

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Dani Dees, and I'm writing to express my desire to join the Somerville Commission for Women. I've been a Somerville resident for a little over three years, and I'd be so grateful for the opportunity to serve the community in this way.

As a genderqueer, disabled woman, I've experienced a fair amount of adversity. Simultaneously, as a white person, I've experienced and benefitted from an unfair amount of privilege, influence, and advantage. With this in mind, please do not choose me if the seat could be filled by a Black woman.

I am committed to the personal and ongoing work of becoming anti-racist and learning how to live as a truly intersectional feminist. I believe that knowledge is power, and I strive to be as educated about the issues facing all women as I possibly can be. This work requires listening to, learning from, centering, and amplifying the voices of Black women, women of color, and Indigenous women. This is the way I strive to live my life, and these commitments and beliefs would guide the work I'd do on this Commission.

Having lived in Ecuador for a year, my Spanish is proficient and conversational. I also have ample experience in administrative work, communication (written and verbal), and management/team leading. I am currently a per-diem employee of UMass Chan Medical School, where I am a Standardized Patient.

Admittedly, my local community advocacy and volunteer experience are lacking, and this is something I'm determined to rectify. I'm hopeful that I will earn the chance to serve on the Somerville Commission for Women, but if I do not, I intend to find other ways to get involved locally.

Thank you for all of the time, effort, and consideration you've put into this process. I'm grateful for the work you do, and I'm grateful to live in Somerville.

In solidarity,

Dani Dees (she/they)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized capital 'D' followed by a horizontal line.