

From: [Joan Liu](#)
To: [Suzanne Rinfret](#)
Cc: [City Clerk Contact](#)
Subject: Parking Control Officer Job Posting
Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 11:33:54 AM

Hi Director Rinfret,

I recently came across the job posting for Parking Control Officer. It's an important role that I would like to see filled.

I noticed that the requirements list "Access to an automobile during all working hours." I would like to suggest changing that requirement to increase the pool of potential candidates.

I am guessing that the automobile requirement is to be able to access parts of the city in a timely manner. But there are lots of ways to get around Somerville without a car, such as bikes, scooters, or public transit (to most areas). In fact, someone on micro-mobility has a much easier time pulling over to ticket an illegally parked vehicle than someone in a car who would need to find a parking space. Conversely, because automobiles are limited by the 20-25 mile speed limit and the need to find parking, I don't think we should assume that driving is necessarily faster in Somerville. If general mobility is indeed the reasoning behind the automobile requirement in the job posting, I wonder if you would consider changing the wording to what Cambridge uses for their parking control officer: "Sufficient independent mobility to travel throughout the City under all weather conditions."

Based [on a Harvard study](#), owning a vehicle in MA costs a household of \$12,000 per year in direct costs. With the job only paying \$900/week, this car requirement reduces the effective salary from 46800 to 34800. Removing the requirement for automobile access will open this role to more people.

I hope you'll consider this change in job requirement.

Thanks,

Joan

P.S. I've cc'd the city clerk because I would like it included as public communication in the city council minutes in case there are other roles that could have an automobile requirement removed.