



August 2, 2024

Relocation of Adult Homeless Shelter

Dear Neighbor,

As many of you may know, the Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals met on Wednesday, July 31st, for a public hearing on SHC's Adult Shelter relocation and expansion. As mentioned in our last communication, we wanted to share an update with neighbors and community members following the hearing.

First, we appreciate the input provided by members of the community during the hearing, as it's important that individuals with concerns as well as those who support the project have an opportunity to share their perspectives. We also appreciate the time and consideration that the ZBA gave to this important matter. The Zoning Board decided to continue the case to its next meeting, on August 14, to review and digest what it heard and make a more informed decision, which we respect.

As we move forward, we'll continue to ensure that neighbors and community members can share their input and opinions and shape the community engagement process. We have heard from a few participants of our first neighborhood engagement meeting on July 10th who felt their voices were unheard. We apologize to anyone who came away from the meeting disappointed. We look forward to hosting the second neighborhood engagement meeting next Wednesday, August 7th, at 6:00 pm at Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave. If you have topics or concerns you'd like to address that evening, we welcome you to email them to shelterinfo@shcinc.org by next Tuesday. Alternatively, you can complete the short, anonymous survey which you can access by scanning the QR code below.

We envision a collaborative meeting with an opportunity for questions to be asked and rich discussion about key elements of the shelter operations and facilities management among other topics, in smaller focus groups. For those unable to attend in person, we anticipate the meeting will be available via Zoom; should we encounter IT issues at this offsite location, neighbors can write in questions and we will respond in writing as soon as possible. The Zoom link will be available at www.shcinc.org under the Adult Shelter Relocation page.

Our goal is to keep our approach moving forward focused on communication, transparency, and openness, working together with our neighbors to develop a program that can effectively work in the neighborhood.

We encourage you to continue to reach out. We now have a dedicated email address for shelter news which will be checked regularly by Somerville Homeless Coalition and First Church Somerville. If you are receiving this letter in the mail, and to expedite our communication with you, please provide your email address to



**FIRST CHURCH
SOMERVILLE**
United Church of Christ

shelterinfo@shcinc.org. If you no longer want to receive updates about this relocation and expansion project, please use the same email address to inform us.

With Thanks,

Michael Libby

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Libby".

Executive Director
Somerville Homeless Coalition

Reverend Jenn Macy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Jenn Macy".

Pastor
First Congregational Church



Please scan to complete a short, anonymous survey, thank you.