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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our world and propelled us to act to protect our community. This spring, with your support, the City and the Malden Redevelopment Authority (MRA) launched two programs to stabilize our residents and businesses in the wake of this public health crisis. Today I am pleased to share with you our *COVID-19 Small Business and Rental Assistance Program Report* which details each program and discusses considerations for future rounds of assistance.

As indicated in the Report, these programs helped hundreds of households stay in their homes and protected small businesses across the City from closure. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and thank you for your continued partnership and support of these programs.

I also want to recognize the MRA for their dedication, creative initiative, and determination in administering these programs. Never in recent history have we established such sizable and impactful programs so expediently and despite such unprecedented challenges. The MRA's hard work and commitment to meeting the needs of residents and businesses has been an indispensable service to the City.

As we move forward, my office and the MRA will continue to meet weekly to discuss the growing and changing needs of our community during this pandemic. Both renters and small businesses will continue to need our assistance, and we anticipate sharing our new proposals very soon. In the meantime, the MRA is available to discuss the report with you and to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

Attachments:

COVID-19 Small Business and Rental Assistance Program Report, *September 17, 2020*