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Gary Christenson, Mayor

April 15, 2026

The Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express my strong support for the FY26 funding recommendations submitted to me for consideration by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Following public hearings and review, the CPC determined that each of these projects meets eligibility requirements and aligns with the priorities outlined in Malden's Community Preservation Plan. Collectively, these recommendations represent strategic investments in Malden's historic resources, housing stability, recreational amenities, and municipal operations.

The recommended historic preservation awards support critical restoration work at three significant properties in the City. The *139 Oliver Street Restoration Project* will fund needed improvements to a city-owned building, preserving its condition and ensuring its continued municipal use. The *First Parish Church Restoration Project* will address urgent exterior masonry repairs to a landmark structure listed on the Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory of Historic Assets, while the *Saint Paul's Parish Church Buttress Restoration Project* will support essential structural repairs necessary to protect public safety and preserve the long-term integrity of another historically and architecturally significant building.

The recommended housing investments address both immediate housing needs and long-term affordability. The *Malden Rental Assistance Project* will provide short-term financial assistance through Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) to help Malden residents experiencing housing instability avoid displacement. Complementing this effort, the *Malden Affordable Housing Trust Fund* award will support the creation, preservation, and expansion of affordable housing citywide, leveraging Community Preservation funding with state, federal, and local resources while prioritizing access for current Malden residents.

In the areas of recreation, open space and municipal preservation, the *Linden Park Restoration and Improvement Project* will fund the design and construction of new playground facilities, replacing outdated equipment, improving accessibility and safety, and incorporating climate-resilient features. Additionally, the *Digitization of City Records*

Project will preserve and digitize historic records housed in the City Clerk's Office that are frequently accessed by the public and at risk of deterioration. The project will safeguard historically significant documents while improving public access, efficiency and long-term records management.

Again, I strongly support the CPC's recommendations and respectfully urge the City Council to approve these FY26 funding awards. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden