

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY  
35<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
EARLE B. OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE HALL  
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024  
9:30 AM**

GOOD MORNING SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART, CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY, VICE CHAIRMAN SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER, OTHER MEMEBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER SENATORS PRESENT, TOGETHER WITH STAFF AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

MY NAME IS AVERRICIA D. WILLIAMS, A FORMER PUBLIC SERVANT NOW IN RETIREMENT FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS. TODAY I AM HERE TO SUPPORT THE NOMINATION OF DR. KYZA A. CALLWOOD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PARK, MORE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE (RTPark).

IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT I HAVE KNOWN DR. CALLWOOD FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE, STARTING WHEN HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. YOU SEE, HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER SAMUEL 'SAMMY' PERCIVAL OF TORTOLA, WAS MY GREAT-GREAT UNCLE. I CANNOT RECALL HOW IT WAS THAT WHEN DR. CALLWOOD WAS ABOUT NINE (9) OR 10 YEARS OLD, I GOT HIS MOTHER, INGRID PERCIVAL, TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR HIM TO WORK WITH ME AT THE POLLS DURING A SENATORIAL ELECTION YEAR, BUT I DO REMEMBER HIM NOT ONLY ASSISTING ME THAT ENTIRE DAY, BUT HE DID SO WITH TREMENDOUS CONFIDENCE AND BY DISPLAYING EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS. IF HE HAD ANY UNCERTAINTIES, HE WOULD ASK QUESTIONS OR SEEK MY GUIDANCE. AS A RESULT OF THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN US THAT DAY, I CAME TO REALIZE THAT I HAD ON HAND A RATHER A PRECOCIOUS CHILD, ONE THAT DISPLAYED A KEEN SENSE OF CURIOSITY AND UNDERSTANDING AT SUCH A TENDER AGE.

SINCE THAT DAY, SOME 25 YEARS AGO, DR. CALLWOOD AND I HAVE MAINTAINED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS ENABLED ME TO FOLLOW BOTH HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH. AND THIS IS WHY I AM HERE TODAY TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF.

MUCH OF DR. CALLWOOD'S SUCCESS THUS FAR HAS COME FROM CAREFUL PLANNNG AND HARD WORK. KNOWING THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HIS FELLOW CITIZENS, HE PREPARED HIMSELF BY PURSUING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, WHERE HE OBTAINED NOT ONE, BUT A TOTAL OF FOUR (4) ACADEMIC DEGREES, INCLUDING AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, A BACHELOR'S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH HONORS, A MASTER'S IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND ULTIMATELY A DOCTORATE IN CREATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATION AND CHANGE.

WHAT IS EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE TO ME IS THAT WHILE PURSUING HIS EDUCATION, DR. CALLWOOD WAS ALSO EMPLOYED IN VERY RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS WITHIN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS OF THIS COMMUNITY. AND HE PERFORMED WELL IN HIS ASSIGNED ROLES, OFTEN EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS. I SHOULD KNOW, BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY INSTANCES IN WHICH I CALLED UPON HIM TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO ELDERLY CITIZENS OR OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT WERE IN NEED OF TIMELY ASSISTANCE. AND HE NEVER DISAPPOINTED!

IF HIS NOMINATION TO UVI'S RTPark IS APPROVED, DR. CALLWOOD'S ACADAMEC TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WOULD BODE WELL NOT ONLY FOR THE BOARD, BUT FOR THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE. THIS COMMUNITY WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE EXPERIENCE THAT HE HAS GAINED AS A MEMBER OF OTHER POLICY-MAKING BOARDS, MOST NOTABLY UVI'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE VI BOARD OF EDUCATION, CURRENTLY SERVING THE LATTER AS ITS CHAIRMAN.

IN CLOSING, AS I APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF DR. KYZA A. CALLWOOD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RTPark, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT IN MY ESTIMATION IS AN APT DESCRIPTION OF DR. CALLWOOD. THESE ARE NOT MY WORDS, BUT A DEFINITION THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO AS I SAT IN THE WAITING ROOM OF A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL COMPANY. IT STATES THAT:

EXCELLENCE IS AN INNER DRIVE TO BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE.  
THIS DESIRE TO EXCEL IS WHAT CHANGES ORDINARY PEOPLE  
INTO EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS.

WITHOUT FEAR OF DISAPPOINTMENT, I EXPECT DR. CALLWOOD TO PERFORM WITH DISTINCTION SHOULD HE HAVE THE HONOR OF SERVING ON THE BOARD OF UVI'S RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.

I THANK YOU FOR PERMITTING ME TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF DR. KYZA A. CALLWOOD.