

March 29, 2021

Mr. Felton Thomas, Jr.
Cleveland Public Library
Chief Executive Officer
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Dear CEO Thomas,

We thank you and want you to know how much we value the Cleveland Public Library's contribution to OhioMeansJobs|Cleveland-Cuyahoga and your commitment to the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Board (CCWDB.) In addition to your leadership, we want to express our appreciation for the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Service Delivery Resource Mapping work conducted by Dr. Sadie Winlock. In the few years that we have known Dr. Winlock, she has been a visionary and strong supporter of community collaboration, building trust and connecting the dots within the workforce ecosystem. You rarely come across someone with big-picture ideas and who can articulate words from pen to paper into action.

Dr. Winlock joined an 11 member DEI Committee the summer of 2020, and with her influence working and developing others, we are now at 23 fully functioning and thriving members! Dr. Winlock also contributed to defining the DEI Charter, establishing clear goals and created content for a powerful thought-provoking DEI survey for (Employers, Contracted Providers/Partners & OMJ|CC Staff.)

Because of Dr. Winlock's efforts, our DEI work has expanded its reach to Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS), a collaboration of the Department of Labor, urban workforce development board leaders in (IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, OH, PA & WI) who meet to discuss regional social/cultural challenges and economic development opportunities for the diverse population of people we serve. On March 25, 2021, MUS held a Regional Retreat where a Cuyahoga County DEI Committee member participated. The board member shared our DEI commitment by articulating our survey's purpose and action plan to address diversity and race equity. MUS's leadership was impressed by our work and upon request, asked to review the content of the Cuyahoga County survey in hopes of assisting and strengthening their DEI strategies. As a regional partner, it was our pleasure to share the Cuyahoga County DEI survey as a measure of collaboration and a best practice!

Also noted is Winlock's specialty in designing a solid DEI curriculum that she facilitated on two separate occasions (1.) the City of Cleveland Public Affairs division, including Workforce Development, and (2.) our very own CCWDB. We plan to continue this curriculum design as a tool for onboarding new OMJ|CC staff.

Felton, we are forever grateful for your leadership and the DEI work accomplished by Dr. Sadie Winlock.

Together we look forward to a robust and prosperous future for both organizations and the people we serve.

Sincerely,


Frank Brickner, Chief Executive Officer/CFO


Ida Ford, Workforce Development Administrator