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Gary Christenson, Mayor

April 9, 2025

The Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

To the Honorable City Council:

I submit for your review and consideration our proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget. In light of changes at the federal level, my office and the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) have been in regular communication with HUD officials, Congressional staff, and the National Community Development Association to stay abreast of any changes to the CDBG program. As in recent years, we have not received our CDBG funding allocation from HUD yet. The attached budget is based on a level funding amount and includes contingency language which explains how the budget will change depending on the actual allocation information. Despite the uncertainty, our team expects Malden's CDBG funding to be largely consistent with last year's funding allocation based on a budget adopted by Congress and signed by the President last month.

This year's CDBG budget demonstrates the importance that CDBG funding has on our community. The housing rehabilitation program makes homes and apartments safer and more livable for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. The public services program empowers our nonprofit partners and service providers to continue supporting Malden families. CDBG-supported physical improvements include the final phase of improvements at Devir Park, improvements to the new Salvatore "Butch" Gennetti Park (formerly Pearl Street Playground), and the installation of ADA pedestrian improvements across the City. The budget also covers our repayment obligations under previously approved 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.

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