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Gary Christenson, Mayor

May 9, 2023

Malden City Council
ATTN: Barbara Murphy, President
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear City Council President Murphy and Members of the Council:

I write this letter to follow up on the recent Finance Committee meeting regarding Roosevelt Park. As we all know, this project has been one with more than its share of challenges as we try to build consensus on a solution while balancing conflicting priorities. However, our city employees, and those we engage to help us address these challenges and conflicting priorities deserve to be treated with more respect than what they experienced at the last meeting by City Councilor Ryan O'Malley.

I met last week with the owner of Hayner/Swanson to discuss the meeting and I agreed that as a city, we can and should do better. Steve O'Neill, who was raised in Malden and graduated from Malden Catholic High School, has worked with the city for decades and I can't remember a time that his character was ever questioned. What I can tell you is that I'm not sure I've ever met an individual with more class and integrity than Steve. I've assured them that my administration continues to have the utmost confidence in their integrity and have directed them to continue to represent us at meetings to be available to answer well intentioned questions from those looking for valuable information as the conversation and dialogue progresses.

Lastly, I would encourage the City Council to sponsor and pass a resolution that all employees and professionals retained by the city be treated with respect by all members of the City Council. Anyone believing this type of behavior is necessary to get the job done is badly mistaken. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden