From: <u>Victoria Kazachenko</u>
To: <u>Carol Ann Desiderio</u>

Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Items #309-25, #313-25, #315-25 for 6/17/25 council meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 1:33:25 PM

Dear Members of the City Council,

I learned that a City Council meeting is taking place today, and as a longtime Maldonian and resident of over 20 years, I would like to submit my comments for inclusion in the public record.

#309-25

I believe the financial transparency issue regarding the Malden Public Library Board of Trustees deserves greater attention. Councilor O'Malley's request for financial records is not only reasonable and legal, it aligns with the principles of government accountability. As a Malden resident, I appreciate and support his efforts to ensure financial oversight of public institutions.

The refusal by the Board to provide these documents raises serious concerns. Even if the Board is not legally obligated to release them, the City Council should publicly encourage full transparency and cooperation. Making financial records available to the public is essential to restoring public confidence and addressing widespread concerns about library's artwork sales among residents.

#313-25

I strongly oppose the proposed measure to remove Councilor O'Malley from his position as City Council President. Councilor O'Malley has demonstrated strong leadership, transparency, and dedication to public service. Removing him from this role would not only be a disservice to the council but also to the residents of Malden. It appears to many, including myself and several fellow residents I've spoken with, that this action is a retaliatory response to his legitimate request for financial disclosures from the Malden Public Library Board of Trustees.

This move risks undermining public trust and gives the appearance that the Council is prioritizing personal grievances over the public interest. The City Council must not be used as a vehicle for political retribution.

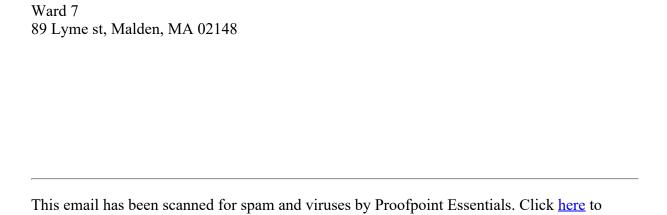
#315-25

If Councilor O'Malley is removed from the presidency, I urge the Council to nominate and reelect him to the position. His leadership has earned the confidence of many constituents, and his continued service in that role would reinforce stability and integrity within the Council.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I respectfully ask that my comments be shared at tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,

Malden Resident of 20+ years Victoria Kazachenko



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