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Gary Christenson, Mayor

April 9, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Council:

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever that we support our most vulnerable residents. With that in mind, I submit for your review and consideration our proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget. The proposal addresses the most pressing challenges facing our low-and-moderate income population, including responding to the immediate consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and investing meaningfully in the long-term needs of our community.

This year, our public services budget doubles down on our commitment to housing security, with a new homebuyer program run by the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) and increased investments in existing housing stabilization, homelessness prevention, and rental assistance programs. These programs are especially important during the COVID-19 crisis and will help keep struggling Malden families in their homes. In addition, a new civil legal aid program for the elderly run by Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) will help low-income Malden seniors with legal issues involving housing, health care, elder abuse, and other concerns.

Physical improvements in this budget include a continuation of our successful ADA sidewalk improvements programs, upgrades to the Salemwood School Tot Lot, and a \$400,000 grant to Bread of Life to build a new food pantry in Malden. Each of these improvements demonstrate that, even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, our community will still come together to support the long-term needs of low-income residents.

The deadline for submitting the approved annual Fiscal Year 2021 CDBG budget to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is May 15th. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the proposal. In the meantime, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

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