



529 BRYANT STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20059 (202) 806 - 3500

April 29, 2019

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

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
Atlanta Regional Office  
10 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 800  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3849

Re: BB&T SunTrust Merger

Dear Sir or Madame:

It is with much delight and honor that WHUR 96.3FM writes this letter in support of SunTrust Bank. Since its inception in December 1971, WHUR 96.3FM, the flagship station of the Howard University Radio Network, has been rooted in the community providing services to those in the greatest of need. Much of our work would not be possible without the support and partnerships of companies like SunTrust Bank.

Our relationship with SunTrust began nearly thirty years ago with an effort to feed 50 needy families in the Washington, D.C. area for the Thanksgiving holiday season. The initiative was called "*Project Harvest*," a six-hour radiothon to collect money and non-perishable items to provide low and moderate-income families with a basket of food complete with a turkey and all the fixings for a healthy-hearty Thanksgiving meal. "*Project Harvest*" mushroomed from a six-hour event to a 12-hour radiothon, raising upwards of \$100,000.00 yearly to feed thousands of individuals and families. "*Project Harvest*" was rebranded 15-years ago to become "*Food2Feed*" and SunTrust has been on the mission with WHUR every step of the way. The financial institution provides monetary donations and also at least 10 volunteers yearly to ensure the dollars are properly managed. The SunTrust Bank volunteers count all monetary donations and provide manpower for the phone bank donations and processing. "*Food2Feed*" feeds on average over 16,000 persons yearly for the Thanksgiving holiday season.

SunTrust's mission for caring for the community doesn't stop with feeding needy families. When WHUR embarked on a campaign in 2002 to help provide a safe haven for women and children impacted by domestic violence in Prince George's County, SunTrust jumped at an opportunity to be of service. The project was called "*Give Me Shelter*," a six-year campaign that included a yearly 12-hour radiothon in August to raise money to expand a domestic violence shelter from a 25-bed facility to a 55-bed facility. Over the course of the "*Give Me Shelter*" campaign, SunTrust provided volunteers for the radiothons for cash management and to operate the phone bank. In addition, SunTrust always is willing to go beyond rolling up the sleeves. The bank also provided over \$50,000.00 in monetary donations over the six-year campaign to help bring the \$600,000.00 shelter expansion to fruition. It is because of the generosity of SunTrust and its committed employees that the Family Crisis Center Shelter can now help more women and their children escape abusive relationships safely.

SunTrust has also been instrumental in numerous other annual philanthropic events with WHUR. The bank has provided invaluable direction and leadership in dozens of financial literacy projects where listeners have participated in workshops. These workshops have given WHUR listeners' tools on how to properly manage money, save, invest, improve their credit, retire, purchase a home, and build generational wealth.

Perhaps one of the proudest and flagship efforts we undertake yearly with SunTrust is our "*Helping Hands*" radiothon. This 12-hour fundraiser collects donations to help offset the costs of sending hundreds of Howard University students yearly into communities across the globe to render service to neighborhoods in need. Over the past 14 years, WHUR and SunTrust with the generous support of our listeners have raised over \$1,000,000.00 for the "*Helping Hands*" effort.

The community commitment of SunTrust also comes in less visible ways. In 2016 when family and friends decided that they would like to celebrate the 106<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ms. Virginia Williams, SunTrust was asked to help provide a luncheon for the party. Ms. Williams had become to be known as America's dancing "Grandma," after she was captured on video dancing at the White House with then President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. SunTrust not only helped to foot the bill of a well-deserved celebration, but its members also helped to serve the food.

It is because of these reasons and a host of others that we fully support SunTrust Bank. The bank's commitment to the community is evident in everything they do. It is rare to find a company willing to diversify its effort to help in so many ways. Most organizations, banks, and companies tend to find one philanthropic effort and solely support just that. That cookie cutter approach to giving back typically is not that helpful. That's why we are so proud to have a financial institution like SunTrust to join WHUR in adopting the Howard University motto of "Excellence In Truth and Service."

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our unwavering support of SunTrust Bank, please feel free to give me a call directly at 202.806.3623.

Warmest Regards.

Sean D. Plater, MBA  
Interim General Manager  
96.3 WHUR/The Howard University Radio Network  
529 Bryant Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20059

(202) 806-3508  
[www.whur.com](http://www.whur.com)