

Marian King

10/12/2020

Arlington MA 02474

Arlington Select Board
730 Mass Ave
Arlington MA 02474

Greetings Select Board Members,

Please consider me for a seat on the Arlington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to fill Rich Murray's unexpired term. I have been known to many of you for years, and have previously run for a seat on the board. I am a tenant of Arlington Housing Authority in one of the condo units on DeCatur Street. Previous to my three biracial children leaving home, I lived in Menotomy Manor. While living there I helped re-establish the Tenant Association with the assistance of Arlington League of Woman Voters and the Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants. I was active with tenant leaders of Arlington Tenant Associations, MUPHT and attended "Presidents Meetings" and AHA Board meetings regularly. Myself and key elected tenant leaders at the Manor had adult children leave home within a few months of each other (ending eligibility for living/office in the Manor) in 2009-and the tenant association effectively ended about 9 years ago when tenant elections were not held.

I have remained active in town and a Precinct 1 Town Meeting Member since 1994. My background is in nursing, having worked in hospital, nursing home, and home care (even doing visits in AHA properties). I am currently not licensed nor registered-as while on disability it is too costly to keep up with license and malpractice insurance. Gerontology and race were areas in which I took extra sociology coursework. I have participated in several MUPHT events over the years, and believe more of our AHA tenant leaders should do so to better understand the rights and responsibilities of tenants and their associations. I have also had several weekend VISIONS and other anti-racism trainings via my church as well as lived experience in a multicultural family, neighborhood, work environments and relating to folks in many settings of educational and economic diversity. I have worked on various committees (including vestry, rector search, anti-oppression) within my local church, on diocesan/and Province 1 (New England) and interfaith environmental committees. I am currently serving (along with Michelle Holmes MD; one of Arlington's recent VISIONS consultants) on our parish "regathering" team where we navigate issues related to COVID19. I serve on worship commission and as a Eucharistic Minister/adviser on implementation of safe practice.

I have a hope for higher tenant interest in Board/AHA plans, and increased communication on more than only maintenance issues. Optimally, there should be a plan in place for tenants to have involvement with selection of a tenant to serve on the board, however at this time there are not tenant leaders available to represent all tenants of Arlington Housing Authority. And as more dispersed AHA housing becomes available such as the condo units at DeCatur Street...this is an area that I see needing improvement. Menotomy Manor has had no tenant leadership/representation since I was moved to Senior/Disabled housing in 2009. The Housing Authority Board should actively encourage formation of tenant associations and a tenant guided path to representation on the Housing Authority Board. Enclosure indicates 2014 changes in regulations pertaining to Housing Authority composition in towns.

Sincerely,
Marian King