September 10, 2020

Donald F. Minner, President
Barrington Public Library District
505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

RE: Resignation as Trustee of the Barrington Public Library District

Dear Don:

Please accept this letter as my resignation as a Trustee of the Barrington Public Library District, effective September 15, 2020. It has been a privilege to serve as trustee of this District for over twenty years, and it is with heavy heart that I must relinquish my elected position due to the pending sale of our Barrington house in early October 2020.

When I first joined the Board many years ago, I recall my impression that the library was near perfect and my goal was to do no harm as a new Board member. As I leave the Board twenty years later, I still feel this same way: as trustees, our role is to support—not micromanage--the vision and professional work of our executive director and staff. I believe we have fulfilled this role during our shared tenure on this Board, thanks to your excellent leadership and passion for supporting our staff in making the Barrington Area Library one of the best libraries in the state.

As a member of the Barrington community for over 27 years, my family and I have considerably benefitted in a myriad of ways from being patrons of the library. While the needs of the community have evolved and library services have changed, the Barrington Area Library has been fortunate to have the talents of three excellent executive directors and many dedicated staff members, as well as the resources and support of the community, which has allowed it to exceed the expectations and needs of the residents.

The District has not been without challenges, but so far, the library continues to endure, to evolve and to thrive. My hope is that the Board continues its collective commitment as trustees to honor the hard work and dedication of those trustees and staff who formed and nurtured this library district. It is imperative that the Board never forgets its duty to always put the mission and needs of the library ahead of the desires or agendas of others who seek to diminish (in any way) the library's ability to provide services in our community, now and in the future.

I leave the Board, knowing that the District is in good hands going forward, from both a staff and trustee perspective.

Sincerely.

[redacted]

Carolyn Welch Clifford
Vice President, Board of Trustees

cc: Jesse Henning, Executive Director, Barrington Public Library District
Board of Trustees, Barrington Public Library District