



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#196-22

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March 14, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to appoint Laxmi Rao of 124 Walnut Hill Road, Newton as an Alternate member of the Planning and Development Board. Her term of office shall expire on April 19, 2026 and her appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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2022 MAR 14 PM 4:31
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

Application Form

Profile

Laxmi _____ J _____ Rao _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

lraojee@gmail.com _____
Email Address

124 Walnut Hill Road _____
Home Address Suite or Apt

Newton _____ MA _____ 02461 _____
City State Postal Code

What Ward do you live in?

Ward 6

Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Retired _____ Retired _____
Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning and Development Board: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I am interested in being on the City's Planning Commission (alternate seat). I hope to leverage my work experience in a variety of planning related areas and getting things done as well as my passion and interest in urban planning to serve Newton where we have lived since 1985. We sent both our kids to the public schools and have seen the city grow and evolve. I would like to lend a hand in shaping the evolution. I have spoken to Barney Heath and Hattie and hope to attend some meetings virtually.

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Upload a Resume

Laxmi J. Rao

124 Walnut Hill Road, Newton MA 02461

lraojee@gmail.com; 617-272-6879

Laxmi retired as Senior Director from the International District Energy Association in 2021 where she served for sixteen years in a technical role to support District Energy initiatives, projects, education, development of tools and outreach efforts.

She served as a key resource and project lead for several innovative energy and water infrastructure education and outreach efforts to campuses, cities, communities and municipalities. She has presented at New York Energy Week, Tufts Energy Conference and to cities and towns, sustainability focused organizations and supported IEA, UN and World Bank efforts on climate adaptation efforts targeting cities and district energy. She supports the development of IDEA's grant applications and serves as Project Manager for IDEA's grant awards. She has conducted several training Workshops, a Symposium on Geothermal Energy with the Department of Energy and Webinars. She has worked with the International Energy Agency on Energy Master Planning Towards Net Zero Energy Public Communities. She has worked as an advisor to projects in India and Colombia.

Laxmi brings almost 40 years of experience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, serving in Senior Technical and Project Management roles aimed at technology adoption and deployment, and community initiatives focused in the energy sector and spanning the areas of District Energy, utilities distribution controls & metering, energy and water conservation, renewable energy applications and sustainability projects including water conservation and Green IT projects. Laxmi conducted Earth Day workshops and initiated a Green Ambassador Program. She was appointed the first IT Energy Coordinator to work across the campus departments to reduce the energy footprint and also served as a member of MIT Energy Initiative's Campus Energy Task Force. She led the MIT-wide Printing and Digital Archiving Team and other Green IT projects including the concept design for the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center in Holyoke MA.

She has served on the Boards of the Boston University Program in City Planning and Urban Affairs and District Energy Magazine. She has worked with staff from MAPC, MASSCEC and Cambridge Somerville Newton and Pittsburg to support their energy objectives.

Prior to joining MIT Laxmi worked at the Harvard Business School, the National Bureau of Economic Research, the World Bank and the Tata Economic Consultancy Services as a Research Analyst.

Laxmi has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an M.B.A.

Select List of Publications

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP): District energy in cities: unlocking the potential of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/sites/default/files/downloads/resource/District_Energy_in_Cities_UNEP.pdf

International Energy Agency (IEA): Energy Master Planning toward Net Zero Energy Resilient Public Communities Guide.

https://annex73.iea-ebc.org/Data/publications/EMP_GUIDE_20211026.pdf

https://annex73.iea-ebc.org/Data/publications/EBC_Annex_73_Factsheet.pdf

Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN): Microgrids & District Energy: Pathways to Sustainable Urban Development <https://peccpubs.pace.edu/topic/Microgrids>

Other Highlights

2002: Launched MIT Community Solar Power Initiative with Grant From Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust (now MASSCEC) grant. <https://news.mit.edu/2002/solar>

2007: Collaborated with students on innovative way to charge laptops, to enhance student energy education and learning by using MIT campus operations as a living laboratory for discovery and innovation. <https://energy.mit.edu/news/pedal-powered-laptop/>

2009: Reviewed applications for DOE Office of Electricity Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program in support of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided DOE with \$3.4 billion to invest in 99 SGIG projects to modernize the electric grid, strengthen cybersecurity, improve interoperability, and collect smart grid impact data