

From: [Jeff Donahue](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: letter of support
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:46:35 PM

I write to express my strong support for Barbara Murphy as the next Police Commissioner of Malden.

As someone who served as a City Councillor for eight years, the role of Police Commissioner is one I know well. It's understandable that the public may be a bit confused by the title. However, you know and I know the Police Chief and his command staff are responsible for the day to day policy setting, policing strategy and execution of the same. The Commissioner has always been someone who brought a different element to the leadership structure dependent on the needs at the time. In that regard, the experience Barbara has in working with this community in her prior role as an elected official couldn't be a better fit for the current focus and needs of the department. She knows how the city runs and understands the fabric of this community.

I have read online the politically motivated attacks by one City Councillor who is arguing that this role should be treated like a 'job', posted publicly and interviewed for as you would fill a clerks job in the Treasurer's office. That's nonsense. I followed when Councillor Spadafora sponsored the ordinance to require all jobs to be posted. We all know what that was in response to. It simply put in ordinance what was always expected to happen for actual jobs, but wasn't in one noteworthy case. The notion that the Council can dictate how the Mayor fills appointments such as this is directly at odds with the balance of power that exists in our structure. The role of Commissioner is unique to Malden, and it's common sense that a Mayor would appoint someone they know and feel comfortable working with. It's worth noting that this issue was not brought up when the Fire Chief or Police Chief were hired without a posting, but only once a name was brought forward that represented a divergence in political views for one Councillor.

Barbara is well respected in the community and will bring private sector management experience, public sector leadership experience, and the compassion and caring that can only come from being a mother and grandmother. You talk about thinking outside of the box and diverging from norms. The Mayor, who I don't always agree with, has done just that in appointing someone who he has not always agreed with, and who doesn't fit the stereotype. It's my understanding that this appointment has the unanimous support of the leadership and rank and file of the Malden Police Department, who of course know the actual role. What else is there to know?

Put people before politics and confirm this appointment unanimously and show that you as a body will always put Malden first.

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