

4 Carter Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
October 14, 2010

Steven P. Cole
Chairman
Newburyport Charter Commission
City Hall
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Cole:

I am writing to express my interest in the vacant seat on the Charter Commission. I believe my professional background and interests would enable me to make a significant contribution to the board and its mission.

I have a detailed familiarity with municipal government and Newburyport city government in particular. I was a reporter for *The Daily News* from 1988 to 1996, with City Hall as my primary beat, during three mayoral administrations. This assignment included covering numerous meetings of just about every municipal board, especially the City Council, making me well versed in the workings of the city, including the Code of Ordinances and the charter.

After leaving journalism I worked for more than 11 years for the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance, where I consulted with elected and appointed officials in numerous cities and towns on ballot and campaign issues, including charter modifications. This work also included continuous contact with key groups such as the Massachusetts city and town clerks' associations and the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which are great resources for researching possible charter changes. I became well versed in how city governments are structured and how they work, whether it is a major city like Boston or Worcester or a smaller, newer one like Easthampton or West Springfield. My work for the Commonwealth, coupled with my municipal reporting background, has given me an extensive knowledge of all forms in government in Massachusetts, both on paper and in practical application.

My knowledge of government and policy has also been utilized most recently in my current position at The Dewey Square Group, a Boston-based public affairs firm where I

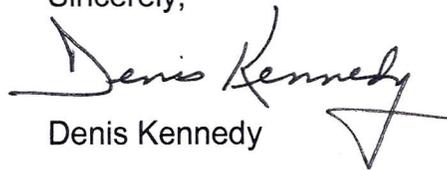
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work with a broad range of clients on public policy issues and communications strategies.

During the 22 years I have lived in Newburyport I have been involved in the community, serving on local boards and coaching three different youth sports. I am now eager to put my relevant background and expertise to work on behalf of the city as it considers the weighty and complicated question of possibly changing our form of government.

My resume is attached. If you or the other members of the commission have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Denis Kennedy

Enclosure

DENIS KENNEDY

EXPERIENCE

2007 – present **THE DEWEY SQUARE GROUP** Boston, MA
Principal

Public affairs professional for national consulting firm, specializing in communications and grassroots strategies for a range of clients, including Fortune 500 companies, non-profit, labor and business organizations, and political campaigns.

1996 - 2007 **OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE**
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Boston, MA
Director of Public Information

Oversaw and coordinated internal and external communications for independent state agency that implements the campaign finance law throughout the state.

- ◆ Acted as agency spokesman to media, government agencies, advocacy groups and other interested parties. Wrote and oversaw production of agency publications, including guides, spending studies and a quarterly newsletter, and office website.
- ◆ Scheduled and presented 80-100 educational seminars per year to groups throughout the state, including candidates, committees, officials and the public.
- ◆ Coordinated and tracked campaign finance-related legislation in the Legislature. Assisted in drafting legislation and supporting material such as testimony before committees.
- ◆ Took part in review of cases and advisory requests as part of management team.

1988 - 1996 **THE DAILY NEWS** Newburyport, MA
Staff Reporter

Beat included local and regional politics and Newburyport city government.

- ◆ Filled in as desk editor, editing stories on deadline.
- ◆ Stories were cited in the New England Newspaper Association's 1992 *Newspaper of the Year Award*.

1982 - 1987 **BOSTON PUBLISHING CO./ TIME-LIFE BOOKS** Boston, MA
Senior Writer and Editor

- ◆ Co-author and Assistant Editor of *Above and Beyond*, a history of the Medal of Honor and its recipients.
- ◆ Co-author and researcher of a multi-volume historical book series, *The Vietnam Experience*.
- ◆ Assistant Editor and contributing writer of *The American Experience in Vietnam*, a one-volume history of the Vietnam War.

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DENIS KENNEDY

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EDUCATION

1977 – 1981 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** Cambridge, MA
Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Studies, awarded June 1981.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ◆ Member, Board of Directors, Greater Newburyport Chapter, American Red Cross, 1997-2003.
- ◆ Chairman and Member, Kelley Elementary School Council, Newburyport, 2005-2007.
- ◆ Former Pioneer League youth baseball, basketball and soccer coach.