

## Carol Ann Desiderio

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**From:** Brian DeLacey <bdelacey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Paul Condon; Karen Colón Hayes; Amanda Linehan; Carey McDonald; Ryan O'Malley; Chris Simonelli  
**Cc:** Carol Ann Desiderio; Lisa M. Cagno  
**Subject:** Please vote NO at your April 25 Finance Committee Meeting

April 24, 2023

Dear Finance Committee Member,

Please vote NO on cost overrun and change of scope requests on April 25th.  
Please vote NO on the request for \$1.3M by paper #139-23.  
Please vote NO on the request for \$1.2M by paper #140-23.

There is evidence that the current expenditure of funds on the underlying project (Roosevelt Park Improvement Project) amounts to more than \$653K. Yet no real groundwork has been initiated. It appears costs are inadequately managed and reported. Additionally, it appears these new requests lack sufficient justification and prudent plans for your responsible approval.

As you know, on 9/29/2020, the Finance Committee previously voted favorably (but not unanimously) for a \$1.2M budget increase in this budget under #281-20. That additional \$1.2M was in response to earlier cost overruns related to the Roosevelt Park Improvement Project. Did you have enough justification to warrant prior approval of that \$1.2M in funds?

From what the public knows this time around, you once again lack sufficient credible publicly available detail and justification to warrant an additional \$2.5M in public funds for yet more underestimates, cost overruns, and scope changes. This raises significant questions of both public policy and financial policy for your April 25th docket.

On the matter of public policy, It has been well documented that since 2019 portions of Roosevelt Park have been declared an "imminent hazard". Since that time, there has been ample funding to remedy the situation. Indeed, the Community Preservation Committee weighed in with recommendations on how best to remedy this - advice which the City failed to accept. A Roosevelt Park resolution is long overdue.

On financial policy, hundreds of thousands of dollars in the Roosevelt Park Improvement Plan budget have apparently too little detail and questionable oversight. It appears the Mayor's team, or other city representatives, have starved Roosevelt of essential funding support at critical junctures by directing available ARPA funds (\$2.5M), PARC grants (\$400K or more), and state pandemic open space funding (\$250K) away from Roosevelt to "Outdoor Recreation & Programming" serving smaller populations with less urgent needs. Moreover, the City has failed to identify Brownfield remediation and other potential granting programs to help Roosevelt Park.

Residents rely on the Finance Committee to prevent financial waste, make full use of Malden's public property in the best interest of residents, and promote transparency and efficiency in the expenditure of public funds.

After the City's Earth Day celebrations this past weekend, it is my hope your committee will continue in this spirit and take significant action on April 25th to make sure safe open space is equitably available to all neighborhoods of the City, and particularly Roosevelt Park.

The proposed use of \$2.5M by #139-23 and #140-23 isn't the best way forward.

Sincerely,

Brian DeLacey, 1 Earl Street, Malden, MA

cc:

Councillor-at-Large McDonald, Chair; Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair; Councillor O'Malley; Councillor-at-Large Colón-Hayes; Councillor Simonelli; Councillor Linehan; Councillor Paul Condon  
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