APPEALS COURT
Full Court Panel Case
Case Docket

CITY OF MALDEN vs. BRUCE FRIEDMAN D/B/A OPENCOMMONWEALTH.ORG & another

THIS CASE CONTAINS IMPOUNDED MATERIAL OR PID

2025-P-0235

CASE HEADER

Case Status	Decided: Full Opinion
Status Date	11/03/2026
Nature	Administrative law
Entry Date	02/27/2025
Appellant	Defendant
Case Type	Civil
Brief Status	
Brief Due	
Arg/Submitted	02/12/2026
Decision Date	11/03/2026
Panel	Rubin, Henry, Wood, JJ.
Citation	
Lower Court	Middlesex Superior Court
TC Number	2481CV02456; 2481CV03069; 2481CV03277
Lower Ct Judge	William F. Bloomer, J.
TC Entry Date	09/13/2024
SJ Number	
FAR Number	
SJC Number	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Paired with 2025-P-0807 & 2025-P-0796 for consideration by the same panel of judges for determination.
Consolidated with: Consolidated with: 2025-P-0796 and 2025-P-0807.

INVOLVED PARTY

City of Malden
Plaintiff/Appellee
Red brief filed

Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org
Pro Se Defendant/Appellant
Blue brief & appendix filed

Manza Arthur
Defendant

ATTORNEY APPEARANCE

Alicia A. McNeil, Esquire
Felicia Simone Vasudevan, Esquire
James Donnelly, Esquire

DOCKET ENTRIES

Entry Date	Paper	Entry Text
02/27/2025	#1	Lower Court Assembly of the Record Package
02/27/2025		Notice of entry sent.
02/27/2025	#2	Civil Appeal Entry Form filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
02/28/2025	#3	Docketing Statement filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
03/19/2025		Notice of rejection of brief/appendix of Bruce R. Friedman as noncompliant for the reasons indicated on the checklist: 18 (Table of Authorities missing page references), 25 (Addendum section containing copies of authorities referenced missing). Accordingly, on or before 04/08/2025, you must correct the above-listed nonconformities and submit a conforming brief and appendix. *Notice sent.
03/19/2025	#4	(Replaced by Paper #25) Appellant brief filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
03/19/2025	#5	(Replaced by Paper #26) Appendix (Appellant's Record Index) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
04/18/2025	#6	MOTION of Appellee to extend brief due date filed for City of Malden by Attorney Alicia McNeil.
04/22/2025		RE#6: Allowed to 05/02/2025. *Notice sent.
05/02/2025	#7	(Replaced by P#31) Appellee brief filed for City of Malden by Attorney Alicia McNeil.

05/05/2025	#8	Reply brief filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
05/06/2025	#9	MOTION to file supplemental appendix filed for City of Malden by Attorney Alicia McNeil.
05/06/2025		RE#9: It is noted that the appellee, City of Malden, already included a copy of Superior Court Rule 9A in the addendum to its appellee brief. Because the appellee already provided a copy of Superior Court Rule 9A in the appropriate place, the motion for leave to file a supplemental appendix containing a copy of the same rule is denied as unnecessary. Compare Mass. R. A. P. 16(a)(13)(C) & 16(B) (addendum to brief is to include copies of relevant court rules consideration of which is required for determination of the issues presented) with Mass. R. A. P. 18(b)(5)(B) (supplemental appendix is to include only materials that are part of the record). *Notice.
07/02/2025	#10	MOTION to consolidate filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
07/02/2025		DAR-30439 opened on DAR APPLICATION filed by Bruce R Friedman.
07/03/2025		RE#10: A response from Appellee City of Malden is requested and due, on or before 7/14/25. Appellee is granted leave to file a single motion, with all 3 case numbers identified, addressing appellant's motion to consolidate. *Notice.
07/09/2025	#11	MOTION to Stay All Lower Court Proceedings, filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
07/10/2025		RE#11: It is requested that appellee's response to paper #7 include a response to paper #11. The response is now due on or before 7/23/25. *Notice.
07/14/2025	#12	RESPONSE to Paper #10, filed for City of Malden by Attorney Felicia Simone Vasudevan.
07/16/2025		ORDER (RE#10&12): The appeals in 2025-P-0807, 2025-P-0796 and 2025-P-0235 will not be consolidated; however, the appeals will be paired for consideration by the same panel of judges for determination. Further, to the extent that the City of Malden believes that filing a single brief addressing all three appeals would be expedient, the City of Malden may electronically file an identical brief in all three cases with the three case captions on the cover. The City's brief shall be e-filed separately in each case. *Notice.
07/16/2025		RE#11: The plaintiff City of Malden is requested to file a response to Paper #11 due on or before 07/23/2025. *Notice.
07/23/2025	#13	RESPONSE filed for City of Malden by Attorney Alicia McNeil.
07/24/2025		RE#11 (REVISED) & 13: After review of the motion and the response, no further action is necessary where the scheduling order regarding further proceedings in the trial court provides that the timeline for filing motions and the administrative record does not commence until a decision on the appeal from the denial of appellant's motion pursuant to G.L. c. 231, s. 59H. *Notice/attest
07/24/2025	#14	ORDER (RE #10 & 12 [REVISED]): The appeals in 25-P-235, 25-P-796, and 25-P-807 are consolidated for briefing and decision. 25-P-796 and 25-P-807 are closed. The assembly of the record package (paper #1), docketing statement(s), briefs, appendices, and transcripts, if any, shall be transferred to 25-P-235. All future filings shall refer only to 25-P-235. To the extent appellant may seek to file a revised brief and appendix in 25-P-235 to address issues raised in the consolidated matter, a request for leave to file a revised brief and appendix, accompanied by the revised brief and appendix, is due on or before 8/11/25. Any proposed revised documents are to comply with the briefing rules in the Massachusetts Rules of Appellate Procedure. Notice/attest.
07/24/2025	#15	Copy of Assembly of the Record received from 2025-P-0796.
07/24/2025	#16	Copy of Docketing Statement received from 2025-P-0796.
07/24/2025	#17	Copy of Assembly of the Record received from 2025-P-0807.
07/24/2025	#18	Copy of Docketing Statement received from 2025-P-0807.
07/24/2025	#19	Request for leave to file revised brief and appendix (IMPOUNDED) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
07/28/2025		RE#19: Treating the within as a motion to extend time to file a request for leave to file a revised brief and appendix which must be accompanied by the revised brief and appendix, allowed to 9/19/25. No further enlargements should be anticipated. *Notice.
07/30/2025	#20	Motion for leave to amend opposition filed for City of Malden by Attorney Alicia Ann McNeil.
07/30/2025		RE#20 Allowed. Appellee City of Malden shall refile an amended opposition to the defendant-appellant's motion to stay with the attached Exhibit 1. The action on the appellant's motion to stay (RE#11) entered on 7/24/25 stands. *Notice
07/31/2025	#21	Motion to stay lower court proceedings filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
08/04/2025	#22	Motion for Leave to Amend Opposition to Defendant-Appellant's Motion for Stay to Include Exhibit 1 filed for City of Malden by Attorney Alicia Ann McNeil.
08/05/2025	#23	RESPONSE to Paper #21 filed for City of Malden by Attorney Felicia Simone Vasudevan.
08/11/2025		RE#22: Paper #23 is accepted for filing. *Notice.
08/11/2025		RE##21 & 23: Appellant's motion is treated as a motion for reconsideration of the court's action on papers #11 & 13. After review, and for the reasons stated in the City's response, the motion is denied. (Brennan, J.) *Notice/attest
08/18/2025		Notice sent seeking information on unavailability for oral argument in October 2025
08/22/2025	#24	Motion for leave to file revised appellee brief filed for City of Malden by Attorney Felicia Simone Vasudevan.
08/22/2025		RE#24: Appellee's revised brief will be due 30 days after the filing of appellant's revised brief, now due per the order of 7/28/25 on or before 9/19/25. Accordingly, oral argument will not be scheduled in October. *Notice.
09/16/2025	#25	Revised Appellant brief filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
09/16/2025	#26	Revised Appendix (Volume I of V) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
09/16/2025	#27	Revised Appendix (Volume II of V) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.

09/16/2025	#28	Revised Transcript (Volume III of III) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
09/16/2025	#29	Revised Appendix (Volume IV of IV) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
09/16/2025	#30	Revised Transcript (Volume V of V) filed by Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org.
09/19/2025		DAR DENIED (on 09/19/2025).
10/16/2025	#31	Appellee brief filed for City of Malden by Attorney James Donnelly.
12/16/2025		Notice sent seeking information on unavailability for oral argument in February 2026
12/18/2025	#32	Response from James Donnelly, Esquire re: unavailable for oral argument February 11.
01/02/2026	#33	Notice of 02/12/2026, 9:30 AM argument at Christopher J. Armstrong (Rm Three) sent.
01/05/2026		Response from Bruce Friedman d/b/a OpenCommonwealth.org, Pro Se Defendant/Appellant, Pro Se re: will appear and argue on 02/12/2026.
02/11/2026		Response from James Donnelly, Esquire re: will appear and argue on 02/12/2026. (Telephone confirmation).
02/12/2026		Oral argument held. (Rubin, J., Henry, J., Wood, J.).
11/03/2026	#34	Decision: Full Opinion (Tan, J.). Judgment affirmed. *Notice.

As of 11/03/2026 10:15am