



April 29, 2019

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
P.O. Box 27622
Richmond, VA 23261

FDIC Atlanta Regional Office
10 10th Street, NW, Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30309-3849

via email: comments.applications@rich.frb.org
BankMergerApplication@fdic.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN), a 501c3 nonprofit organization incorporated in May 2010, was founded by Charleston County Council, the City of Charleston, the City of North Charleston, and the Charleston County School District (CCSD), to support four tough, underserved, Title I elementary schools in “The Neck”—a 5.6 mile corridor in Charleston County that straddles the Cities of Charleston and North Charleston. Our mission is “to ensure the Neighborhood is a place where residents are engaged in their community and every child is on track to graduate high school with the abilities necessary to succeed in college, the military or the workforce.”

CPN has had a strong partnership with BB&T since 2011. While CPN was founded with generous support from various corporations, individuals and government partners, BB&T was an early investor in our work and demonstrated their commitment to CPN’s programs, impact, and vision through generous, unrestricted gifts. Their philanthropic investments gave our organization the ability to focus on our mission and infrastructure; invest in salaries, technology, and marketing and communications; and create high-quality programming for long-term impact.

Over the years, BB&T representatives have spent hours meeting with me and our stakeholders attempting to thoroughly understand our organization’s programs. During these interactions, they have asked the hard questions, spent time with our team, brought their local and regional employees to visit our schools, and invited CPN to share our successes and challenges with representatives from the bank. As a result, they clearly understand what we are trying to accomplish, how we operate, the results we are achieving, and our opportunities for improvement.

On more than one occasion, BB&T has gone above and beyond, in their efforts to “do good” for our community’s toughest schools. Specifically:

- Frank Bullard, BB&T’s former Coastal Region President, supported CPN’s early work and initiated our inaugural gift from the bank;
- In the fall of 2016, with the assistance of John Stokes (North Carolina and South Carolina Vice President & Community Development Specialist) and about a dozen banking executives, BB&T’s Mobile Banking Bus unit visited two of our schools and engaged ~300 students in digital financial

literacy exercises, and shared financial health information with neighborhood parents and grandparents;

- CPN participated in a planning meeting and presented its programming and impact to BB&T's Charleston's Community Development Steering Committee in March 2015; and
- In February 2018 and 2019, BB&T executives spent hours receiving programmatic updates, visiting our programs, in their efforts to strengthen our partnership and understand the environmental realities of our schools, students, and their families.

We are forever grateful for their early and continued investments in our schools, students and their families...and we work hard to ensure that they receive a true return on their investments. We look forward to a continued partnership with the new bank and hope that their influences on our work continues to make us a stronger, more impactful organization.

Thus, I wholeheartedly support the merger between BB&T and SunTrust, as I believe that only greater things are to come!



Sherrie Snipes-Williams
Chief Executive Officer