

Mike Dash
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To: Valerie Capels and the Bristol Selectboard
Re: Letter of interest for the ARPA funding committee

I write this letter to express my interest in serving on the ARPA funding committee to help review and assess our town's allocation of ARPA funding. These funds present a unique opportunity for Bristol to address town needs which may not be fully met through typical budgetary allocations. As such, I believe that thoughtful and measured deliberations are critical for maximizing their impact and I would be happy to contribute to these conversations as part of the funding committee. Here, I would approach the use of these funds with 1) a preference to support efforts that address enduring challenges (as opposed to serving as a short-term stop gap) and 2) an open mind concerning which needs (e.g. infrastructure, direct pandemic response, and/or economic development) are best suited to be addressed by these ARPA funds.

As for my qualifications for this role, I am currently an Associate Professor at Middlebury College where I teach courses and conduct research that focus on understanding the biological bases of brain function. In this capacity, I have a strong analytical background and experience working with large and diverse data sets. As a member of the ARPA committee, I would be happy to help identify, analyze, and present relevant data and conclusions to help support and inform the committee's deliberations and ultimate recommendations. Beyond this professional role, I have been a member of the Bristol community for the past 8 years and could provide representation on the committee from outside of the police district. I, like many residents of Bristol, have a vested interest in ensuring that these funds are well spent – with two young children at home and no plans whatsoever to leave this wonderful community, I am committed to supporting the best use of these funds for the enduring success of Bristol.

In sum, I think that I can serve as a valuable member of the ARPA funding committee and am committed to working with the committee to ensure these funds are spent in the best manner possible. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mike Dash