

Lauren Chapman

107 Main Street

Somerville Human Rights Commission Statement of Interest

An intrinsic part of who I am is my racial identity. As a black woman with ancestral roots tying back to the South and slavery, the black community and its resiliency fills me with immense pride. However, this pride has been hard-won through navigating predominantly white academic, professional, and social spaces that often left me feeling excluded and isolated. These feelings underscored for me the significance of inclusion, community, and equity in our systems, institutions, and the places we live, especially for racial minorities.

I am driven by a deep-seated desire to understand and dismantle racially exclusionary practices wherever they manifest. In whatever space I am in, I strive to affect equitable and inclusionary change that provide avenues of support and belonging for vulnerable or minoritized populations.

My passion for empowering historically marginalized groups motivates my interest in joining the Somerville Human Rights Commission. Since moving to Somerville in December 2021, I have embraced its vibrant and diverse community as my home. I am drawn to the Human Rights Commission's mission to combat unlawful discrimination and strive for justice. I see this role as an opportunity to not only protect but also uplift and celebrate the diverse populations of Somerville.

With a background spanning voluntary, educational, and professional spheres, I am well-prepared to support the Commission's initiatives and advocate for future initiatives that ensure Somerville remains a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Chapman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.