuals experiencing homelessness, though it seems that affordability across the board is necessary to alleviate the patterns of homelessness we are seeing as SHC. I have become familiar with many of the subsidized and affordable housing options available in Somerville, and have helped many individuals navigate that process. Seeing first-hand how affordable developments can offer individuals an opportunity they would not have otherwise motivates me to learn more about the development of affordable housing, and to give my input when valuable on what developments would be most effective for the populations we work with.

I have gained some understanding of how affordable housing is built, managed, and priced during my time at SHC, but understand that I have much more to learn about the process. I believe my experience working with individuals experiencing homeless, housing providers, and housing focused non-profits would be valuable to the board. This is an exciting opportunity, I hope to be able to contribute to Somerville’s efforts to preserve affordability in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Duncan Stuard