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Gary Christenson, Mayor

February 23, 2022

Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

RE: Police/Community Advisory Council Ordinance

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing in support of proposed City Ordinance 2.16.150 establishing a Police/Community Advisory Council. This proposal comes out of the work accomplished by the Advisory Group on Obama's Pledge which worked to review Malden's Use of Force Policy.

As you may recall, in June of 2020, as part of UniteMalden 2020, we answered the Obama Foundation's call to action and signed a pledge to work with the Malden Police Department and the community to review Malden's use of force policy. An Advisory Group for Obama's Pledge (or AGOP) was formed made up of community members who leveraged their experiences and backgrounds to provide input on the current policy. They have worked tirelessly over the last few years to review, research, provide insight, and identify areas of improvement specifically through the lens of a community member. Their recommendations include the formation of a Police/Community Advisory Council (or PCAC).

The proposed ordinance establishes the PCAC and sets forth its mission and responsibilities. The aim is to promote public awareness and community engagement on the city's police services, programs, and general public safety issues. The PCAC will also help to facilitate open dialogue and assist the Malden Police Department in their public safety mission.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the AGOP which included Jay Bhimani, Kelli Collomb, Isadel Eddy, Ben Hartzell, Karen Colón Hayes (now City Councillor-at-Large), Darren Josey, Tihun Lawrence, Carey McDonald (now City Councillor-at-Large), Yu Sin Mok, Erga Pierrette, Tamerlie Roc, and Birukti Tsige. Also working with the group were City Councillors Amanda Linehan and Stephen Winslow, former City Councillor Neal

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Anderson and Maria Luise from my office. Community input was critical to this process and their time and commitment to this work is sincerely appreciated.

Again, I support this proposal and look forward to working with you, the proposed PCAC and Police Chief Glenn Cronin to ensure more transparent and equitable public safety policies in Malden.

Sincerely,



GARY CHRISTENSON

Mayor, City of Malden