



Somerville Dog Owners Group
Questionnaire for Candidates
2007 Municipal Elections

Name: John Michael Connolly

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Office for which you are seeking election: Alderman-at-Large

1. Tell us about your experiences as a Somerville resident at our municipal parks. What parks do you visit, how often, what do you do there when you visit?

Kenney Park and Seven Hills Park in Davis Square – 2-3 times weekly
Lexington St., Powderhouse, and Trum Field – 1-2 times weekly
Meet constituents, walk and take lunch. I jog and run on the Community Path 4-5 times per week.

2. Somerville has just over two (2) acres of open space for every thousand residents. We are the most densely populated city in the Commonwealth. Compare that to Cambridge, the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts, where there are over eight (8) acres of open space for every thousand residents. What will you do in the upcoming term to increase the area of open space per capita in Somerville.

I will support the city effort for the renovation of all existing parks, and will enthusiastically support the Mayor's effort for new park space. I welcome the three OLRA's on Walnut St., South St., and New Washington Street as currently proposed.

3. Despite recent improvements, nonetheless families with dogs remain underserved by Somerville's open spaces, particularly in East Somerville, in West Somerville and in the Davis Square, Magoun Square and Winter Hill neighborhoods. What opportunities will you create to improve access for families with dogs to open space?

I will work closely with the respective Ward Aldermen and the Mayor to find community-friendly space for both people with and without dogs.

4. The Somerville Dog Owners Group has been delighted to see improvements in recent years in the City's Animal Control Department and in the enforcement of municipal ordinances pertaining to animals, including the leash law and the "pooper-scooper" law. What initiatives would you undertake to further improve Animal Control in Somerville?

More community education to alert both dog and non-dog owners on what community resources are available for dog owners. I would look very seriously at specific funding requests to support additional financial support for Animal Control.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs? No.

6. If you are a dog owner please tell us about your dog(s); if not, please share some of your experiences with dogs in the community.

From my Davis Sq. office, I see many dog owners being responsible, observing "leash" and "pick-up" procedures on a daily basis. My personal observation is that 1 out of ten owners act irresponsibly.

Note: I will work closely with the dog owners group to enhance the "quality of life" for dog owners throughout the Community. Please keep me up-to-date on relevant issues for your organization. Thank you for all your efforts to improve the Community.

Jack Connolly
Alderman-at-Large

Return to:
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