



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL

BEN EWEN-CAMPEN
WARD 3 CITY COUNCILOR

March 9, 2026

Dear Chair Wheeler & Mayor Wilson:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my **budget priorities for FY27**. Especially as this will be the first budget of the new Administration, I appreciate this opportunity to advocate for many of my ongoing priorities.

Funding for Housing Stability:

To ensure the ongoing success of our housing stability efforts, I respectfully request:

- Continued full funding for existing contracts including legal services to support residents who contact the City in need of housing assistance.
- Continued full funding of the flexible rental assistance program that has been so critical to keeping people housed.
- Continued funding to support the acquisition of new properties for the purpose of affordable housing.

Capacity for Safe Streets Projects:

Our Safe Streets Ordinance and our Vision Zero plans call upon the City to commit to an ambitious plan to increase street safety. This work takes significant staff time, and coordination between Departments, and I strongly encourage the hiring of additional staff to support these efforts; whether they are housed in Mobility, Engineering, or another relevant Department I leave to the Administration. I ask that you ensure sufficient funding to advance safe streets plans at an ambitious and responsible pace. To do so, I leave to the Administration whether this means additional

Gilman Square Activation and Homan's Site Planning:

The City-owned Homan's site has been underutilized for years since the completion of the Green Line. I continue to believe this site is perfectly suited for a mixed-use development with significant affordable housing and civic space, and I encourage the Administration to fund efforts to move this planning forward.

Out of School Time Capacity:

I am very appreciative of the years-long efforts to increase capacity for after school and other out of school time capacity, and I strongly encourage continued investment in prioritizing these efforts to ensure that all kids have access to affordable and enriching after school and other out-of-school time activities.

Support for immigrant rights:

Needless to say, our City is facing increased need from our immigrant community and I strongly support continued investment in know-your-rights efforts and whatever ongoing support is needed.

I look forward to working with your Administration during the FY27 Budget Process.

Sincerely,

Ben Ewen-Campen
Ward 3 City Councilor