



TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE MILE AT A TIME

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

March 21, 2019

Re: SunTrust/BB&T Merger

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Back on My Feet Washington, DC Chapter, we are ever grateful for the continued support of SunTrust Bank. The mission of Back on My Feet is to use running as the catalyst for lasting change as we support our clients (we refer to them as our "members") in achieving independence with employment and housing. Our unique, running-based model demonstrates that if you first restore confidence, strength and self-esteem, individuals are better equipped to tackle the road ahead.

SunTrust is primary involved in the second phase of our program (what we call "Next Steps"). When a member starts Back on My Feet, he or she commits to attending morning runs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 5:45am. After 30 days of attending morning run and maintaining at least 90% attendance, he or she is eligible for Next Steps. As a part of Next Steps, members meet individually with Back on My Feet staff to set goals for their independence, focused in the areas of employment, housing and financial stability. SunTrust has provided financial literacy courses for our members for the past 6+ years. This weekly class provides education and practice in the areas of budgeting, money management, credit recovery and other financial basics that are crucial as we support our members in achieving holistic, sustainable independence, truly breaking the cycle of homelessness.

After completing SunTrust's financial literacy course, members are also eligible to receive financial aid from Back on My Feet. This financial aid is designed to remove a one-time barrier that is standing in the way of a member and his or her independence. Some of these barriers include security deposits, clothing for an interview or uniform for a new job, tuition for an educational or vocational course, or transportation assistance. Further, Back on My Feet works with employment partners, including Marriott, Aramark, Hilton, District Taco, Pacers Running, Occasions Caterers, and Goodwill to place members in stable, sustainable and supportive jobs.

As the Back on My Feet DC chapter grows, we are excited to both deepen and expand our impact. We rely on the support of SunTrust to provide financial literacy classes, which about 80 of our members attend each year. As we seek to recruit more members for our model of growth, the number of members that participate in financial literacy will increase as well. The resources that SunTrust provides to Back on My Feet are invaluable. SunTrust has expanded the relationships we have with our members and has allowed us to support them with financial growth in ways even they find surprising. With the continued support of SunTrust, our capacity as a small staff of 3 grows exponentially and we have a much longer-term, more sustainable impact in the lives of our members.

On behalf of everyone in the Back on My Feet, we value SunTrust and do hope to see our partnership continue with SunTrust, but also potentially grow with the newly merged company with BB&T. We appreciate your time and your consideration of continued support for our organization as you plan your future endeavors with the merger.

Respectfully,



Grace Y. Foster
Chapter Director
Back on My Feet, Washington, D.C.