

October 19, 2022

Dear Mr. Pooler, Mr. Christiana, the Arlington School Committee, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission,

I'm writing to express my interest in being considered for a Commissioner position on the Arlington Human Rights Commission. I have been an Arlington resident since 2006 and started working in the Arlington Public School system in 2008. The importance of human rights has been part of my core values since my youth, and this value has continued to grow stronger throughout my lifetime.

I grew up in a working class family in Watertown; my mother was a grocery store cashier, and my father was a custodian. My father worked at an elite college-prep school which opened an opportunity for me to attend this school at no cost. Due to my family's socioeconomic status, I would have not been able to attend this kind of school if my father hadn't worked there. Experiencing the stark difference between my family's and neighbors' opportunities and the opportunities of many of my very wealthy, and overwhelmingly white, classmates' families led me to strongly value equity, social justice, and human rights. These principles led me to major in Sociology, become a first-generation college graduate, and to a career in Social Work. While my 20+ year career has been primarily clinical in nature, I have regularly engaged in more macro-level human rights matters focused on people who have been marginalized.

I have participated in many events sponsored by the Arlington Human Rights Commission and the DEI office, as well as events, vigils, protests, and political action beyond Arlington. I have consistently attended AHRC and AHRC Events and Outreach meetings for the past 5 months, getting a feel for how they operate. I would like to now take a more active role as a Commissioner to help make Arlington and the world a more just and equitable place for my multi-racial family and for people of all races, national origins, ages, religious views, citizenship statuses, ability statuses, socioeconomic statuses, and people who identify under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laurie DeFabritiis Key, LICSW