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Gary Christenson, Mayor

April 6, 2023

The Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I submit for your review and consideration our proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget. This year's budget addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing our low-and-moderate-income population and ensures that Malden remains an inclusive and accessible community for all residents.

As you know, CDBG, a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides funding for communities to meet the needs of their low-and-moderate-income residents and address the causes and consequences of poverty. This budget, which is estimated to be \$1.9M makes targeted investments in programs that will directly help Malden's most vulnerable.

This year, our public services proposal includes homelessness prevention programs, food assistance and programs that help our youth, our elderly, and our immigrant neighbors. This proposed budget also includes \$652,126 for physical improvement projects at Kierstead Park and FitzGerald Park as well as funding to continue our ongoing commitment to installing ADA-accessible pedestrian crosswalks and signals throughout the City.

In addition, Malden's housing rehabilitation program is back in high gear and continues to make homes safer and more livable for low- and moderate-income residents. After we made changes to our program rules in late 2021, we have seen more interest in the program for low-income residents. In the current year, we are close to spending more than \$330,000, using CDBG and one-time CDBG-CV funds. This budget proposes spending \$350,000 on rehab for next year.

Finally, this budget funds the continued administration of the CDBG program by the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), who continues to effectively lead this program for the City. The budget also allocates funding for principal and interest payments on previously approved Section 108 projects.

The deadline for submitting an approved CDBG budget to 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