



**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

May 4, 2023

Malden City Council  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I write to ask for your support in a new program I would like to initiate that establishes Malden's first ever Poet Laureate.

As with most if not all good ideas when it comes to the arts in our community, this initiative came to me through Malden Arts. A Poet Laureate would promote literacy and literature among city residents of all ages. This person would also complement all the good work being done by Malden Reads as well.

Like cities and towns around us such as Medford and Arlington, we envision this role to read poems at ceremonial events, promote the art of poetry, attend literary and cultural events, and provide public readings and workshops throughout the community.

My plan in moving this initiative forward is to work with Malden Arts to review applications and select a finalist to take on the role. The plan is to include a representative of the City Council to participate in this process. The hope is that the person will serve a two-year term with an annual stipend of \$2,500 of which we will fund out of the Mayor's Office Professional Services account.

I have seen firsthand the positive impact Medford's first Poet Laureate Terry Carter had on the community and I believe the same will happen here. Terry recently made an appearance at The Gallery@57 and it was standing room only.

City Councillors Barbara Murphy and Amanda Linehan are sponsoring a resolution that is on the Docket and we would ask for your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**GARY CHRISTENSON**  
Mayor, City of Malden