



PAUL BRODEUR  
Mayor

# CITY OF MELROSE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### MEMORANDUM

To: Melrose City Council  
From: Margot Fleischman, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Communication  
Re: Update on use of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds  
Date: May 16, 2022

On behalf of Mayor Brodeur, I am pleased to present the Honorable City Council with a further update on the use of Melrose's ARPA funds, including funds that have been spent or committed to-date for specific projects, as well an overview on anticipated uses for ARPA funds during upcoming fiscal years.

#### Approved ARPA funds expenditures

As you are aware, the City of Melrose is slated to receive a total of \$8,374,174 in federal ARPA grant dollars. All ARPA grant funds must be spent or encumbered by December 31, 2024. Since our last update in February, the following ARPA projects have been approved by the Mayor, representing just over \$4.6 in investments in COVID-19 response, critical infrastructure, and organizational capacity.

• Milano Center Health, Wellness, Accessibility	\$25,000
• Milano Center HVAC*	\$218,729
• City Sidewalk Improvements	\$750,000
• COVID Sanitization-Custodial	\$65,000
• Labor Costs/Additional Cleaning/Sanitizing of Public Buildings	\$40,000
• Lead Water Service Inventory and Replacement Design	\$150,000
• Traffic Calming Toolkit	\$28,300
• Facilities Asset Management Software	\$106,000
• Public Safety Training Equipment*	\$105,308
• Fire Headquarters HVAC*	\$35,000
• At-Home COVID tests*	\$30,000
• FT Social Service Coordinator	\$213,847 <sup>‡</sup>
• Melrose Public Library HVAC Upgrades	\$500,000
• ARPA Accounting Consultant Services *	\$10,000
• Economic Recovery Director*	\$417,000 <sup>‡</sup>
• Foss Park Basketball and Playground Upgrade	\$150,000
• Amazing Grace Basketball Court	\$41,106
• Community Mental Health Initiative	\$200,000
• Schools Revenue Loss Replacement*	\$802,000
• COVID-19 Disinfection for Schools	\$128,000
• High School and Middle School Complex Elevators	\$594,000

\* Projects that were included in the February 2022 update memo

‡ Personnel costs are inclusive of health insurance and benefits

To-date \$1,130,460 has been expended for the following projects or initiatives:

• ARPA Accounting Consultant Services	\$8,857.80
• Economic Recovery Director	\$18,797.18
• Fire Headquarters HVAC	\$30,815.00
• Public Safety Training Equipment	\$77,885.59
• Milano Center HVAC	\$191,669.17
• Schools Revenue Loss Replacement	\$802,435.11

A further \$224,427 of ARPA funds has been encumbered, as follows:

• At-Home COVID tests	\$1,824.00
• Fire Headquarters HVAC	\$4,185.00
• Milano Center Health, Wellness, Accessibility	\$6,456.25
• Milano Center HVAC	\$27,456.62
• High School and Middle School Complex Elevators	\$44,905.00
• Lead Water Service Inventory and Replacement Design	\$139,600.00

#### **Future Use of ARPA and Community Needs Survey Update**

As previously noted, we do not expect that all projects that have been identified will be funded at this time. As a best practice, ARPA funds will not be fully allocated in the first Fiscal Year, both to allow the City to respond to ongoing and changing public health needs from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to provide for the opportunity for input and feedback on community priorities.

Since launching our Community Needs Survey on February 25, 2022 we have received over 570 responses. When asked to rank community needs, the most frequent top choice was infrastructure, followed by access to healthcare (including mental health, physical health and wellness programs), and affordable housing. Youth mental health and new sidewalks topped the list of desired projects, followed by traffic calming measures and small business assistance. There was alignment between the survey questions and open responses, with infrastructure, mental health, and affordable housing being commonly cited as community priorities by those who left written feedback.

The Mayor continues to review and approve project submissions and ideas received from City Departments, appointed boards/commissions, and community groups. Projects under consideration include but are not limited to:

- Small business/non-profit recovery
- Youth substance use prevention programming
- DEI initiatives
- Cybersecurity
- Public safety vehicles and equipment
- Addressing food insecurity
- Utility arrearages assistance for low-income residents