



Clifton Town Meeting

P.O. Box 20042
Cincinnati, OH 45220

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May 31, 2023

Sent Electronically: Paula.Brehm-Heeger@chpl.org

Re: Clifton Welcome & Connect

Dear Director Brehm-Heeger:

In the Summer of 2022, the Clifton Branch of the Library approached the Community Council of Clifton, CTM, asking how the Branch could help the community. Clifton Welcome & Connect (CWC,) a program aimed at welcoming and orienting new immigrants to our neighborhood was the response to this invitation.

Clifton has 15% of its residents that are not citizens and an additional 5% who have recently become citizens. Our community is the International Village of our region. The program created by the Clifton Branch, Clifton Community Council and Cincinnati Compass reached out to ten different nationalities through a series of seven programs, culminating with an "all American" Memorial Day Parade and Picnic. What a way to say "Welcome"!

It is undeniable that the success of this program was primarily due to the enthusiasm, knowledge, creativity, flexibility, and dedication of the entire Branch under the leadership of Jeanne Strauss DeGroot and Liz Weigand. The Clifton Branch already had meaningful programs and CWC added to the relevancy of its work in our neighborhood.

On behalf of the Community, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the exceptional staff of the Clifton Branch of the Library. Clifton is indeed lucky to have a Branch that contributes so much to the quality of life of our residents.

Sincerely,

Gérald Checco, *President*