

To: Somerville City Council

From: Gilman Square Neighborhood Council Board

Christine Carlino: President

Stani Iordanova: Vice President

Steven Nutter: Clerk

Vicky Peterson: Treasurer

Benjamin Elgart: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Officer

CC: Somerville City Clerk, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

Date: June 20, 2022

RE: Gilman Square Neighborhood Council Submission

Dear City Council,

This letter documents Gilman Square Neighborhood Council's request to be formally recognized by the Somerville City Council and the City of Somerville as a Neighborhood Council as described in Chapter 7, Article IX, Sec. 7-220 of The Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville, Massachusetts.

The Council has been operating in Gilman Square since 2017 as Gilman Square Neighborhood Association (GSNA), starting as a small group of neighbors coming together to advocate for a welcoming, diverse, safe, and healthy community as development and a new T-station comes to Gilman Square. In 2019, we signed principles of cooperation with the City of Somerville OSPCD in which we agreed to collaborate, share information, support and perform research and outreach, and cosponsor events as appropriate. Since then we have grown to a 5 member board, and have a membership of over 450 members both residents and businesses. We've negotiated agreements with developers to provide healthier, sustainable, diverse and affordable housing and space for local businesses. We've worked closely with our city councilors and several other community organizations and neighborhood associations/councils to advocate for a community that welcomes and benefits all. We were awarded funding for our Arts and Music Festival (Block Party), and worked with SAC to lead up an RFP for a public art mural on the Medford St TPSS. We value ensuring that transparent conversation is accessible to our diverse population of renters, owners, students, teachers, workers and businesses, and making sure everyone has a seat at the table.

Attached please find the following documents:

1. Bylaws including a map of the walk shed of Gilman Square and map of neighborhood boundaries
2. Referendum results: vote taken to pass our bylaws and establish a board
3. Board Elections: vote to elect 3 additional board members aligning with roles and responsibilities of the board.
4. MOA signed with City of Somerville (Draft form) – Please see Rachel Nadkarni for signed copy
5. Documents filed with State of MA recognizing us a nonprofit corporate entity (Filed as Gilman Square Neighborhood Council, Inc. d/b/a Gilman Square Neighborhood Association)
6. Letter from SAC/MAC identifying our Gilman Square Arts and Music Festival (FKA: Block Party) as a cultural event and providing a grant to help us pay the local musicians and artists
7. Affidavits of current board members and subcommittee chairs

Christine Carlino: Christine Carlino

Stani Iordanova: Stani Iordanova

Steven Nutter: Steven Nutter

Vicky Peterson: Vicky Peterson

Benjamin Elgart: Benjamin Elgart