



Liberia Economic Development Initiative (LEDI)

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Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. Felton Thomas
Director
Cleveland Public Library (CPL)
325 Superior Ave
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Felton,

We would like to thank you for meeting with us on Thursday, July 11, 2013 to discuss the Cleveland Public Library and our library projects for Liberia.

The meeting was highly rewarding. The insights you provided helped us to understand the important role that the CPL continues to play within the local Cleveland economy, its educational system, as well as the community-based services being rendered. This information is invaluable as we continue to hone our approach to building modern libraries in Liberia.

We also want to thank you for welcoming the possibility of establishing a sister library relationship between the CPL and our pending library in Liberia. We are confident that a mutually beneficial partnership between the CPL and our library will benefit humanity, especially the impoverished people of Liberia.

As we continue to identify the scope of a potential sisterly library partnership, we are pleased to introduce Joan Curran-Darkortey to you to work with your designated staff to work towards establishing such partnership.

Thank you once again and we look forward to future meetings.

Yours,

Rufus Darkortey

President | Co-Founder

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August 6, 2013

The Honorable Frank G. Jackson
Mayor
City of Cleveland
City Hall
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Mayor Jackson:

Annually, the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) recognizes a small number of public libraries that have done outstanding work that greatly benefits their community and citizens. I am delighted to share that Cleveland Public Library is selected as a 2013 Top Innovator for its outstanding program, *MyCloud*.

In addition to presenting an award to Director Felton Thomas, Jr. and his staff, ULC has recognized CPL's initiative in the enclosed *2013 Top Innovators* report which is disseminated nationally to library and local government leaders. We also look forward to showcasing the program on ULC's website and in an upcoming webinar with participants from the United States and Canada.

ULC is a membership association of North America's leading libraries. Much of our work relates to recognizing and showcasing leading practices that are developed at the local level.

I am so very pleased that public libraries in the United States and beyond will learn from the excellent work done by Director Thomas and the CPL staff.

Congratulations!

With best regards,

Susan Benton
President and CEO

cc: Felton Thomas, Jr.

August 13, 2013


Carlos Latimer
Asst Director of Public Service
Cleveland Public Library

Dear Mr. Latimer:

I have been visiting my elderly mother for the past month and have used the library branch at Harvard-Lee on more than ten occasions. Each time I have used the services of this branch I have been greeted with the most courteous service. The entire staff has been friendly and eager to assist when questions were asked. One member of the staff even made it a point to ask me how my mother was doing after I had visited the library a few times. The Harvard-Lee branch has been exemplary in the way they interact with the public and is a shining example as to how public relations should be handled.

This exemplary behavior was not only demonstrated towards me. I noticed how the staff handled other patrons in the library and the same courteous, friendly and eager to assist behavior was demonstrated with each patron. I am a professional who travels extensively throughout the country. The behavior demonstrated by the staff at the Harvard-Lee branch is rare and I found myself compelled to let you know how much I have appreciated the experience of interacting with such a wonderful group of people. I extend my highest compliments to the Harvard-Lee Branch and to the Cleveland Public Library in general.

Sincerely,


Dr. Silas E. Ashley
Miami, Florida



Senator
Eric H. Kearney
Senate Minority Leader
9th District

August 16, 2013

Mr. Felton Thomas, Jr.
Cleveland Public Library Director
325 Superior Ave. N.E.
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I write to request for your support of Senate Bill 84, which will create an Ohio Poet Laureate. You can support this legislation by writing a letter of support, volunteering for proponent testimony, or spreading the word about the bill.

Senate Bill 84 will require the Ohio Arts Council to establish guidelines for the position of the Ohio Poet Laureate. Under the bill, the governor will select the Ohio Poet Laureate from a list of nominees prepared by the Ohio Arts Council. The Ohio Poet Laureate duties will consist of conducting a minimum of four annual public readings while providing public access to at least one reading during each term of office and to work with the Ohio Arts Council to establish programs to promote awareness of the literary arts and encourage citizens to develop their own creative interests.

Currently, there are six states that have State Poet Laureates. They are California, Minnesota, Utah, Virginia, Maryland, and Colorado. The city of Los Angeles is the only city with its own Poet Laureate. The United States Library of Congress appointed a Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 1937 to 1984. An Act of Congress changed the name in 1985 to Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. Natasha Trethewey is the current United States Poet Laureate.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact my office at (614) 466-5980 or e-mail at sd09@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Kearney".

Eric H. Kearney
Senate Minority Leader
9th District

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