

July 12

Dear Selectboard,

I am writing to apply for the new position of Tenant Representative on the Board of the Arlington Housing Authority. As a tenant who has grown up and still resides in AHA housing, I have a good understanding of the needs and aspirations of AHA tenants.

This knowledge makes my continuing work on the Board, such as the management and finances of the five public housing sites and the federal Section 8 Program, more responsive to those who seek and reside in AHA housing and require other services offered by AHA.

I have made a positive contribution to the Board in representing the needs and wishes of the tenants since I have been privileged to have served on the AHA Board since last December.

I made small changes such as renaming the Christmas Dinner the Holiday Dinner to respect all cultural and religious traditions of residents to much larger projects such as beginning the Menotomy Manor Garden Project and supporting the Menotomy Manor tenants in re-establishing the Menotomy Manor Tenants Organization.

My work to support the Menotomy Manor Tenant Organization brought me in contact with Jack Cooper, the Director of the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants. I have met with him four times, once at Menotomy Manor where he took a tour of the Menotomy Manor tenant gardens which he later featured in

the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants state-wide newsletter! Jack Cooper and I organized a Zoom session for the Menotomy Manor tenants organization and translated the leaflet into Spanish.

Jack Cooper also furnished me with an online training program for tenant leaders. In addition, I have completed the Massachusetts DHCD training course for new Housing Authority Board members. I followed up my training with online weekend conferences this spring sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

Once COVID-19 restrictions had been lifted, I reached out to senior AHA residents by visiting Drake Village. A resident gave me a tour and two tenants invited me into the community room and we spoke for more than two hours. One of the residents is from Colombia and I was able to communicate with her in Spanish. I was given a clearer understanding of a community I am still learning about.

I know there is more to know about their needs, of those in senior and disabled residences, but I did discover some similar issues about the use of common spaces and needs for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, which they share with Menotomy tenants. I have plans to visit the other residences on the terraces once the weather improves.

I very much would love to continue on the Board as a member who can represent the interests and aspirations of the Arlington Housing Authority residents. I am so inspired by my work with the

Board I am now considering taking college courses in the Fall with perhaps the goal of diplomatic studies.

I appreciate the time you have taken to review my application letter. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact me.

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