

Katherine E. Garavaglia

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August 5, 2019

Zoning Board of Appeals
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143
Via Email: zba@somervillema.gov and planning@somervillema.gov

RE: Alternate Position Available for the Zoning Board of Appeals

To Whom It May Concern:


I would like to be considered for the opening on the Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals. Enclosed is my resume for your consideration. I am an attorney who works in commercial real estate throughout the country and am licensed to practice in MA.

As an underwriting counsel for First American Title Insurance Company (FATIC) in their national commercial services division, I routinely work on large scale development projects through the United States and in Massachusetts. I advise customers on matters of compliance with local planning and zoning board regulations in order to be in a position to issue title insurance policies indemnifying against loss due to non-compliance. Prior to working at FATIC, as part of my responsibilities at Russell and Associates, I worked with clients to submit proposals to zoning boards throughout the Commonwealth and represented them at ZBA hearings. My experience advocating for clients and evaluating zoning regulations in order to provide coverage provides me with a unique set of experiences that I believe would make me an asset to the Board.

While I recently returned to Somerville in November of 2018 after a brief hiatus in a few other suburbs of Boston, I also lived in various neighborhoods of Somerville from 2013-2016. Somerville has a unique charm that, for me, made it the ultimate destination when I decided to settle in the area. The growth and development that has occurred in Somerville over the last 7 years is remarkable. With the pending completion of the green line extension, the zoning board of appeals will have some difficult decisions to make regarding preserving welcoming, relaxed atmosphere characteristic of Somerville while welcoming new developments and businesses that will generate revenue for the City. I would consider it a privilege to work with the zoning board and help evaluate applications to decide if the projects meet current regulations or, in some cases, to work with residents and developers to find solutions for how projects can be the right fit for Somerville's future.

I hope to have the opportunity to discuss my qualifications and the position with you in person in the near future. If you wish to arrange an appointment, I can be contacted using the information above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Katherine Garavaglia