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**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

March 14, 2023

Malden City Council  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

**RE: Kierstead Park Improvement Project**

Dear Members of the City Council:

I write to ask for the City Council's support to fund the attached project to construct improvements at Kierstead Park which has been submitted to me by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). In reaching their recommendation, the CPC found that the project meets eligibility requirements and aligns with the priorities stated in Malden's Community Preservation Plan. This project was also the subject of a Public Hearing of the CPC held on January 18, 2023.

Kierstead Park is located at 635 Eastern Avenue, and we have heard from the community that this park needs significant improvements. The project seeks to create a neighborhood playground for children of all ages and to upgrade the existing ballfield. The plan is to transform the space into a welcoming, inclusive and accessible destination park that will create new opportunities of play for children of all abilities.

This request comports with the community vision identified in our Open Space and Recreation Plan which calls for a "network of well-maintained open spaces that are available and accessible to all ages and interests." This proposal is in line with that goal while also providing all the benefits that come from a neighborhood park, such as encouraging physical health, improving psychological well-being, and fostering a sense of community.

Again, I fully support this request and believe that this project will result in a recreational asset that we can all be proud of. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**GARY CHRISTENSON**  
Mayor, City of Malden