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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Jadeane Sica, President
Malden City Council
110 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear President Sica and Members of the City Council:

I hereby submit the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget in the amount of \$179,528,533 which represents a one (1) percent increase in spending from Fiscal Year 2019.

Once again, this plan keeps us moving closer toward achieving a balanced budget that doesn't rely upon the use of reserves while at the same time keeping services intact particularly when factoring in the impending Encore Boston Harbor mitigation payment. This payment is not included in this budget as it first needs to be certified by the state's Department of Revenue after receipt and at the close of the fiscal year. Once certified, it is expected that due to strong revenue collections and unexpended funds from the current fiscal year we will net out below the amount of reserves needed to balance our budget for the second straight year.

This proposed budget includes important targeted investments. Most notable is in the school department where I am pleased to announce that our proposal will allow for the hiring of 10 additional teachers to help drive down class sizes across the district. This is made possible thanks to our State Delegation's ongoing effort to modernize the foundation budget formula. The Senate, led by Senator Jason Lewis, has proposed what they have termed the "Promise Act," which represents an aggressive approach to addressing the inequities and ever widening gap in our educational system. This initiative should result in additional Chapter 70 aid for our schools in the years ahead.

The proposed budget also includes targeted investments in both the police and fire departments with the purchase of new vehicles and apparatus. In addition, it reflects our goal and determination to be in compliance with the state's recent enactment of the Pay Equity Act which prohibits discrimination in the payment of 'wages' based on gender for comparable work.

Finally, two changes made in the current fiscal year are helping our overall ability to move forward in a positive direction and are worth repeating. First, changes to our health

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insurance plans are keeping this volatile cost in check and two, our assessment as it pertains to charter schools has stabilized which was an unknown from year to year. These changes are the result of the continued hard work and dedication of Ron Hogan, Chuck Ranaghan, Anthony Chiccuarelli, and Maria Luise.

Please let me know if you have any questions as you review the proposal. In the meantime, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden