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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I submit for your consideration an amendment to ordinance *Section 2.08.040 Enumeration of Boards and Commission Appointed Officers; Terms and Duties* that expands the number of members on the Disability Commission.

As you know, Malden is fortunate to have an active Disability Commission that is committed to making sure that persons of all abilities have equal access to city facilities, services and programs. Most recently, their advocacy has led to a \$40,000 grant that has allowed us to move forward with updating the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. A copy of their Annual Report is attached that further details some of the other important work and initiatives they have accomplished in such a short time.

The Commission currently consists of five (5) members and the group has asked that we expand the membership to nine (9) members. I am attaching the correspondence I received from Nichole Mossalam, Chair of the Commission, making this request. I believe this will help increase their capacity to carry out their mission while offering other interested residents the chance to serve. Massachusetts General Law, c. 40, §8J, which the City Council adopted in 2018 to form the Commission, allows for "not less than 5 and not more than 13" members. However, to accommodate the request we need to amend the number that is established in our ordinance.

Please let me know if you need any additional information and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden



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**2020 ANNUAL BOARD/COMMISSION REPORT TO THE CITY CLERK
PURSUANT TO CITY OF MALDEN ORDINANCE 1.7**

I. Preliminary Information

Name of Board or Commission:	Disability Commission
Name of Chair:	Nichole Mossalam
Name of Clerk:	Marilyn Andrews
Number of Members:	5
No. of meetings held per year:	At least 10 meetings per year
Explain how Board/Commission has fulfilled functions in the past year:	During 2019 the Commission met monthly, formulated its mission and completed their by-laws. The main focus of the group is to make sure that persons of all abilities have equal access to City facilities, services and programs. This past year, the Commission met with National Grid to discuss accessibility on work sites, collaborated with the Police Department to bring Visor cards for the hearing impaired, reviewed MBTA bus stop upgrades for accessibility, hosted an educational forum on identity fraud, developed a relationship with the Malden-based Disability Policy Consortium, had representation at the Mass Office of Disability's Annual Summit, applied for grants to complete an ADA Self-Evaluation, worked on a resource page for the website and addressed various resident concerns.

Please list Members' names, addresses, date of appointment and when term expires: (attach additional sheets if necessary)

NAME & ADDRESS	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM EXPIRES
Marilyn Andrews, 83 Cleveland Street, Malden	September 20, 2018	September 20, 2021
Kerlyne Pacombe, 157 Pleasant Street, #404, Malden	September 20, 2018	September 23, 2022
Nichole Mossalam, 64 Essex Street, Malden	September 20, 2018	September 20, 2020
Frank Cina, 120 Mountain Avenue, #A-2, Malden	September 20, 2018	September 20, 2022
Maria Luise, 1410 Eastern Avenue, Malden ADA Compliance Officer	September 20, 2018	September 20, 2021

Overview of Board/Commission

Please issue a **brief** statement about the general purpose and mission of this Board/ Commission:

The Malden Disability Commission (“Commission”) was established in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L.c. 40, §8J. Its core mission is to eliminate discrimination against persons of differing abilities. The Commission provides information, education, referral, guidance, and technical assistance to public and private agencies, individuals, organizations and institutions to ensure that all persons have equal access to facilities, services and programs in the City of Malden.

2. **REVENUE:** Please list the revenue(s) coming into this Board/ Commission. **NOT APPLICABLE**

From City Budget	
From State Budget	
From Federal Budget	
Grant Monies (anticipated in 2020 from Governor’s community Compact program)	\$40,000 (for purposes of completing and ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan).
Licenses/Fees	
Other	

3. **EXPENDITURES:** Please list the expenditures of this Board/Commission. **NOT APPLICABLE**

Expenditures of Board/Commission	Explanation
Personnel Costs	
Equipment Costs	
Postal Costs	
Leasing Costs	
Other	

4. **ASSETS:** Please list all major assets under the control of this Board/Commission. *(Please include materials, tools, vehicles, equipment and property on hand as of 12/31/19.* **NOT APPLICABLE**

Asset	Value

5. **PROGRAMS:** Please list all programs under the direction of this Board/Commission. (Please detail where and how these programs originate, i.e. statutory, internal, etc.)

NOT APPLICABLE X

Program	Description

6. **CHALLENGES:** Provide a brief description of three challenges this Board/Commission faces.

1.	How to achieve full integration and participation of people of all abilities.
2.	Making the City more walkable and accessible for people of all abilities.
3.	How to best assist residents in need of information and connecting with resources.

7. **GOALS:** Describe three goals this Board/Commission has for the year ahead.

1.	To work with the community in the completion of an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.
2.	Completion of a website that offers a variety of resources for and individuals of differing abilities.
3.	Work with the schools to look at accessibility in the physical facilities as well as playgrounds.



 Signature of Chair

Date: 9/2/2020



September 8th, 2020

Dear Mayor Gary Christenson,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Malden's Disability Commission to request an increase in our membership. At our last Commission meeting on August 13th, 2020, we voted unanimously to request three additional commissioners be added to our membership in order to help us increase our capacity. We thank you for your support and efforts on our behalf. Please let us know if there is anything further you may need from us.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nichole Mossalam".

NICHOLE MOSSALAM
Chair, City of Malden Disability Commission