

[REDACTED]

From: Alexander, Rosemary (DWD) <rosemary.alexander@state.ma.us>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Odie Donald

Hello Councilmember Silverman,

I am writing to support the appointment of Odie Donald to the position of DC Director of the Department of Employment Services. I have had an opportunity to work with Mr. Donald on a special program targeting out-of-school youth and found him to be professional, knowledgeable and resourceful in the planning process.

Mr. Donald exhibits a deep caring and concern for the people he serves and I am confident that he will continue to strive for excellence in his new position. I look forward to working with him on this and other projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary

Rosemary Alexander, Director of DCS Training
Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD)
Department of Career Services (DCS)
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The Committee on Labor & Workforce Development will hold a public hearing on PR22-0128, the "Director of the Department of Employment Services Odie Donald Confirmation Resolution of 2017" on Wednesday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 120 of the John A. Wilson Building (1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW).

Good morning Councilmembers, staff, guests. My name is Joe Andronaco and I am President and Owner of Access Green, an eco-contracting company based in Washington DC dedicated to reducing our harm on our planet and placing individuals from underserved populations (opportunity youth / returning citizens) on career pathways.

I am here to support the confirmation of Odie Donald II as Director of the Department of Employment Services.

I have been actively engaged in efforts to narrow the opportunity divide in the Nation's Capital for nearly a decade. Despite record budgets, revenues and surpluses in the District's budget, the unemployment divide has increased not narrowed. Likewise, the net worth divide has expanded as well. The numbers are not pretty.

- Unemployment for Whites is at 1.7% with 14% for Blacks
- White families have 81x greater net worth than Black families
- A staggering 20,000 children are living in poverty in Ward 8 (as opposed to 500 in Ward 3)

These statistics result in the desperation that much of our underserved population feels. I interact with many of them in the work I do, not just at my company but the many programs where I mentor and teach. What I see is a yearning for connection. A yearning for fulfilment. For the ability to provide a meaningful livelihood for themselves and their families. They are not afraid of hard work. They are not incapable of learning and growth. They are not afraid of commitment. They are not incapable of responsibility.

Quite the contrary, engage folks honestly in career pathways and opportunities and you will be surprised at what they can do and contribute beyond your wildest dreams.

The District of Columbia is very fortunate to have someone with Mr. Donald's experience and expertise. He brings the following qualities to his position that are critical for success:

- Intentionality
- Determination

- Sense of urgency

Mr. Donald is laser-focused on career pathways and is very in tune with market forces and the reality that it is / will be a demand-driven workforce solution that eliminates this devastating opportunity divide in our nation's capital.

I am still in shock at the "ho-hum" attitude I get when I bring up the \$150MM of the SETF intended to create a \$500MM+ Market. Folks, that's as important as how well the eligible training providers are doing for a career pathway to work.

I am mentoring another individual right now who is thinking of entering a "green" field and I am reticent to encourage him to do so when government does not behave in the market's (and property owners' and employers and rate payers and citizens') best interests.

Mr. Donald understands the importance of all of the elements of a Career Pathway continuum.

He has spent half of his career in the private sector and the other half (or so) in progressively more important public sector positions, delivering results along the way.

We at Access Green believe that realistically and sustainably we can engage in a two-Generation Solution for LASTING wealth creation. In the current generation, we want to provide careers, encourage savings / investments and home ownership - (I would use the 0.7% of payroll taxes from private sector for something way more intentional than Paid Leave). Those figures I recited earlier. They are the cause and result of the greatest of our societal woes right now. And we need to pour our focused, intentional resources into addressing them.

With this approach, we hope that the next generation of individuals from the underserved populations we serve with careers can have wide open opportunities not even conceivable or fathomable today. We and they deserve that.

I look forward to working with Mr. Odie Donald II to get us closer to this reality.



Vince The Voice LLC
1251 Grayson Parkway
Grayson, Ga 30017
770-864-7135

4/4/17

To Chairperson Elissa Silverman and Members of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development:

My name is Vince Bailey. I am a 20 year + business owner in the Atlanta Metro, Continuing Education Instructor, and Chairman of the Atlanta Job Corps. This letter should serve as a formal recommendation for Mr. Odie Donald for the position of the Director of the Department of Employment Services.

I first met and worked with Mr. Donald approximately 12 years ago. When I joined the Fulton County Workforce Investment Board, he was working as the Lead Business Consultant for Fulton County.

I was immediately impressed with Odie. Despite his youth, he was very knowledgeable and dedicated to the mission of "helping others."

When he joined the WIA Board in 2009, we worked together to increase the visibility of the many programs offered. I served as Youth Council Chair and Odie was very involved. Collectively, we were able to hire more youth than in previous years and was recognized by the Georgia Labor Commissioner as having served more youth than any other program in the state.

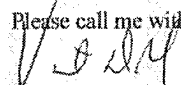
Of course this was just the beginning of his illustrious career. He later rose to Board Chair where once again his knowledge and hands on dedication made a big difference. From there it was only a matter of time before the Governor and other Georgia Labor Officials recognized his abilities.

From leading one of the larger Workforce areas, to being appointed the WIOA Services Director for the entire state of Georgia, his mark on the State of Georgia was powerful.

We maintain a relationship today that is based upon a mutual desire to help our communities grow and thrive.

With no hesitation, I highly recommend Mr. Odie Donald for this position.

Please call me with any questions at 770-864-7135

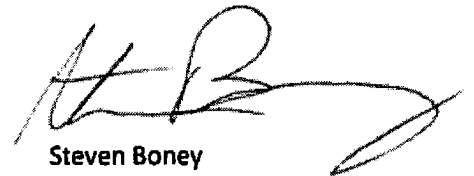

Vincent D. Bailey
Managing Partner, Vince The Voice, LLC

4/4/17

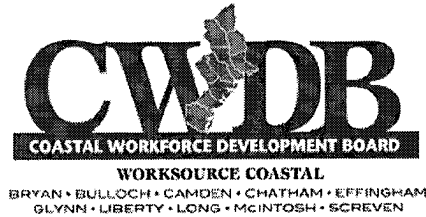
To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this recommendation to elect Odie Donald as Director of the Washington D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES). I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the Washington D.C. Workforce Investment Council. In this capacity I've worked with Mr. Donald in the development of workforce development initiatives and compliance policies. Mr. Donald is committed to increasing employment opportunities for District residents. He is open to innovative ideas and best practices and takes immediate action to implement new processes that improve workforce development. Mr. Donald is a proven leader which is evident in his accomplishments as a leader in workforce development in other states to include Georgia and Kentucky. He brings a wealth of knowledge and professionalism and would serve as a great asset to Washington D.C. I strongly recommend Mr. Donald as our new Director of the Department of Employment Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Boney', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steven Boney



To: The Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
ATTN: Councilwoman Elissa Silverman, Chairperson
Subject: PR22-0128 Director of the Department of Employment Services

Madam Chairperson:

My name is Mark Corrigan Sr. I served with Mr. Donald while he held the position of Executive Director and I held the position of Chairman of the Coastal Workforce Board in 2012 and 2013. Our charter was to administer in excess of \$5,000,000.00 in Federal funding to service the Unemployed in 10 coastal counties in Georgia.

Mr. Donald brought innovation to this position that our Board had not seen in my 20 years of service on the Coastal Workforce Board. His experience in the Workforce arena stemmed from his work in Atlanta as a workforce professional in one of the more depressed employment regions in the metropolitan area. Rather than approaching our challenges with the status quo, he brought a fresh insight that reached out to the unemployed and underemployed in the community, identified their education and experience challenges & developed a training program that was customized for the clients we served. Because of Mr. Donald's community outreach plans, our Board gained long term and robust partnerships with the economic professionals who (in the past) had been unaware of what our board did as well as the resources we could offer to the community at large.

The "Out of the Box" approach that Mr. Donald brought to the table inspired local manufacturers to look at our board as a true community partner that could, not only affect their bottom line, but bolster the economic health of Chatham County and the entire State of Georgia.

In conclusion, I would like my testimony to be added to the record to recommend Mr. Odie Donald be confirmed to the office of Director of the Department of Employment Services for the District of Columbia.

Mark D Corrigan Sr.
mcorrigan@entresolutions.com
912-629-5380
2011, 2012, 2013 Chairman,

From: Sanford Dunahoo
Sat 4/8/2017 11:58 AM

Via email

To the The Committee on Labor & Workforce Development,

I've heard that my mentor Odie Donald was a candidate for a prominent position in your workforce. To say that he has been a major influence in my life would be an understatement. He has been there for me during my worse days. When I thought everything was over for me on a professional level Odie stepped in and stepped up to give me an example of what true perseverance means. Odie not only got me back in school through his connections, he stayed on me the entire ride from re-entry all the way to graduation; checking in on me with weekly progress reports, also seeing was it anything he could do to help with classes. With the help and inspiration from this man I am grateful to be able to say that I am a college graduate from Georgia State University. I am now a government employee who's able to provide for my family while also pursuing a Master's degree in human resource management. Without Odie Donald I don't know where I'd be. Thank you

If you would like anymore information from me I can be reached at
678-499-2268
my address is
3730 Warwick Way
Snellville, GA 30039

April 7, 2017

Committee on Labor & Workforce Development
Council of the District of Columbia
Suite 115
John A. Wilson Building,
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

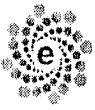
RE: Letter of support Mr. Odie Donald
Confirmation Director of the Department of Employment Services

Dear Councilmember Silverman,

I am very pleased to write this letter of personal support on behalf of Mr. Odie Donald. During his tenure as the Interim Director of the Department of Employment Services, he has developed a successful track record of cultivating innovative responses that address chronic unemployment and underemployment challenges in our nation's capital. By encouraging dynamic partnerships that leverage resources found in the business community, non-profit organizations and learning institutions, he drives solutions that address systemic employability obstacles facing the residents of the District of Columbia.

As the Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Council for the DC Government, Mr. Donald successfully spearheaded and launched the Workforce Intermediary program which directly addresses the workforce needs of businesses and job seekers in the hospitality and construction industries. Because of his vision, District of Columbia residents accounted for 24% of all new hires for the DC United and the Wharf Construction Project.

To provide DC residents with greater access to workforce opportunities, Mr. Donald strives for efficiency in the execution and management of state, local and federal programs. In his previous position, serving in the capacity of Director, he acquired more than \$24 million in federal funding by working with various government agencies, allowed for the successful coordination of transformational services for residents of Georgia.



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As President and CEO of Enlightened Inc., the Eastern Regional Director for the U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce, Past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the DC Chamber of Commerce, and a native Washingtonian, Mr. Donald has full access to my professional network and my endorsement for his appointment as the Director of the DC Department of Employment Services as he progresses forward in building brighter futures for District of Columbia Residents.

Sincerely,

Antwanye E. Ford
President & CEO



April 7, 2017

Charnisa Royster
Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 115
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Royster:

As a Digital Inclusion Fellow for Google Fiber (assigned to PowerMyLearning) and as a former Economic Development Senior Civil Engineer for Georgia Power/Southern Company, I unequivocally extend my support for Odie Donald as the Director of the DC Department of Employment Services. I have known Odie for over a decade and have personally witnessed him guide, shape and mold policy and procedures that allowed for a thriving workforce under his leadership. We first began our professional relationship at Fulton County, Georgia where he educated the energy industry about the value of the workforce system to source talent. Odie actually urged me to join Georgia Energy and Industrial Construction Consortium (GEICC) as a corporate partner.

We both worked on the Georgia Energy and Industrial Construction Consortium (GEICC), where Odie managed a \$1 million annual budget targeted to help Georgia students pursue STEM careers with Get into Energy. While working on the Get into Energy Georgia initiative, Odie helped to train 15,000 students for the workforce and placed 10,000 employees into rewarding 21st century careers during his tenure of three years. As a result, Get into Energy Georgia has become a national model and best practice example. The program is still in existence today, which speaks to the sustainability that Odie built into the process.

Due to Odie's level of dedication and leadership, I look forward to continuing our relationship at Google Fiber where we will forge new paths in Digital Inclusion for the emerging and existing workforce. Odie will be a key partner and stakeholder in our quest to ensure that the workforce at large has access, tools and skills necessary to obtain and secure high wage jobs and careers that are both sustainable and rewarding.

You have a consummate professional in your midst who will continue to serve DC well for many years to come. I ask that you confirm his position as Director of Employment Services, thereby securing the future of your workforce.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Felicia Tillman'.

Felicia Tillman, M.S., EDFP

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charnisa Royster

FROM: George A. Wilborn

RE: Odie Donald

I am pleased to offer testimony in support of the appointment of Odie Donald as Director of the DC Department of Employment Services.

My association with Odie began in 1997 when I was appointed to provide leadership for the Georgia Fatherhood Program of Atlanta, Georgia, and Fulton County. My collaboration with human services and workforce programs afforded me the opportunity to become associated with most of the Metro Atlanta service providers. Odie was beginning his career with the Fulton County Workforce program when we met. Our long-standing association continued after my retirement in June 2011. At that time, I relocated to Pooler, Georgia, a suburb of Savannah, Georgia.

As fate would have it, shortly after I relocated to the Savannah area Odie Donald accepted the appointment as Director of Chatham County Regional Workforce Services in Savannah, Georgia. Our association resumed when he called on me to provide coordination for one of his short-term training and employment initiatives, which ended with a 90 percent success rate.

My association with Odie and his many successes continues to this day. I am proud to have been a player and a mentor to Odie Donald.

cc: Odie Donald