



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 Florence Street playground almost daily as it is right across the street from my house. I walk through to check on trash removal, cleanliness, and who is utilizing the park from a public safety standpoint. I also visit numerous parks, such as Trum Field and Lincoln Park to watch kids from the neighborhood play in Babe Ruth/high school games.

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 work with my colleagues and commuinity groups such as SOMDOG to continue to address this issue.

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 continue to advocate for more dog parks/runs. Ideally, a dog run in each of these areas would be great. I am proud of the 1<sup>st</sup> dog run and hope to work collectively to create more. Available Space needs to be acquired and the residents around those sites need information to feel comfortable with a dog run. Sadly, I believe there is a stereoetype that dog run is bad for a neighborhood and this needs to be smashed through community dialogue. I was proud to speak in favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> dog run and will continue to be a strong advocate.

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

**promoting responsible dog ownership, safe and legal options for off-leash recreation and the equitable distribution of open space in Somerville, MA.**

pertaining to animals, including the leash law and the “pooper-scooper” law. What initiatives would you undertake to further improve Animal Control in Somerville?

Continue to work with SOMDOG in promoting activities to promote responsible dog ownership. Also, hire an additional Animal Control Officer.

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.

I often watch friends' dogs when they are on vacation. As a youth, my family owned a dog (Teddy) for over 14 years and she brought much joy to the entire family. Teddy was a welcomed member of the family and I still have fond memories of her.

Return to:  
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