

Somerville Fair Housing Commission Community Engagement Project

Thursday, May 28th, 2026

Today's Discussion

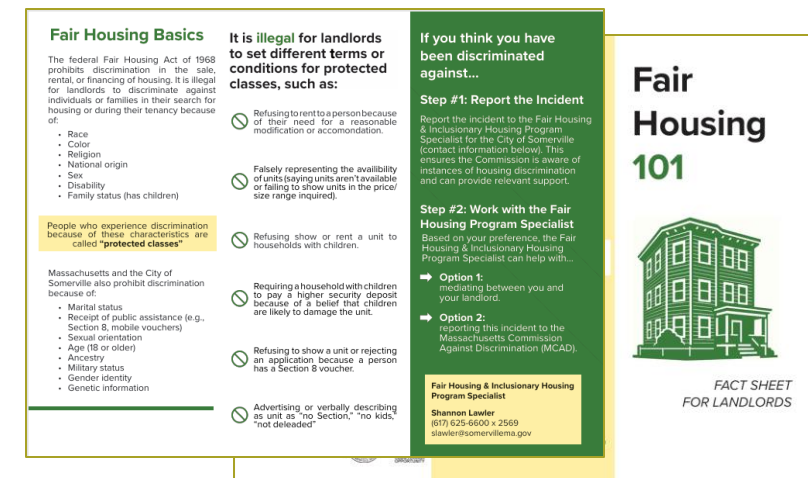
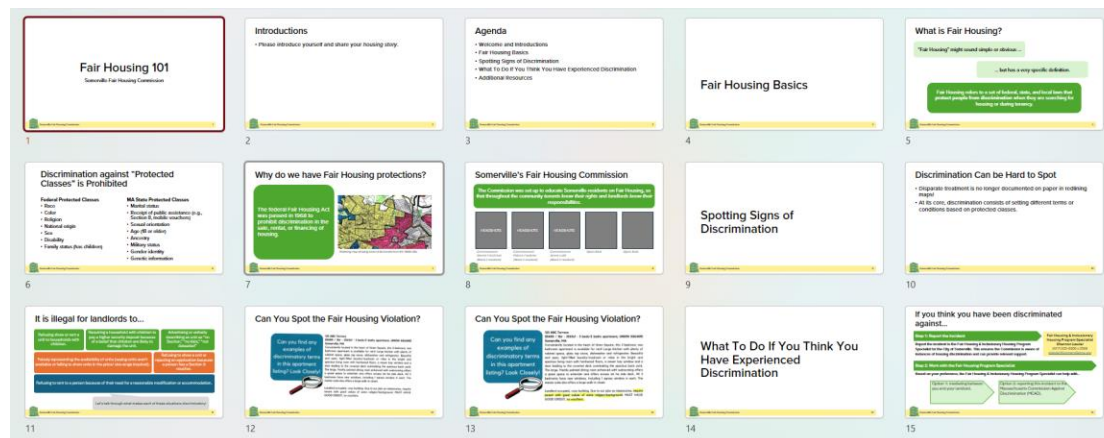
- Review of project progression
- Takeaways from work together
- Recommendations for future community engagement and education
- Overview of deliverables

Project Overview

	Apr-25	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-26	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Project Start up and Commission Meet-and-Greets													
April 2025 Fair Housing Month Events													
Landscape Analysis Conversations													
Draft Community Engagement Plan													
2026 Fair Housing Month Planning													
Selecting event partners and formats													
Create educational materials on fair housing rights													
Event outreach													
Hold events and conduct follow-up													
Summary Report and Tool Creation													

Capacity Building Milestones

- Landscape Analysis resulted in new relationships for the Commission with partners, including:
 - CAAS, Connexion Church, ESMS, Somerville Council on Aging, Somerville YIMBY, etc.
- Process for planning and promoting Fair Housing Month Events
- Newly created Fair Housing materials and activity templates for community engagement



Review of Project Goals

- ✓ Grow awareness of the **Somerville Fair Housing Commission as a resource to residents**
- ✓ **Increase reach** of educational engagement about Fair Housing rights and requirements, focusing on current priority groups
- ✓ **Build Commission capacity** to continue expanding awareness-building and engagement work

Community Engagement Process: Lessons Learned

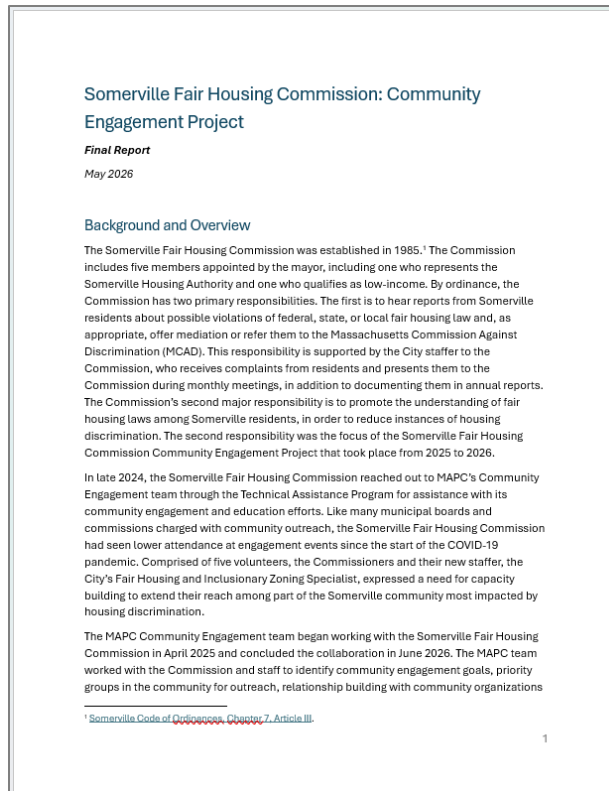
- The 2026 Fair Housing Month events show that **building relationships with organizations associated with priority community groups** is effective at attracting larger and more diverse audiences to Commission events.
- Developing relationships with local groups and organizations also ensures the Commissioners clarify and narrow **the topic of their engagement to be relevant to the intended audience.**
- Since the Commission's primary responsibility is community education, **investing time in planning ahead is key** to ensuring outreach and communications materials are available with enough notice for residents to participate in engagement events.
- An area the Commission can continue to improve on is **creating connectivity between engagement opportunities.**

Recommendations for Continued Engagement

- **Continue and Expand Relationship Building:** Potential organizations to continue reaching out to, as well as maintaining and building on relationships developed in 2025.
- **Replicate and Refine the Engagement Planning Process:** Two new Commissioners will be joining in the new fiscal year. Test the approach taken this past year and see if it continues to work for the group or if there are adjustments and continued improvements.
- **Consider Connecting Engagement with Structural Changes:** Right now, the Commission provides one-way education and communication. In these educational engagements, they also hear from residents about their needs and concerns. The Commission can analyze these comments and make recommendations to the City about planning, policy, or programmatic changes that would further Fair Housing.

Overview of Final Deliverables

Final Report



Community Engagement Tool

F10				
	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Somerville Fair Housing Commission Community Engagement Toolkit		
3		Version 1 Last Updated: May 2026		
4		CONTENTS		
5		Section	How to Use This Section	
6		Overview: Who are the priority communities? What is the change we want to see?	Review this section to gain an overarching understanding about the Somerville Fair Housing Commission's engagement and public education efforts. This is a great resource to review when you are preparing to staff an engagement event.	
7		Landscape Analysis: Map	This visual representation of the Somerville Fair Housing landscape shows relevant organizations, the relationships among them, and other community resources. It should be periodically updated as the FHC's understanding of the landscape and relationships change over time.	
8		Landscape Analysis: Tracker and Contact List	The full list of contacts that the FHC has relationships with or wants to build relationships with is found and should be maintained here.	
9		Engagement and Outreach Opportunities	Commissioners can use this page to track, plan, and document results of engagement activities.	
10		Engagement Materials Library	Materials that the FHC will use for engagement and education, tailored for different audiences.	
11		Evaluation Methods	Metrics and indicators to track changes in the FHC's reach	
12				
+ ≡ Contents Overview Landscape Map LA Tracker and Contact List 1 Engagement and Outreach Opptys				

Next Steps

- Commission to review final report and share any feedback
- Final report and toolkit to be shared by mid-June
- Close out project by June 30

Thank you!

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