



## Office of Somerville Commission

### Application to the Somerville Commission for Women

October 26, 2015

200344

Kristen Strezo, Applicant to the Commission for Women

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#### Applicant Contact Information and Responses for Interest in the Commission

### Application to join Somerville Commission for Women

#### Kristen E. Strezo

333 Great River Road, #361  
Somerville, MA 02145

(773) 519-0279  
KEStrezo@fas.harvard.edu

#### 1. Why do you want to serve on the Commission?

Somerville is my home and I love living here. I want to give back to my wonderful city. As a Women's Commissioner, I feel I can give back to Somerville and serve its citizens.

#### 2. Tell us about the personal, political, and/or professional experience you would bring to the Commission.

I have been focused for many years on improving the lives and needs of women. My Bachelor of Arts focused on Women's Studies and Communications. I have volunteered my time and creative abilities for women's causes: through health care issues, assisting grassroots organizations or volunteering at women's shelters. I want to try to make lives easier for Somerville women. And, if my skill set could be helpful, I would be honored to contribute my abilities.

#### 3. The Commission is committed to being representative of and accessible to the diverse population in Somerville (age, socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, national origin), how do you see yourself contributing to our goals?

Reaching underserved Somervillens should be a priority. Outreach would be my first suggestion for strategy, for all Somerville women need to know that their voices are valued in the SCW.

I would love a chance to help bridge the gap of communication, making sure that women's voices are heard from every block of Somerville. I would help by continuing to place brochures and flyers throughout the city to bringing awareness to the commission and ensuring that upcoming SCW events are listed with SCATV.

#### 4. What three issues concerning women in Somerville would you like to see the Commission work on?

Helping teenage Somervillens by creating an afterschool outreach program and somehow finding a way to make it "cool" for them to attend. One way we can do that is by finding a network of local Somerville mentors, women who are pillars of

success in our community. These mentors will work with the girls, helping the girls set up and consider 10 year plans for themselves.

I also want to help continue the search for quality speakers for the next year's SCW public speaker series. And, I wish to contribute to helping SCW commissioners with any task to make the series its most effective.

Another focus is making sure that college-bound Somervillens are prepared to succeed. A recent NYT opinion piece stated that inbound college students are often overwhelmed, struggle socially, in their first years at college—especially if they come from lower-income households or are the first in their families to attend. Perhaps create a speaker series for success in college for college girls.

**5) After considering the current focuses of the commission, what area are you most interested to contribute or propose for new efforts?**

Expanding domestic violence resources. Recently, a California moving company received press after offering to move domestic violence victims for free. The moving company provides their services for free. I would like to bring that same concept to Somerville, finding 1-2 moving companies in the Boston-area that would provide their services free of charge for Somerville women (and their children) escaping dangerous home environments.

## Kristen E. Strezo

333 Great River Road, Unit 301, Somerville, MA 02145

KEStrezo@fas.harvard.edu (773) 519-0279

### SUMMARY

Freelance writer with work published in national and online media sources. Seven years of professional writing experience. Accomplished editing and copywriting skills. Effective collaborator. Multimedia proficient. Strong public speaking experience. Proven social media skills.

### EDUCATION

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY Extension School, Cambridge, MA**

Master of Liberal Arts in Journalism, November 2015

Interned at Harvard Magazine

Published in the Harvard Summer Review

**DEPAUL UNIVERSITY, Chicago, IL**

Bachelors of Arts, March 2006

Concentration in Communications and Women's Studies

Student Excellence Award recipient

Member of International Golden Key Honour Society and National Society of Collegiate Scholars

### EXPERIENCE

**Away Games, PBS World Channel TV series**

August 2015 - Present

*Contributor*

- Edit content for high school curricula that accompanies the television program

**Trove.com of the Washington Post**

March 2015 - Present

*Content Curator*

- Present articles to topic followers on caregiving and elder care issues
- Maintain online presence by building a following

**Harvard Magazine**

February 2013 – April 2014

*Editorial Intern*

- Researched and wrote pieces on alumni
- Proofread and fact checked upcoming event announcements
- Summarized books recently published by Harvard alumni for the Class Notes section
- Organized all book submissions from book publishers and agents

**The Penn Stater**

*Contributing Writer*

- Article: *Q & A with Dr. Steven Zarit*

**Harvard Summer Review**

*Contributing Writer*

- Article: *The Invisible Hands That Honor Jewish Tradition*

**Flagpole Magazine**

*Contributing Writer*

- Cover Story: *Pros and Cons of the Kickstarter Model*

**Southeastern Performer Magazine**

*Contributing Writer*

- Reviewed monthly new albums

## Newcomer Magazine

### Contributing Writer

- Wrote profile on Bo Bridgeport Brokers

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Congregation Bet Haverim

July 2007 – May 2012

Jewish Educator, First Grade Teacher at CBH Community School

- Developed activities for first graders that revolved around religious lessons
- Administered quarterly progress reports and weekly lesson plans
- Taught reading and writing in Hebrew

### Josephinum Academy

August 2004 – July 2006

Admissions Office Administrative Assistant

- Introduced and set-up the current application submissions database
- Customized a database that organized accepted and rejected applications
- Designed advertising brochures

Development Office Administrative Assistant

- Strengthened the current Development Office filing system
- Organized current office files by fiscal years
- Researched prospective donors

### WZRD Chicago 88.3 FM Northeastern Illinois University

July 2001 – September 2004

Public Relations Director

- Created promotional campaigns
- Represented station on behalf of the media and the recording industry
- Other notable experience: on-air personality, member of the Associated Collegiate Press

## AFFILIATIONS

Harvard University Crimson Toastmasters Club

Member of Harvardwood, Harvard-affiliated writers organization

Member of GrubStreet creative writing community

## Reference #1: Cassandra Fradera

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From: [Cassandra Fradera](#)  
To: [Sonja Darai](#)  
Subject: Reference for Kristen Strezo: SCW Applicant  
Date: Friday, September 18, 2015 9:32:03 PM

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Dear Sonja,

Below are the answers to for Kristen Strezo's reference for the SCW commission application:

**1. How long have you know the commission applicant?** I met Kristen Strezo at Harvard Summer School in 2015 while completing graduate course work.

**2. Do you feel commission applicant is able to follow through on tasks?** Absolutely. Kristen and I work together as accountability partners sharing goals and deadlines for freelance work. She is a great resource for constructive feedback and has helped me to narrow down some board ideas into specific action items. She also offers inspiration as a Mother who balances her family, school and a career while managing her time.

**3. Do you feel this commission applicant stays with a project when there is a time commitment?** Yes, she does. As a classmate, I saw her produce quality assignments under tight deadlines. She also has great follow-up.

**4. Do you feel the commission applicant is able to communicate well with diverse listeners?** Yes, in a single day Kristen communicates with peers, her family, her young children including a two year old, and is a caretaker for her Grandmother. She communicates well with people from all ages and is committed to inclusive engagement.

**5. Please add some thoughts, if you will, of why the commission applicant would fit with the responsibility and position of the Somerville Commission for Women.** Kristen is a central figure of support in her home and also committed to bringing together diverse women of all ages. Her life and professional experience can add a lot of value with the Somerville Commission for Women in promoting public awareness of women's issues and reaching out to community agencies. Her unique perspective, enthusiasm for supporting the commission, and ability to follow through with deadlines would make her a great commissioner.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend.

All the best,  
Cassandra

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Cassandra Fradera  
email: [cassandra.fradera@gmail.com](mailto:cassandra.fradera@gmail.com)  
save our inboxes! <http://emailcharter.org/>

## Reference #2: Kelly Godshall

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Reference by  
Kelly Godshall  
617-275-1245  
kellyspyglass@gmail.com

I would appreciate it if you could email your responses to the following questions:

- 1) How long have you known the commission applicant? **3 years**
- 2) Do you feel the commission applicant is able to follow through on tasks? **Yes**
- 3) Do you feel this commission applicant stays with a project when there is a time commitment? **Yes**
- 4) Do you feel the commission applicant is able to communicate well with diverse listeners?  
**Yes**
- 5) Please add some thoughts, if you will, of why the commission applicant would fit with the responsibility and position of the Somerville Commission for Women. **Kristen is very passionate about women's rights, topics, issues, etc. She puts all her effort into things she believes in. She has a big heart, is a good listener, very organized and great at leading and following.**