

Honorable members of the City Council:

My name is Musa Trawally, a commercial corridor manager for the African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA).

The ACANA Community Development Corporation urges the City Council Finance Committee to extend the CDC Tax Credit Program to help benefit commercial corridors, especially commercial corridor like Woodland Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia. This section of the city is a low-income neighborhood with an average median household income at \$30,391.

The extension of the Tax Credit program will help ACANA to form a partnership with business owners and provide assistance to businesses to enhancement the commercial corridor and make it thriving, inviting and safer for shoppers, residents and business owners and overall for the City of Philadelphia. The specific programs that ACANA CDC will help small business owners include, Storefronts improvement, security cameras and lighting the commercial corridors to create more visibility.

The enhancement programs on these corridors will reduce crime rates and increase shopper's traffic flow to these businesses, which will lead to huge revenue generating and job creation opportunity in this low-income neighborhood. In addition, the ACANA Community Development Corporation will help to assist small business owners with technical assistance (TA), to increase the presence of small businesses online, which in our opinion is lacking, primary for immigrant business owners, many of whom English is a second language (ESL).

Members of the City Council Finance Committee, the 10-year term of this program will ensure the stability of ACANA for the long-term, and allow us to plan, implement and fundraise for projects and programs that will have a lasting impact on the corridor and surrounding community. Thank you