



Somerville Dog Owners Group  
Questionnaire for Candidates  
2007 Municipal Elections

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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?

I visit parks in the entire city. Some for sports related visits, some for leisure and some to check the condition that the parks are in. I often stop at a park to rest while walking my dog Rusty and meet up with other dog owners.

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.

Anytime there is an opportunity to increase open space, we should. As Alderman, I will always look for possibilities to increase, revamp and make our parks better and accessible to all.

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?

As a dog owner, I also feel the need for open space in my area of Winter Hill. The need for and the availability of space area are not in sync at this time. Because of this, we need to share ideas, look for opportunities and work together to develop new ideas for those of us who need open space for our 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?

The one thing that I would like to see implemented in the city would be a way of tracking pets in a more diligent way. When a dog gets lost (or a cat) tracking that pet quickly is something I would like to look into, propose and implement as Alderman.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs? YES

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.

Our dog, Rusty, is a chocolate lab. He is 7 years old. He is part of our family and has become in some cases, the most important member of our family. At one time or another, we all look to Rusty as a way of relaxing, playing and just calming down after a stressful day. He is great!

Return to:  
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