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**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

October 6, 2020

The Honorable Malden City Council  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I write seeking your support of the Paper authorizing the Malden Licensing Board to consider a reduction for restaurants in Section 12 license renewal fees for calendar year 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19.

As you know, our local restaurants have suffered tremendously during this pandemic. The impact has resulted in having to close to the public for months at a time, patrons reluctant to return when they finally could open and decimating earnings and savings. And at the time that I write this, our restaurants are still not allowed to be at full occupancy, and many have spent thousands of dollars on expanded outdoor seating, installation of plexiglass barriers, and implementing new safety protocols.

However, the positives are that our restaurants have shown an amazing resilience. I believe that as we start to build optimism that there may be light at the end of the tunnel, there is some assistance that we as a City can give such as reducing some of their costs of doing business. To that end, I will be proposing to the Licensing Board for their consideration a waiver of liquor licensing fees for calendar year 2021. Eliminating these fees comes at a time when every dollar is critical and would truly make a difference.

Again, I respectfully request that the City Council look favorably on the paper authorizing the Licensing Board to reduce Section 12 renewal fees for restaurants. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**GARY CHRISTENSON**  
Mayor, City of Malden

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