



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY COUNCIL

JUDY PINEDA NEUFELD  
WARD SEVEN CITY COUNCILOR

To: Honorable Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Members of the City Council  
From: Judy Pineda Neufeld, City Councilor, Ward 7  
RE: Conveying FY 2024 Budget Priorities  
Date: March 20, 2023

**FY 2024 Budget Priorities**

*Equity and Language Justice:*

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for increasing language access resources to meet the increased demand for translation and interpretation services.

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for additional legal services for our immigrant neighbors to meet increased demand.

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for a language justice program coordinator (or a similar position) to ensure training for and implementation of a comprehensive language justice plan.

*Youth and Seniors:*

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for a permanent Senior Center Coordinator and receptionist to handle the increased capacity and operations of the senior center.

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for significantly increased mental and behavioral health and other wraparound services for our city's youth.

That the FY 2024 budget include increased funding for afterschool programming and summer programming for our city's youth.

That the FY 2024 budget include increased funding for the childcare assistance program for low-income residents.

*Economic Justice:*

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for a small business anti-displacement fund or other relevant services and resources to support our local small businesses that are being priced out of our thriving city squares as a result of the recent opening of the GLX.

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for a comprehensive workforce development program for our high school students to connect them to employment opportunities in our city after graduation.

*Housing:*

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for developing an emergency and transitional shelter for Somerville's residents and families experiencing a crisis and in need of immediate housing.

That the FY 2024 budget include increased funding to create more affordable housing and for increased funding for the municipal voucher program.

That the FY 2024 budget include increased investment in the communications and program coordination infrastructure of the Office of Housing Stability so they may continue to meet increased resident's needs across the city.

*Public Health:*

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for any Covid19 mitigation resources needed when the public health emergency on the state and federal level ends, including access to vaccines, testing, and other resources.

*Transportation and Environmental Justice:*

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for a comprehensive communications campaign when the new MBTA bus network plan is rolled out citywide to ensure residents understand the changing bus routes.

That the FY 2024 budget include increased funding for both the Mobility and Traffic and Parking departments to implement the recommendations from the citywide parking study completed recently.

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for increasing access to electric vehicle chargers across the city.

That the FY 2024 budget include funding for a pilot of fare-free bus routes.