



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TRAYON WHITE, SR.

1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW

SUITE 400

WASHINGTON, DC 20004

202.724.8045

August 5, 2020

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing to both recommend and express my deep conviction in Ms. Preshona Ambrita Ghose, personally and professionally. I have known Ms. Ghose for over seven years, long before I became a Councilmember. She has served as my Personal Assistant and Research Analyst in 2020 – and prior to that, has never once hesitated to support my work and political campaigns.

The first quality that has ever struck me about Preshona is her deep empathy for the community and passion for solutions. We met circa 2012 doing work for the Children's Defense Fund, where she was spear-heading the curriculum development for an afterschool program centered around Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*. The work was with a group of college students and youth leaders in affiliation with the Children's Defense Fund, called the New Abolitionists' Association. At that time, Preshona was herself a form of "abolitionist," working from within our District's youth corrections system to guide youth out of it. Along with her position as Assistant Guidance Counselor/Registrar at the Maya Angelou Academy at New Beginnings, Preshona was running a program there called "American History X," teaching some of our most hardened youth about concepts like *hegemony*, *social engineering*, and using *the sociological imagination*. She would also show them the hidden African symbols of our District, just to remind them of the power of the legacy they hold, in being descendants of the African continent. Her passion for their freedom was stirring.

At the time, Preshona had also begun curating co-operative & bi-coastal "One Love" events through [what would eventually become] her non-profit, One Love=True Change Inc. -bringing information from those classes to the general public, amid a celebration of *local artists, vendors, and healers*. One Love had personally honored my work in the community through their annual "Herues" Awards Ceremony event on multiple years – the first held in the Blackburn Ballroom at Howard University, and the second at the Bolivarian Hall of the Venezuelan Embassy – all made possible by her tireless efforts. Preshona is a mover and a shaker.

When she began working for me in February 2020, she embraced the humility and flexibility of a newcomer to politics, ready to do whatever was needed by my office - from writing Ceremonial Resolutions to getting me lunch during council meetings. In time, she even began to make suggestions and even draft Council website revisions, on her own time, to help the DC Council improve our function to our constituents. See her work on that here:

<https://thepeoplesun.wixsite.com/dccouncilstreamlined>

Here, Preshona envisioned a system that would streamline petitions and constituent requests, so that not one voice would be missed. This is who Preshona is. I remember one day Preshona called

me and said, "I just watched a show called 'Little Fires Everywhere' and I see that's what we do: put out little fires. I know we need to do that, and I know we also need vision. Let me help you with the vision, Tray." Bright-eyed and passionate, Preshona never once hesitated to let me know her ideas.

Her integrity and work ethic were neither lacking. Since the moment she entered our office, upon her own volition, Preshona started a Work Tracking log, documenting everything she would do, day-to-day, for anyone who asked, to ensure accountability. When she sensed any issues or needs of the office, she would not hesitate to advocate and come up with a solution:

- When our Constituent Services Director needed a **spreadsheet** to organize volunteers, Preshona stepped up.
- When we had an influx of **Ceremonial Resolutions** we were processing, Preshona trained herself using YouTube tutorials on how to construct a fillable template on Word, to help us fill them out rapidly and with ease.
- When the quarantine came upon us, Preshona volunteered to work with our P.R. point person to **research CDC and WHO-mandated protocol**, in order to create original info-graphics for my social media accounts. Please view samples in her resume/portfolio.
- In her **responses to constituents**, she was always thorough and empathetic. She even created a *tracking log* of Constituent requests as well as petition summaries, making sure to report them in our staff meetings or follow-up with the particular staff, via email or text.
- In **answering calls** of our constituents, residents reported feeling embraced and heard.
- When our Legislative Director relayed the tedious work they do at the Legislative office, Preshona took it upon herself to read, outline and **summarize every major petition** received by our office, before sending them to her – even in spite of our Chief of Staff informing her that she did not need to do this. Preshona understood that it helped.
- When the national movement to defund police resulted in an exorbitant influx of emails to our office, of an unprecedented kind – Preshona communicated with the Captain of the MPD, our point of contact there, and even **proposed a virtual forum** between MPD and DC residents via a "Comment-Only" outlined Google doc of MPD's official responses. The intent of this was both to remove us as the middle-man and help facilitate the needed dialogue among both parties.
- In **letters and speeches**, Preshona conveyed a compassion that could never be unauthenticated. Note a sample in her portfolio.

And all of this, Preshona did completely on her own, with no formal training, given the constant busyness of our office. I want you to know that this is who Preshona is. If you are an office or an institution unafraid of change or innovation, Preshona will undoubtedly be an asset. I close with the words of a constituent of our District, upon discovering she worked in our office:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:46 PM
To: White, Sr., Trayon (Council) <twhite@DCCOUNCIL.US>
Subject: Re:

What!! Preshona THE Preshona that has taught my children previously??
Well you have an amazing staff member with a true heart for the people! Thanks for your quick response and you have our support. Please let me know if anyone needs my assistance in anyway.
Take Care and Wash your Hands!

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Trayon White, Sr.
Councilmember, Ward 8