

Finn Gardiner

20 Thorpe St Unit 2
Somerville, MA 02143

Mayor Joseph Curtatone
City Hall
88 Highland Street
Somerville, MA 02143

12 April 2016

Dear Mayor Curtatone,

I am writing to express my interest in becoming part of the Somerville Disability Commission. I'm a autistic self-advocate who has lived in Somerville for three years and am keenly interested in working towards creating a city that embraces all of us, regardless of our abilities.

Over the past several years, I've demonstrated my *bona fides* as a disability advocate: I serve on the Massachusetts Attorney General's Disability Rights Advisory Committee, am the Boston Community Coordinator for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), am the Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellow at the Institute for Community Inclusion and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, and have recently been voted in as a board member at the Human Services Research Institute.

I serve as a community liaison for ASAN, building a mentoring project for adults on the autistic spectrum from the ground up, discussing matters of importance to disability advocates with policymakers, and collaborating with researchers to advocate for inclusive policy. I would be thrilled to share my experience with disability policy with the Somerville Disability Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Finn Gardiner