

March 25, 2025

Malden City Council  
City of Malden, Massachusetts  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

To: Malden City Council

Re: Paper 443-24 and Related Papers

Friends of Fellsmere Heights urge the City Council to return these documents to the Joint Committee for additional work and initiation of a public review process to:

- Address inadvertent omissions.
- Ensure that the public has participated in the process, as described in the proposed Home Rule petition.

Certain capabilities of City departments found in the Charter, some of which are required by state law, should not be subject to dissolution or abridgement by ordinance. For example:

- Sections 20 and 21 of the Charter permits the Public Works Commission to exercise the City Council's powers of eminent domain under section 14 of chapter 40 and chapter 79 of the General Laws. This authority is not included in the proposed Ordinances.
- There is no reference in those proposed Ordinances that create Commissions regarding the rotation of Commission members or their replacement if a Commissioner does not fulfill their term.
- The proposed new Ordinances do not reference several important activities:
  - Planning and implementing new parks.
  - Coordination between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Public Works Commission.
  - Placing a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Community Preservation Committee, as required.
  - Making management plans or usage regulations for parks and other public land available to the public.

This superficial review of the Ordinances causes us to believe that a more detailed review is warranted.

We also believe that Malden will be stronger if its citizens are well aware of the proposed changes to these critical, City-defining documents, and have an adequate opportunity to participate in their review as described in the Home Rule Petition.

With respect,

Friends of Fellsmere Heights Board