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**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

April 4, 2024

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 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget. As the City prepares for looming financial pressures, this budget continues to make prudent investments in projects, programs, and services that will support our low-and-moderate-income population through the next fiscal year.

This budget illustrates the impact of CDBG on our community. The housing rehabilitation program makes homes and apartments safer and more livable for lower-income residents, and leverages funds from other federal grant programs to expand the impact of every dollar. The public services program expands the impact of our nonprofit organizations working on housing, youth services, elder services, and English language learning. CDBG-supported physical improvements include upgrades to the tot lot at MacArthur Park, additional funds to complete the FitzGerald Park expansion, and our long-term commitment to ADA-accessible pedestrian infrastructure, which, for the first time, will now include upgrades to key bus stops throughout the City. The budget also covers our repayment obligations under previous Section 108 loans, which have allowed us to expand the impact of our program. Finally, this budget funds the continued administration of the CDBG program by the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), who continues to effectively lead this program for the City.

As in previous years, Congressional deliberations on the CDBG budget extended beyond a typical calendar. Therefore, this budget assumes a 4.4% decrease in CDBG entitlement funding and includes our contingency plan on how funds will be spent if funds come in higher or lower than that figure. If we receive updated figures from HUD prior to the Council's final action, we may submit an updated budget responding to the latest available information.

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*Strong Past... Proud Future*

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