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Recommendation for Stephanie Gidigbi
To the Board of Directors of WMATA

I have been riding the subway since the red line was first established. In riding the bus and the subway for such a long time one may wonder do the people that make the decisions, set policies, create the budget and hours of operation really ride the transit system on a regular basis? One may also question how much first-hand knowledge do the powers that be have and do they really know how their decisions affect those who ride frequently and on a daily basis? My hope is the answer is yes. That's why I highly recommend Stephanie Gidigbi as a member of the WMATA Board.

Not only does she have the experience with working on projects for transit systems in Atlanta, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Phoenix, Indianapolis, and Richmond, she also is a resident of the District of Columbia and rides the transit systems daily when not traveling out of town. It is this type of boots on the ground experience, that will help her to shape her opinions and contributions for what the transit system does well and what it needs.

With this firsthand knowledge she will be able to express what should be in place because she sees what goes on throughout the system firsthand. With experience both in this city and her research concerning other underserved transit systems in other cities, she will be able to share best practices that will make our system even better.

I've known Ms. Gidigbi for a little over two years because we worship at the same church. Ms. Gidigbi doesn't hesitate to give a helping hand when needed and spearheads projects that will allow our church to grow and bring us to the 21st century. She has a great compassion for humankind and has a determination to do all she can do to help everyone grow and flourish. One thing I can say about her is that she doesn't make hasty decisions. She calculates what is involved and when she does decide you can be assured that she has done her homework and her responses come with great thought and can be validated. Without a shadow of doubt, I know her contributions will be innovative, researched and rich in information.

She will be a great asset to the WMATA Board, and I know she will do an excellent job.

Sincerely,

Co-Pastor Taunya A. Melvin