

Greene, Larry (City Council)

From: Degraffenreidt, Aaron (City Council)
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Greene, Larry (City Council)
Subject: FW: Redistricting Clifton Park

Please include this testimony in the bill file for the redistricting legislation.

Thank You!

Aaron

From: Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 5:36 AM
To: Degraffenreidt, Aaron (City Council) <A.Degraffenreidt@baltimorecity.gov>
Subject: FW: Redistricting Clifton Park

For the file and consideration.

Odette Ramos

Baltimore City Councilwoman
District 14
Office: 410-396-4814
Mobile: 443-801-8137
Odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov
www.odetteramos.com

From: maraizu <maraizuo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 2:16 AM
To: Mosby, Nick (City Council) <Nick.Mosby@baltimorecity.gov>; Ramos, Odette (City Council) <Odette.Ramos@baltimorecity.gov>
Cc: Coldstream Homestead Montebello <chmc.corp@gmail.com>; jciekot@civicworks.com
Subject: Redistricting Clifton Park

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Dear Council President Mosby,

In my 17 years in Coldstream Homestead Montebello as a voter, homeowner, board member and community advocate, I have been engaged in advocating and maintaining Clifton Park. Even though I do not live on Harford Rd, my street adjacent to Harford road, provides a view of the park and in fact, I can see the park from both my front porch and my 3rd floor. Clifton Park runs the entire Eastern border of my community, 1 mile long. Over the years I personally have met with: my council representatives (both who know me by name),

developers about plans for development adjacent to the park, the leadership of Reach High School, gone to school board meetings advocated for the relocation of Reach and return of our 21st century school funding, engaged in searches for new tenants for the old Lake Clifton School building, performed at the CHM Light City event held at the Bandshell in Clifton Park, weeded and planted at Mother's Garden in Clifton Park with residents of Mayfield, advocated for connector sidewalks for the relocated Reach school thru the Inspire program, supported the historic restoration of Clifton Mansion and Grounds, participated in the MLK day of service to clean the illegal dumping site near the Gardner's cottage, participated in the Real Food Farms CSA and been a neighborhood drop off point for the CSA, participated in a Morning Senior Walk with the Mayor at Clifton Mansion, organized portions of the Christmas toy giveaway and pictures with Santa for CHM residents held at Clifton Mansion, participated in the Tri-park festival advocating for Clifton Park, Lake Montebello and Herring Run park to be considered holistically when planning and programming for the three gems of greenspace in the Northeast. My personal list is just a small fraction of the many ways CHM has advocated for and highlighted Clifton park. Below are couple articles that showcase a few of the efforts.

1. <https://www.baltimoremagazine.com/section/artsentertainment/neighborhood-lights-extend-light-city-past-the-inner-harbor/>
2. <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-kelly-clifton-20200418-mruoxmjwjbvile57o33grnpna-story.html>

For Coldstream Homestead Montebello, Harford Road and Clifton Park is a main gateway to our community, not a forgotten asset. Clifton Park is a public asset and open to anyone to use but it is a park that requires advocacy, attention, and maintenance.

The current redistricting plan would separate voters who have traditionally advocated for the park, from the accountability for Clifton Park. Separating accountability for the park from the voters who have advocated and helped to maintain the park over the last few decades is a recipe guaranteed to create further disinvestment in an already underserved park. The 1600 and 1700 blocks of 25th street and 2000 and 2100 blocks of Sinclair Lane are the main portions of the 12th district (which is proposed to contain 39,868 people) that border the park. When big events (such as The Caribbean festival, Vegan Soul fest, etc) have been held in the park, the residents of the 14th have been able to advocate with our Council person to get Baltimore city to clean the trash left in the park, along Harford Road and other affected streets. The proposed change would separate the voters most likely to be impacted by park events from the council person who is accountable for the park. I am sure the current council persons will pay some attention to our concerns but in a few short years when there are new council persons, our ability to continue the work for the master plan will be severely limited. I am sure the residents of Darley Park will care, but their 383 votes (Precinct 08004) will hardly draw the priority of their council person much less draw funds for continued enhancement of one of the gems in our communities, Clifton Park. Beyond the theory is the geography that creates barriers and reduces priorities. For the Darley Park neighborhood, Clifton Park is behind their homes and between their backyards and Clifton Park sits the CSX train tracks and beyond that the rear view of the Reach school. It is no wonder that their attention to the park is somewhat limited. In the proposed map of the 12th district, Clifton Park is located on the furthest northern and eastern border of 12th district. The width of the 12th district spans the from Belair Road in the east to Falls Road in the west approximately 2.5 miles wide. Top to bottom the proposed 12th District would start at Erdman and Belair Road in the north and end at Thames Street in the south, approximately 3.3 miles long. There are a lot of neighborhoods in that span. How many of the voters in the 12th would reach out to their council person to advocate on a regular basis for a park not on their front doorstep?

It is my firm belief that placing Clifton Park in District 12 will slow the momentum we have spent decades building. With Baltimore city on the precipice of historic investments in Clifton Park by way of Morgan University at the Lake Clifton campus, I implore the City Council to consider creating a ghost precinct of Clifton Park similar to that of precinct 13-013 and keep the Clifton Park ghost precinct in the 14th District. Then the current the total population of 08-004 precinct which is 524 people (383 voters) could stay in the District 12 and achieve the federal population requirements of redistricting. I leave you with a list of 29 actions that the voters and voices of the 14th have been instrumental in related to Clifton Park:

1. Morgan State University making its home in Clifton Park
2. The creation of Rita church community center, gymnasium and rehabilitated pool
3. The coming of Lillie May Carroll Jackson Girls School
4. The preservation of Real Food Farm
5. The saving and rehabilitation of the Clifton Park High School for the home of REACH Partnership High School
6. Historic restorations to Clifton Mansion and Grounds
7. Supporting Civic Works as operator of Clifton Mansion
8. Planning the revitalization of the 'football bowl' across from Rita Church
9. Saving the Valve House
10. Saving and repairs to the Band Shell
11. Connector sidewalks for high school students to walk safely through the Park
12. Better maintenance of the park along the CSX tracks, the Gardener's Cottage and throughout
13. The rehabilitation of the basketball court
14. New day and night tennis and pickleball courts
15. Gardener's Cottage stabilization
16. Mothers Garden preservation
17. Planting two hundred trees
18. First Tee golf game learning center
19. Horseshoe pit rebuilding
20. Streetlight repair
21. Traffic control on St Lo Drive
22. Storm water drainage repairs
23. Multiple community uses of Clifton Mansion
24. Raising alarm when Park is abused
25. Hilltop House occupancy over abandonment
26. A plan to save and display the art works inside Lake Clifton High School
27. Police patrols on the golf course late 2023
28. Streetlights mounted on entrance pillars 2024
29. Public rest room attached to Clifton mansion 2024

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Maraizu Onyenaka

P.S. Here is just a small number of social media posts over the years that evidence our community advocacy of Clifton Park.



Odi Maraizu



Nov 8, 2012 · Baltimore ·

How awesome is my neighborhood. I was just thinking that I wanted to join a CSA . at the community meeting they approached me about being the drop off point for a cSA. I am in the CSA and be coming to my front door. Real food farms



**Coldstream Homestead
Montebello**

May 6, 2016 ·

IMPORTANT CHM DATE;

So Cool, It's Hot!

Tour the Energy Innovations in Civic Works'

Tiny House & Clifton Mansion

**Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Clifton Mansion, 2701 St. Lo Drive,
Baltimore, MD 21213**

Explore Civic Works' Tiny House and get energy efficiency tips for your own home from the Baltimore Energy Challenge Mobile Energy Education Center. Tour the Clifton Mansion with a focus on renovations being made to promote energy efficiency, comfort and its historic elegance. Tours begin on the hour and half-hour from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

RSVP at cliftonmansion@civicworks

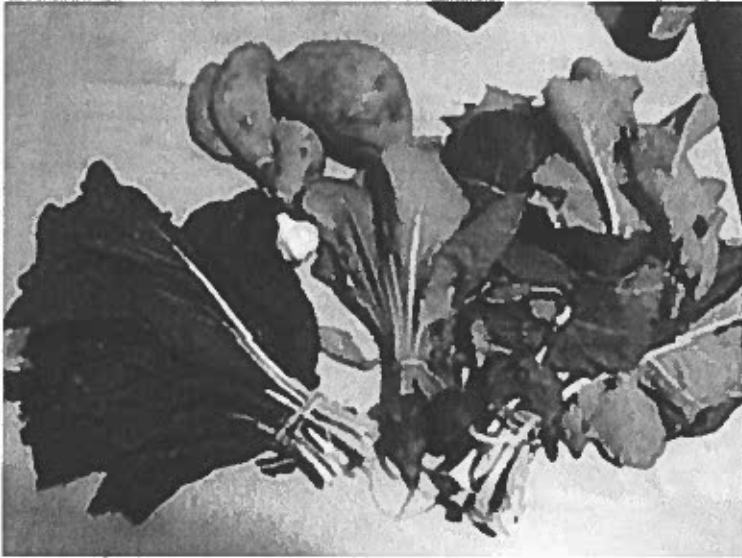


Odi Maraizu

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Nov 20, 2013 · Baltimore · 21

Week 1 of my Winter CSA delivered to my door has come:) Sustainably grown in Clifton park less than a mile from my house complete with recipes for Butter Braised Radishes, Massaged Mustard Greens with Lemon, Braised Broccoli Greens. My neighborhood rocks!



Coldstream Homestead

Montebello

Mar 24, 2016 · 6

CHM FUN TIME ALERT!! **8 DAY'S AND COUNTING**

... See more

LIGHT CITY PRESENTS

BACK IN OUR MINDS

HOSTED BY EZT JACKSON

FEATURING
JOY POSTELL BLADSTARR

SPEAK LIFE TOUR
St. Veronica's
STEEL YOUTH ORCHESTRA

SPONSORED BY
A & T & M O & L

FREE Food & More!

CLIFTON PARK

AN EVENING OF LEAF, MARE & STREET BAND SHELL

SATURDAY APRIL 2ND 7:00 10PM

THE FUN CAN BE TOLD

MOVIE 'WOOD OUT'

FAMILY FUN FOR YOU

CLIFTON PARK



Odi Maraizu



Apr 20, 2020 · 🧑🏿

My neighborhood 😊



[baltimoresun.com](https://www.baltimoresun.com)

**Rescuing an enchanted cottage from ruin
in Baltimore's Clifton Park**

 **Montebello**

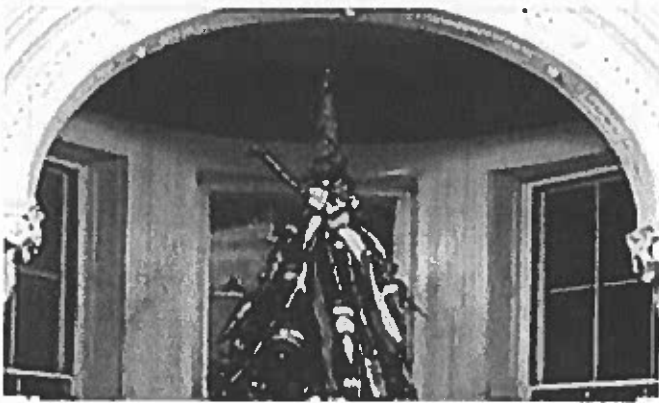
Dec 20, 2018 · 

**ATTENTION Coldstream Homestead
Montebello Residents:**

**Join CHMCC And Friends Of Clifton
Park For Our Annual Christmas Toy
Giveaway Friday, December 21, 2018 7
pm**

**At Beautiful Clifton Mansion 2701 St. Lo
Drive 21213**

***AGES 12 and UNDER. CHILD MUST
ACCOMPANY ADULT. TOYS ARE
LIMITED, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!***





Odi Maraizu

Nov 14, 2021 · 🌐

Love living within walking distance of Clifton park and Clifton mansion.

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Coldstream Homestead Montebello is with Odi Maraizu.

Nov 13, 2021 · 🌐

Fun Morning Senior Walk With Mayor Brandon M. Scott On The Grounds Of Clifton Mansion. Many Tha... See more



Odi Maraizu

Apr 1, 2022 · 🌐

...

Some of you may remember my post 5 ish years ago looking for connections with Under Armor or other groups capable of helping to repurpose Lake Clifton High School. Very excited about this partnership with Morgan to repurpose the decommissioned school building and help us restore the historic valve house 🙌



David Wilson

Apr 1, 2022 · 🌐

BIG, BIG, BIG NEWS!!! As Morgan continues its growth as a major National and international u... See more

