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Gary Christenson, Mayor

January 28, 2021

The Honorable Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street, Fourth Floor
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

The City and the Malden Redevelopment Authority (MRA) have been working tirelessly to stabilize Malden residents and businesses affected by the coronavirus and the resulting economic downturn. In September, you received our *COVID-19 Small Business and Rental Assistance Program Report*, which detailed two programs we launched shortly after the pandemic began. Since then, our team has continued to respond to changing circumstances and increased need within our community. These efforts include:

- A \$500,000 eviction prevention program to provide every Malden resident facing eviction with court-based mediation, legal aid, and rental assistance in both District Court and Housing Court in partnership with Housing Families, Inc. and Just-A-Start Corporation. This program was funded with special Community Development Block Grant Cares Act funds (CDBG-CV).
- A \$500,000 rental assistance program in December 2020 that served more than 100 families with the goal of eliminating 2020 rent debt for participating tenants. Using Coronavirus Relief Fund – Municipal Program (CvRF-MP) dollars, the City, MRA, and Housing Families, Inc., secured tenant protections from participating landlords, with greater concessions from larger landlords.
- An executive order placing a moratorium on eviction execution in the City of Malden for most evictions, with exceptions for public health and safety reasons.
- An eviction prevention information hub, www.cityofmalden.org/eviction.
- An upcoming \$200,000 microenterprise program that uses CDBG-CV to provide grants to eligible businesses owned by low- or moderate-income people and with five or fewer employees.

At the next Council meeting, the MRA will present on these programs and forthcoming efforts to stabilize our residents and businesses. These efforts would not have been possible without the continued collaboration and support of the City Council, and I am grateful for our continuing partnership.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

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