



www.cityofmalden.org

Gary Christenson, Mayor

January 29, 2024

The Honorable City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

In working with Councillor Spadafora, I write to ask for your consideration in amending Title 3, Chapter 08, Section 050 of the City of Malden Municipal Code which focuses on claims against the city for damages which are heard by the City Solicitor. The amendment proposed serves to facilitate the administration of the ordinance and make the process more efficient for the public.

Presently, the City Solicitor is authorized to take steps to resolve claims for damages against the City in an amount not to exceed \$500. The ordinance was designed to bring speedy resolution for claims that are determined to be the City's responsibility without the need for a protracted process and/or court intervention. However, the \$500 limit is no longer realistic given the current cost of services and materials. This threshold has been particularly challenging in cases where there have been sewer backups causing extensive damage to residents' homes. The proposal is to increase the maximum financial value of claims which the City Solicitor can hear to \$25,000. This will allow for a more efficient, inexpensive, and less time-consuming mechanism for both the public and the Legal Department so that claims can be resolved outside of a court process.

Again, I would ask that you consider the proposed amendment and, in the meantime, please let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

cc: Attorney Alicia McNeil, City Solicitor