

Suvarna Besanko

Fri 1/27/2023 4:09 PM

Greetings!

My name is Suvarna Maya and I am writing in support of the Southern Tier 45 year-round homes for families living on the island of Martha's Vineyard.

I am currently living on the island as a single mother and waitress. My two year old son Noah and I have shuffled the island four times in the past year.

Currently we are living in a winter rental with no assurance of where we will be in the next few months. This is a predicament I've never quite been in.

In my early 20s I lived and worked in the city of Chicago, my hometown. I worked as a courier for a passport agency waking up around 5am daily in order to deliver my morning route in the heart of the city. Each morning I walked past homeless men and women. Little did I know I would soon be in a similar boat, although surrounded by a median wealth of millions.

I must say the island is a home to all being new as a Washashore I have quickly adopted to the customs. It has come to my understanding many islanders born and raised face the exact same challenges, which was somewhat shocking. Even the teller at my local bank implied the entire staff was to soon 'shuffle' for the upcoming summer season.

So here I am, writing to use my voice not just for myself and my son but for the many families, individuals who work hard, lean into the community and are the heart of which this island beats.

I support this Southern Tier of year round homes as a symbol of hope to keep this community a safe haven for the very people the island requires to function. A simple step in the right direction could change the trajectory of not only the economy but the very spirit in which this microcosm lives and breathes.

I hope you have faith in this too.

Thank you kindly



Suvarna Maya