



nationalsacademy.org

April 23, 2019

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write this letter in support of the merger between SunTrust and BB&T Banks. Since joining the Washington Nationals organization in 2013, when I became founding Executive Director of the team's flagship 501c3 program, the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, to now, as CEO of the Nationals Dream Foundation, I have had the good fortune to work very closely with SunTrust Bank and The SunTrust Foundation. In that time, SunTrust's cumulative cash contribution to our work totals \$384,500; the impact of that giving extends far beyond any dollar amount.

In our experience, if SunTrust decides to provide support for work in the community, they roll up their sleeves and get involved. When asked to join a board of directors that requires not only personal fundraising and advocacy but also a high level of engagement in strategy in planning, SunTrust's MidAtlantic President, Dan O'Neill, did not hesitate to say yes. His ongoing support comes not only in the form of providing access to SunTrust assets for use with our donors, such as its suite at Capital One Arena, but also through dipping into his personal rolodex to make warm introductions and serving as an active member of board committees focused on the financial health of the Youth Baseball Academy and its strategic future planning.

Dan also introduced us to Muriel Garr, SunTrust MidAtlantic's VP for Regional Community Development to discuss hands-on Financial Wellness classes to be offered to aspiring college students and other adults in the Youth Baseball Academy family. Ms. Garr did not then suggest we work with a third-party provider – she taught the classes herself in the evenings after work. Over a period of a few months, Ms. Garr educated a group ranging from high school students to retirees about financial wellness goals and how to achieve them; she even connected the participants to a program that provided an \$8 match for each \$1 saved during the course of the program. With this opportunity, one of our young, part-time employees saved enough to purchase a car, allowing her to get to and from work and save on mounting public transportation costs. Many others benefited similarly.

I am confident that a stronger SunTrust Bank and a merger with BB&T means a stronger Washington, D.C. – and I have also seen how The SunTrust Foundation's support of programs like the East Lake Foundation in Atlanta and Rise Orlando create a rising tide to lift all boats in communities that need it most. We look forward to our continued work with the bank and its great leadership. I am happy to answer any questions should that be of help to the FDIC as it makes its decision on this merger.

Sincerely,


Tal Alter
Chief Executive Officer
Washington Nationals Dream Foundation