

## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING 1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004

VINCENT C. GRAY CHAIRMAN

January 5, 2008

Kenneth LaCruise President Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners 18 N Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. LaCruise:

On behalf of the Council of the District of Columbia, thank you very much for everything you and your team did in order to ensure a highly successful Holiday Celebration for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, Councilmembers and their staff. The food, atmosphere and service were top notch and everyone really enjoyed themselves. We truly appreciate the outstanding service and hospitality we received. You and your staff are always so gracious. Please extend my gratitude to your entire team.

Singerely,

Vincent C. Gray





PRESIDENT Barbara Ciara WTKR-TV Norfolk, Va.

VICE PRESIDENT -BROADCAST Kathy Times WVTM-TV Birmingham, Alabama

VICE PRESIDENT
- PRINT
Emie Suggs
The Atlanta JournalConstitution

Atlanta, Georgia

SECRETARY Deirdre Childress The Philadelphia Inquirer Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

> TREASURER Gregory Lee Jr. The Boston Globe Boston, Massachusetts

PARLIAMENTARIAN Tonju Francois CNN en Espanol Plantation, Florida

REGION I DIRECTOR Caleb Wilkerson CCR, Inc. New York, New York

REGION II DIRECTOR Charles Robinson Maryland Public Television Baltimore, Maryland

REGION III DIRECTOR Ken Knight The Tampa Tribune Tampa, Florida

REGION IV DIRECTOR Leisa Richardson The Indianapolis Star Indianapolis, Indiana

REGION V DIRECTOR Cindy George Houston Chronicle Houston, Texas

REGION VI DIRECTOR Bob Butler KCBS Radio San Francisco, California

ASSOCIATE
REPRESENTATIVE
Aprill O. Turner
CooperKatz & Company
New York, New York

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE Christopher Nelson Loyola College of Maryland Baltimore, Maryland



May 15, 2008

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to recommend Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners. In my capacity as program manager for the National Association of Black Journalists, I have had the pleasure to work with Kenneth LaCruise and his team for our Watergate Conference on Political and Congressional Reporting, October 19 – 20, 2007 in Washington, DC.

Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners provided excellent customer service from start to finish. At the start, Kenneth was able to provide a competitive price point and worked within our budget to maximize our catering options for our attendees. In addition, Kenneth always took initiative and provided recommendations to give our event that special high touch.

Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners proved to be the best onsite. Not only did the entire staff go above and beyond quality customer service to our attendees, they were also able to handle onsite issues quickly and effectively. The whole team required very little management and instruction which allowed our staff to focus on other event management duties.

If quality service wasn't enough, Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners food proved to be a hit with our attendees. As one of the conference organizers, I was personally asked at least a dozen times "who catered the event and can I get their number." From appetizer to dessert to presentation, everything about the meal was exquisite.

I strongly recommend Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners for any organization's catering needs.

Sincerely,

Irving Washington Program Manager



October 26, 2007

Mr. Kenneth LaCruise Partner Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners 18 N Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ken,

From the first frantic phone call at 2:00 p.m. on the Friday before our event to the breakdown of the last table on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, there are simply not enough superlatives to define our experience with Islandstyle Caterers & Event Planners. The stakes for the very first All-Hands Meeting of the newly created Office of the State Superintendent of Education were very high – because, as you know, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

The excellent food and stellar service (with a smile, of course) were the needed ingredients to make a good meeting great! I cannot thank you enough for your prompt response to my panicked Friday afternoon telephone call, the support you provided in helping me define our needs and choose an appropriate menu, the professional presentation and high-quality of the food served and, most importantly, the truly exceptional customer-centric service. Suffice it to say, I am forever in your debt.

Thank you, thank you for all that you do and for doing it so well.

In service

Rehva Jones

Strategic Planning & Performance Officer

Office of the State Superintendent of Education



1361 Locust Road NW Washington, DC 20012 March 3, 2007 (240) 888-7159 cell

To Whom It May Concern,

I enthusiastically write this letter of reference for Island Style Caterers in regards to the range, quality and professionalism of their services. They have catered, planned and organized for me many small to more major professional, personal and fundraising events over the last 6 years. These have included: intimate, high quality gatherings; large 100+ person events; as well as one major celebratory event held outside of the US. As a result they have not only prepared varied, original, delicious and certainly memorable foods and presentations but also have handled a wide range of oversight and logistics details with hotels, chefs, wait-staff, florists, and other vendors. I can't tell you how much I have come to trust, value and depend on their capabilities.

In addition to the range of services provided, I must say that I have found the team of professionals to always be a delight to work with and extremely well versed in anticipating my, and most importantly my guests', needs. Specifically the owners Ken and Trevor are extremely experienced and personally engaged professionals. They seem to always have their finger on the pulse, dynamics and objectives of an event and therefore plan and operate accordingly. I can't think of any other caterer or event planner that I have felt so unequivocally strongly about and could recommend without reservation. Should you like to contact me, I offer my cell number above and you should feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Reginald T Stanley

SVP and Chief Marketing Officer

Calvert Group, Ltd

A UNIFI Company...



Michael L. Lomax

Raymond V. Gilmartin Chair, Board of Directors

Frederick D. Patterson

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Allen University Columbia, SC

Benedict College

Bennett College Greensboro, NC

Bethune-Cookman College Daytona Beach, FL

Claflin University Orangeburg, SC

Clark Atlanta University Atlanta, GA

Dillard University

New Orleans, LA

Edward Waters College Jacksonville, FL

Fisk University

Nashville, TN

Florida Memorial University Miami, FL

Huston-Tillotson University

Interdenominational Theological Center Atlanta, GA

Jarvis Christian College Hawkins, TX

Johnson C. Smith University Charlotte, NC

Lane College Jackson, TN

LeMayne-Owen College Memphis, TN

Livingstone College Salisbury, NC

Miles College Birmingham, AL

Morehouse College

Atlanta, GA Morris College

Oakwood College Huntsville, Al

Paine College Augusta, GA

Paul Quinn College Dallas, TX

Philander Smith College Little Rock, AR

Rust College Holly Springs, MS

Saint Augustine's College Raleigh, NC

Saint Paul's College Lawrenceville, VA

Shaw University Raleigh, NC

Spelman College Atlanta, GA

Stillman College Tuscaloosa, AL

Talladega College Talladega, AL

Texas College Tyler, TX

Tougaloo College Tougaloo, MS

Tuskegee University Tuskegee, AL

Virginia Union University

Voorhees College Denmark, SC

Wilberforce University Wilberforce, OH

Wiley College Marshall, TX

Xavier University New Orleans, LA

February 8, 2007

Mr. Ken LaCruise Mr. Trevor Mullings Partners Islandstyle Caterers and Event Planners 18 N Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Ken and Trevor:

Magnificent! Excellent! A one of a kind experience that is Islandstyle Caterers. Kudos to you and your crew. The creativity of the cuisine, the vibrant centerpieces, colorful tablecloths and shirts worn by all made for a very pleasant environment in which to work. In my capacity as conference coordinator over many years, I cannot remember working with a more professional group of people than those who are a part of Islandstyle Caterers.

We have received numerous accolades from the participants on the menu and presentation. It was enjoyed by all. I certainly intend to recommend your services at every opportunity possible.

It was a pleasure that I hope to experience again.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Preston STEM Roundtable

Conference Coordinator

Cc: Dr Jerry Bryant



August 2007

Mr. Ken LaCruise Island Style Caterers 18 N Street SW Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ken:

It was indeed a pleasure to have Island Style Caterers plan and complete the reception and dinner party for my 30 guests. Please feel free to use this letter as a reference for prospective clients.

From the first time we spoke to discuss the possibilities until the last time we spoke to complete the final payment, everything was handled in a first-class fashion. I particularly appreciated how you came to my home to look at the space, to discuss my requirements and then offered your creative ideas on how we might host the event. As you said, "...we provide a complete service such that all you have to do is to relax, dress as you will for the event, and greet your guests. We do everything else. We bring everything, set-up, serve and clean up at the end. When we leave, you will not be able to tell we were there." That is exactly how it was.

The colors were rich and the atmosphere was truly festive. You created a real "wow" factor evidenced as each guest arrived. The floral arrangements were so stunning that several guests wanted to take them home.

Of course, none of that would have worked without the food, which absolutely matched the décor. My guests enjoyed the appetizers so much they did not immediately realize that we were serving full dinner. Once dinner was served, their eyes opened wide and they moved right in to enjoy the meal and save room for the desserts. They are still talking. Your servers moved about my home about with a quiet elegance and class.

Most of all, I wanted my guests to enjoy a relaxed evening where they felt special, comfortable to be themselves, and to interact freely with each other. Island Style Caterers made that happen for me. I look forward to working with you again.

Rick Pogue

Sincerely.

Senior VP Human Resources & Diversity