

Vikram A. Kanda, PhD

October 1, 2018

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to run for the Condominium Review Board for the City of Somerville. Since 2016, I have been a renter in Somerville at Windsor's of Maxwell's Green. In our time in Somerville, I have gone on several Somerville Historical Housing Tours and I truly have a love for this town and its rich culture and community. We live amidst all the condo conversions and renovations that are concurrently happening every day, and I would like to play a role to ensure that that character of our neighborhoods remains consistent. I have observed condo developments as the one across from Brooklyn Boulders that have been done in a way that does not disrupt the neighborhood and I would like to ensure more developments like these are allowed. We cannot stop growth or change, but we can try to ensure that change does not disrupt the community. I love the Mansard style of house in Somerville, that I see constantly being converted from single to multi-family. I plan on renting in Somerville until my growing family is at a point where we must purchase a condo in Somerville as well. I would like to play a role in allowing sustained growth for this city without a detriment to our community.

From a qualification standpoint, I have no housing or urban planning background but I am a quick study and from my background would certainly do my research to ensure accurate opinions and reactions. I am formerly a scientist and professor, I hold a BA in Biological Sciences and a PhD in Pharmacology, a Biomedical Science, from Cornell University. I co-own a Pharmaceutical Advertising business called *VUE Health* that is currently in Belmont and moving shortly to Boston. I have over 15 academic publications. In my career, I have become a trained moderator and often mediate meetings with multiple stakeholders to gain alignment and push decisions forward. Through my scientific career, I have had to peer review publications for colleagues, and in the thesis process, I had to be a part of multiple committees to get my PhD. Problem-solving is a skill that is learned in the PhD process. I know that there may be public scrutiny with decisions rendered by the board, and I am okay with that. I will make conscientious decisions that are based in law and with conviction to stand behind.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Best,

Vik Kanda