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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

The Honorable Malden City Council
110 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Council:

Attached for your consideration and review is the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation in the amount of \$1.3M. This represents an increase of roughly \$125,000 over the previous fiscal year and I would like to thank our federal partners, Congresswoman Katherine Clark and Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren for advocating for this increase.

As you know, CDBG is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It provides funding to support local community development activities that directly impact the lives of our low-to-moderate income residents. As required by HUD, the City complies with 24 CFR 91.105, Citizen Participation Plan for local governments, and as a result many of the suggestions from the community are incorporated in this proposal.

We propose funding as many public service programs as possible especially those that pertain to our seniors, youth, and housing needs. The maximum that we can designate from the budget for these programs is \$199,000 and we suggest appropriating right to our ceiling. The proposal is specifically focused on funding programs that address homelessness prevention and housing stabilization as well as the health and well-being of our most vulnerable population. We have also added a new initiative for crime prevention to be administered by our Police Department.

In addition, we propose spending nearly \$600,000 on parks and public facilities. Roughly two-thirds of the budget would be geared toward park projects, including improvements at Coytemore Lea Park, the Forestdale School Tot Lot, Maplewood Park, FitzGerald Park and MacArthur Park otherwise known as Green Street Park. We also suggest approximately \$200,000 be utilized on sidewalk and pedestrian improvements. The balance of this line item we propose be spent on building out a school based health center at Malden High School.

The deadline for submitting an approved 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 consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Christenson".

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

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