



GLASS HOUSE
A NEIGHBORHOOD COLLECTIVE

PO Box 5566 | Chattanooga, TN 37406

April 8, 2019

Re: Suntrust and BB&T Merger

To Whom It May Concern:

Glass House Collective is a nonprofit in Chattanooga, TN working to revitalize a once-thriving community that has seen decades of disinvestment. One of our priorities is to engage residents and business owners through events, community meetings, and creative projects. Suntrust has sponsored some of our past events, including Glass Street LIVE, an annual block party that showcases the arts and culture of our neighborhood, and Gospel on Glass, an event that highlights local gospel musicians. Participants at these events are treated to a day of music, culture, local food, artistic activities, and community input opportunities. Our neighborhood is often perceived as a place with poverty and crime, but Glass Street LIVE and Gospel on Glass flip this script, treating the community to a cultural event marked by positivity and unity.

We also received a grant from the Suntrust Foundation in support of our efforts to lead community discussions regarding real estate development in East Chattanooga. Due to the inclusion of Glass Street in the federally-designated Opportunity Zones program, the availability of a 40-acre tract of vacant land that was formerly a public housing site, and our city's current rate of growth, new investment will be coming to East Chattanooga. With the assistance of partners and funders such as Suntrust, we hope to empower the residents to be advocates for their neighborhoods, and use their collective voice to help avoid displacement and relocation, preserve the distinctiveness of place, and inform decision-makers that their choices have real consequences for the people who live in East Chattanooga.

Glass House Collective is appreciative of the support of community partners like Suntrust.

Thank you,



Teal Thibaud
Executive Director