

R.D. KEENE, INC.

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Orlando, Florida 32801

407.757.2800

April 25, 2019

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

Re: Proposed Merger – SunTrust and BB&T

To Whom It May Concern:

I was delighted to learn that SunTrust Banks, Inc. (“SunTrust”) and BB&T Corporation (“BBT”) have announced their desire to combine in what has been described as a Merger of Equals, which if approved, would create the sixth-largest bank holding company in the U.S. based on assets and deposits.

The company, for which I serve as President, has been a long-standing client of SunTrust, but it wasn't always so. When I first became President, we were working with another financial institution. Throughout the ensuing years, I became involved in several not-for-profit community boards and came to realize that there was always a SunTrust officer serving in a leadership position on that Board. In addition, I became further acquainted with SunTrust through its community education programs. I eventually decided to change banking relationships and become a SunTrust customer; a decision I have not regretted.

As a third-generation Orlando resident, I remember the motto from SunTrust founder Linton Allen which states “BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOU BUILD YOUR BANK.” SunTrust did that back in the 1960's when I first heard the phrase, and they continue to do that now. Today, SunTrust teammates are active on over fifty (50) boards. SunTrust team members provided 16,660 volunteer hours in 2018, presented \$1.2 Million Dollars in SunTrust Foundation Central Florida grants, and \$501 Million in Central Florida Community Development Loans. Furthermore, SunTrust has given significant support to Central Florida colleges and universities. One example is Rollins College which just celebrated the 20th anniversary of a SunTrust gift to the Crummer Graduate

R.D. Keene (1885-1973)

R.D. Keene, Inc.
R. D. Keene Trust
Mary G. Keene Trust
Betty K. Thomas Trust
Dorothy K. McPherson Trust
John R. McPherson Trust
Rex V. McPherson II Trust
Lake Butler Groves, Inc.
Windermere Groves, Inc.
Clermont Groves, Inc.
Keene Properties, Inc.

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School of Business of One Million Dollars which endowed an investment portfolio managed each year by current Crummer students and funds \$50 Thousand Dollars annually in scholarship support.

SunTrust is made up of exceptional people doing extraordinary work. The proposed merger will make the combined entity better able to serve its clients and communities. I support this merger and urge your favorable review thereof.

Very truly yours,



Rex V. McPherson II

RVMII:rm

cc: comments.applications@rich.frb.org
BankMergerApplication@fdic.gov