

City of Somerville



Community Update: Tufts PILOT Agreement Negotiations

OCTOBER 30, 2019

Agenda



1. Introduction and overview

- Mayor Joseph Curtatone

2. Key issue: Student housing

- Council President Katjana Ballantyne

3. Key issue: Education

- School Committee Member Andre Green

4. Timeline and next steps

- Mayor Joseph Curtatone

Tufts' Community Benefits Negotiating Committee



- **Katjana Ballantyne**, President of the Somerville City Council
- **Edward Beuchert**, Representative of the Board of Directors of the West Somerville Neighborhood Association
- **Jeff Curley**, Chief of Staff for the Office of the Superintendent
- **Ben Echevarria**, Executive Director of The Welcome Project
- **Andre Green**, Somerville School Committee (Chair at the time the committee was formed)
- **Joyce Shortt**, Tufts neighbor and community advocate
- **Mary Skipper**, Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools

Background on PILOT Agreement



- Prior agreement began July 1, 2013 and expired June 30, 2018
- Financial Support: \$275,000 per year
- Tufts Admissions: application fee waiver, college prep courses, college preparedness opportunities, admissions data
- Athletic fields access
- For anyone who is new to this process, a copy of prior Partnership Agreements with Tufts and the Resident Feedback report can be found online at www.Somervillema.gov/tufts

What's been the PILOT process to date?



- **January 2018:** Somerville /Medford Our Revolution (OR) PILOT Committee forms. Members of the West Somerville Neighborhood Association (WSNA) also join this PILOT Committee.
- **March 24, 2018:** OR /WSNA organize public meeting at the West Somerville Neighborhood School
- **April 2018:** Mayor Curtatone brings in Consensus Building Institute (CBI) consultant Ona Ferguson to begin gathering public input by conducting interviews with various stakeholders about what is desired in the next agreement
- **April 23, 2018:** OR/WSNA organized "standing room only" meeting with Tufts Directors of Community Relations Barbara Rubel and Rocco DiRico to discuss PILOT
- **May 24, 2018:** Somerville Board of Aldermen hold Tufts PILOT public hearing

What's been the PILOT process to date?



- **May 29, 2018:** Mayor Curtatone meets with neighbors to discuss Tufts PILOT at the West Somerville Neighborhood School
- **Summer 2018:** CBI continues to interview community stakeholders
- **Summer 2018 - present:** Articles on the Tufts PILOT are published in local newspapers plus multiple OR/WSNA members write Op Eds advocating for PILOT Parity
- **September 2018:** CBI Public Input report is released on City website <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/somerville-tufts-partnership-agreement-pilot>
- **September 2018:** Mayor Curtatone forms his PILOT negotiating team
- **November 29, 2018:** Tufts Housing League (THL) Housing March and Day of Action, attended by many OR/WSNA activists in support of a real solution to the housing crisis as a part of the next agreement

Negotiation sessions to date



- Negotiating Committee met with President Monaco and/or senior Tufts officials in a series of negotiating sessions:
 - **February 4, 2019:** Mayor Curtatone, Negotiating Committee, President Monaco, Mary Jeka, Rocco DiRico, Tim Snyder
 - **February 21, 2019:** Mayor Curtatone, Katjana Ballantyne, Rocco DiRico, Mary Jeka, Tim Snyder
 - **February 26, 2019:** Mayor Curtatone, Katjana Ballantyne, Andre Green, Rocco DiRico, Mary Jeka, Tim Snyder
 - **March 19, 2019:** Mayor Curtatone, Katjana Ballantyne, Rocco DiRico, Mary Jeka, Tim Snyder
 - **June 3, 2019:** Mayor Curtatone, Negotiating Committee, Rocco Dirico, Mary Jeka, Tim Snyder
 - **September 20, 2019:** Mayor Curtatone, Negotiating Committee, Rocco DiRico, Mary Jeka, Annie Connor
 - **October 9, 2019:** Mary Skipper, Jeff Curley, Andre Green, Ben Echevarria, Rocco DiRico, Mary Jeka, Annie Connor
- Rocco DiRico, Director, Tufts Community Relations
- Mary Jeka, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, University Relations Division
- Tim Snyder and Annie Connor, Mayor's Office

Key Issue: Student Housing



- One of the key issues raised by the community during the public input phase is student housing
- It is important for Tufts to be an active partner to the community which means helping to address the impacts that students living in the neighborhood have on local residents, especially in the midst of a regional housing affordability crisis

Key Issue: Education



- Tufts can and should be doing more to help local students thrive and set them on a path to succeed after secondary school
- It is important that we strengthen the partnership between Tufts and Somerville High School. Tufts needs to be a key partner in the district's expanding college and career readiness system.

Update on Tufts Payment and Next Steps



- **Payment**

- In June, 2019, Tufts made a \$450,000 PILOT good faith payment for FY19.
- Tufts gave the same amount to both Medford and Boston for FY19.

- **Next steps**

- Waiting for response from Tufts on proposed student housing language
- Sending proposed education language send to Tufts

- **Timeline**

- The goal is to reach an agreement with Tufts by February, 2020

Thank you



- Questions and discussion
- More information is available at:
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/somerville-tufts-partnership-agreement-pilot>