

Alison Ellis
27 Belmont Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Application for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Approval
Supplemental Questions for Variances

To whom it may concern:

The following are my statements in response to the three supplemental questions:

- A. Due to the narrowness of the house lot, and especially the side yard to the left of my house, I cannot have a side driveway and am thus unable to park two cars in a tandem arrangement.

I live midway between Summer Street and Somerville Avenue. This long block of Belmont Street is very steep. It is also a very congested street, with limited parking availability. Most owners and renters on the block are working people or students who take public transportation and don't move their cars for days and days, particularly after winter storms. If I am required to park my car on the street, I may have to carry heavy groceries quite a distance up or down the steep street. My life partner is a professional musician. He may need to carry heavy musical equipment up or down the steep street. We are both 62 years old. Being unable to park a second car will **cause a hardship**, especially as we age.

Mr. Richardson of Inspectional Services came to my house on March 3, 2017 to inspect basement work underway. At that time, he advised me that I "couldn't park that way." There have been other occasions when Somerville Inspectional Services personnel have come to my house to inspect work. For example, in 2012 I had my front steps rebuilt. **The cars were parked in the same way and the inspector did not inform me that I was in violation.**

Since settling in Somerville in January 1993 and purchasing 27 Belmont Street in November 1993, I have seen many, many positive changes in the city, some of it fueled by significantly and rapidly increasing property taxes. I am willing to pay my share. However, **not allowing me to park two cars has reduced the value of my home.**

- B. One additional parking spot, to the right of the front stairs, is the minimum variance that could be requested, and would be a reasonable use of the land. **I have been parking two cars, to the right and left of my front stairs, without incident and without complaints from neighbors since 1998.**

- C. As noted above, I have parked two cars in front of my home since summer 1998, with no complaint from or harm to neighbors. **Please see the attached confirmations from neighbors (owners) who can see my front yard.**

One purpose of Somerville zoning (section 1.2) is to lessen street congestion. Allowing me to continue to park two cars off the street allows me, and the City, to do just that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alison" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ellis".

Alison Ellis