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Gary Christenson, Mayor

June 21, 2022

Malden City Council
ATTN: Craig Spadafora, President
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear City Council President Spadafora:

I write to you to address the resolution on today's docket sponsored by Ward 4 Councillor Ryan O'Malley. The paper requests that the Mayor be required to provide weekly updates to the City Council on matters that impact the city's reputation, impact the city legally or financially.

It is of course undeniable that every item the City Council works on is of interest to my office, and that's why I have a member of my staff, typically my Chief of Staff, at virtually every City Council meeting. This practice also provides an opportunity for the City Council to inquire on matters where it is looking for information from my administration.

Since taking office, I've taken pride in making the extra effort to communicate with our residents, with our department heads, with our employees, and with the City Council. When a matter strikes me as one of such importance that it bears calling out to the City Council, my administration does that. We have regularly proactively provided updates on important legal matters, often in executive session. Any financial paper is explained with the appropriate city staff attending Finance Committee meetings to answer questions and address concerns.

Almost every item we deal with has a legal component, a financial component, or impacts the city's reputation. Not to mention that most, if not all, personnel matters are confidential and even if brought to executive session would have to be done so with notice to the affected employee and the opportunity to have legal counsel present. So, setting up once a week updates from the Mayor to the City Council, and presumably, having the City Council

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do the same and address my administration would not accomplish the goal of the sponsor's paper. Rather, what will work is good old-fashioned communication which takes work, commitment, and requires mutual respect for each other's role. I remain committed and I know you do as well.

Sincerely,



GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden