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**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

May 28, 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 for my consideration by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Following public hearings and review, the CPC determined that each of these projects meets statutory eligibility requirements and aligns with the priorities outlined in Malden's Community Preservation Plan.

First, the CPC has recommended \$100,000 in funding for the Emmanuel Baptist Church Restoration Project, which aims to replace the failing roof of this historical structure. As detailed in the CPC's attached recommendation letter, the Church, an anchor of Malden's African American heritage for more than 125 years, requires urgent exterior repairs to stabilize the building and preserve its cultural and historic value. The CPC found that this project meets the criteria for historic preservation funding, will not conflict with the Massachusetts Anti Aid Amendment, and provides important public benefits, including continued community space, childcare, and food pantry services.

Additionally, the CPC has recommended an additional \$50,000 in supplemental funding for the Trafton Park project. This investment will enable the City to complete the installation of solar lighting throughout the park, ensuring the project is finished to its intended standard and continues to enhance public safety, accessibility, and recreational use. The completion of solar lighting represents a meaningful investment in sustainable, energy efficient infrastructure that benefits residents, supports ongoing park improvements, and advances the City's climate resiliency goals.

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