



**A Statement from Collegeville Borough on an Issue of Importance:
Ukraine and the Russian Invasion**

At the Council's March 2, 2022 meeting, President Cathy Kernan read the following statement into the record:

Collegeville Borough, its Council and Mayor denounce Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and we express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine. We support and pray for the Ukrainian people, and for those persons and organizations attending to and providing comfort to the forcibly displaced people from Ukraine.

We stand with the Ukrainians as they fight to defend their freedom and independence, and join with others around the world in encouraging all countries to keep their borders open and that they provide assistance to everyone in need of protection.

There are more than 1.1 million members of the Ukrainian American diaspora. Ukrainians have been immigrating to the United States since the late 19th century, and in fact, many arrived in Pennsylvania in 1877 to work in the mines. After the Second World War, the largest immigration wave of Ukrainians occurred when thousands of displaced Ukrainians sought refuge in large American cities including Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, and Chicago. Thousands more fled during the cold war and its aftermath. In 2019, Ukrainians were one of the top groups resettled as refugees in the US.

An attack on democracy anywhere is an attack on democracy everywhere--and must not be tolerated. The moral arc of the universe is indeed long, and we believe that the evil President Putin has unleashed on Ukraine will come back over time to undermine his own regime. Collegeville Borough, our Council and Mayor urge everyone to pray for those suffering in Ukraine and for an end to hostilities and the restoration of true justice and genuine peace.

Finally for ways to help the citizens of Ukraine, please visit the website of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center located in Jenkintown in Montgomery County:
<https://www.ueccphila.org/> NPR also has listed the best sites to donate to help Ukraine here:
<https://www.kbbi.org/npr-news/2022-02-24/want-to-support-the-people-in-ukraine-heres-how-you-can-help.>"

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