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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I write to ask for your support on a home rule petition allowing for the transliteration of the names of candidates in the upcoming municipal election.

In collaboration with our office, Greater Boston Legal Services, the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition and other advocacy groups, City Clerk Greg Lucey and his team worked hard to increase language access during the 2020 election season. We made great strides thanks to their commitment and we want to continue this good work by offering the transliteration of a candidate's name.

To achieve this goal, we need to file state legislation since how a candidate's name appears on a ballot is codified in state law. Boston is already offering transliteration services and we believe it makes sense for Malden based on our demographics and on the difference that increasing language access had on our community in the most recent election.

Again, I hope you will support this legislation and in the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden