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**To:** jgriffin@arlingtonhousing.org, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us  
**Date:** 10/15/2020 03:43 PM  
**Subject:** Statement of Interest for AHA Board Vacancy

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October 14, 2020

Dear members of the Arlington Housing Authority and the Select Board,

I recently became aware of the vacancy on the Arlington Housing Authority Board and was encouraged to apply from several Board members. I enthusiastically submit this letter of interest in filling the vacancy, with the express hope of using my education and experiences to help serve this community of residents and Board.

I am a graduate of Tufts University with a BS in Biological Psychology and have earned my MA in Counseling, concentrating in mental health from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. I am currently serving as a Tufts Alumni Network Chair for the class of 2025.

I have lived in Arlington for over 10 years, having served as the chair of the Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group for several years and am a newly elected Town Meeting Member for Precinct 14. My involvement in this community has given me an extensive network in the town and a knowledge among residents enabling me to connect residents with one another and with resources within the community. That said, I learn something new about this community every day.

My professional background can contribute to the work of the board. Professionally, I work as a Counselor at the Disability Policy Consortium, supporting the Ombudsman staff who help members of Mass Health living with disabilities advocate for themselves and access services. In that capacity, my role has enabled me to also work closely with the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) through mutual healthcare work destigmatizing disability, housing, and race. I am part of a committee building organizational accountability structures for deconstructing racism and making sure contributions at every level can influence decisions and strategy at each organization. I believe this work can support the work of the AHA in its work to listen and support tenants living in subsidized units.

I have extensive experience working with low-income tenants of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Previously, in my role as a Pastor at Reservoir Church, I worked as a community partner with the Fresh Pond Apartments (FPA), the 3 large affordable housing buildings on Rindge Ave and Rte 2.

I organized and co/sponsored many programs including: Gun Buy Back, MLK Day of Service, Secret Santa for Seniors (an initiative of the Cambridge Police to collect and distribute presents), Interfaith Ramadan Iftars, vigils, and the legendary Soccer Nights program (a free weekly soccer camp for kids aged 6-11) in these public housing units that serve thousands of low income and immigrant families.

I have worked with numerous boards, executive directors, City councilors, and executive directors who service diverse populations. I served as a liaison between the City of Cambridge Mayor's Office, Police Department, and in public school/church partnerships. I would look forward to serving with the Arlington Housing Authority.

My experience leading the Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group has given me extensive network within town (across neighborhoods, age groups, religious backgrounds, sexual orientation and identity, and socio-economic class), and my professional and life experiences have given me a comfort working cross-culturally. My training as a counselor allows me to listen carefully to others to understand and better serve their needs.

There are great projects the AHA is already in the midst of, that I would be happy to support and to help roll out: the CDBG funded Menotomy Manor and Drake Village Life and Skills Building, assist with updating the tenant handbook, doing rounds and promotions, and be culturally accessible to tenants.

I would be happy to use my managerial experience, networking, knowledge, and professional training as a pastor, mental health counselor, and community organizer to fill this recent vacancy as a commissioned Board member of the Arlington

Housing Authority and would look forward to working with the Board to improve the lives of residents.

Sincerely,

Michaiah Healy

[Diversitytaskgrouparl@gmail.com](mailto:Diversitytaskgrouparl@gmail.com)

Co-Chair of the Diversity Task Group,

Town Meeting Member Elect Precinct 14