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**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

April 7, 2022

The Malden City Council  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

Malden's community development programs have been an essential part of our pandemic response and are now a key part of our recovery. With programs that keep people in their homes, reengage our young people, invest in our public spaces, and so much more, our City continues to make a strong comeback. It is in this spirit that I submit for your review and consideration our proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget.

As you know, our CDBG budget is dependent on federal funding from Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). When Congress adopted its budget in March, later than usual, it reduced CDBG spending nationally. While the City has not yet received its CDBG award amount for the coming year, HUD still requires that we finalize our budget prior to May 15, 2022. The attached budget, therefore, is built on a conservative estimate for what we may receive in CDBG funds. We will provide an updated budget as more information becomes available.

This year, we propose funding three physical improvement projects: building of a new, accessible playground at the Early Learning Center to encourage developmentally appropriate play for our youngest students; reconstructing the Mazonson Basketball Court at Green Street Park; and, continuing our ongoing commitment to installing ADA-accessible pedestrian crosswalks and signals throughout the City. Collectively, these projects bring us closer together by improving community gathering spaces and infrastructure.

Our public services budget sustains many of the programs that have served us through the pandemic, and that will support low- and moderate-income residents as we recover. Although our public services budget is reduced due to anticipated Congressional funding decisions, our cuts have been targeted to maintain level service. This is achieved due to some prior year applicants not reapplying, and to targeted cuts that will not result in reduced capacity.

215 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148 | Phone: 781-397-7000 Ext. 2001 | [info@cityofmalden.org](mailto:info@cityofmalden.org)

*Strong Past... Proud Future*

Malden's housing rehabilitation program continues to make homes safer and more livable for low- and moderate-income residents. Though not shown here, this program has also received additional federal funding from the Lead, Healthy Homes, and Healthy Homes Productions grants, all of which will help finance necessary improvements to Malden homes.

Finally, this budget funds the continued administration of the CDBG program by the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), formerly the Malden Redevelopment Authority. OSPCD continues to lead this program effectively through the transition. The budget also allocates funding for principal and interest payments on previously approved Section 108 projects.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the proposal. We will provide more information from HUD as we receive it. In the meantime, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**GARY CHRISTENSON**  
Mayor, City of Malden