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**Lizzie Ellis-Furlong** 



April 18, 2019

FDIC Atlanta Regional Office 10 10th Street, NW, Suite 800 Atlanta, GA 30309-3849 BankMergerApplication@fdic.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of our board of directors, I express the Durham Literacy Center's support of the merger between SunTrust and BB&T.

SunTrust Bank has been the Durham Literacy Center's banker since 2004 (starting with CCB). For the last 15 years, whenever DLC needed help, we have been able to count on SunTrust. We have enjoyed personal banking representatives, hard-working volunteers and help with planning, special events, facilities, funding and sponsorships.

When mold forced DLC to vacate our headquarters in 2007, SunTrust provided "temporary" office space that lasted several years. In the troubled economy of 2009, DLC launched a capital campaign knowing we would need a mortgage to achieve our goals. All banks except SunTrust asked for detailed guarantees we couldn't provide. SunTrust took us on faith, however, and provided the loan we needed. In 2017 we paid off our mortgage and are far more fiscally sound thanks to SunTrust. The SunTrust Foundation even sponsored a room in our building. Today, thanks to SunTrust, DLC owns a facility valued at \$1.6 million, has eight partner sites and is a recognized leader in adult literacy in North Carolina.

In 2016, the Durham Literacy Center recognized SunTrust as our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Leader in Literacy Award winner. We give this aware to an individual or organization that has helped Durham residents reach their literacy goals and promoted literacy in other geographic areas.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further comment.

Sincerely,

Lizzie Ellis-Furlong Executive Director