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# ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANN ARBOR -- MICHIGAN

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Harry Mial

SUBJECT: A statement regarding Niara Sudarkasan

This statement has been developed for the purpose of introducing Niara Sudarkasan as I know her and to put forth according to my understanding, some of the many outstanding contributions that Niara Sudarkasan has made during the time that I have known her. I do not for a moment profess to be aware of the full range of accomplishments of Niara Sudarkasan but those contributions of which I will speak should convey the tremendously high level of performance at which Niara Sudarkasan consistently operates. During the school year 1970-71 the Human Relations Office was given the responsibility of developing and recommending to the Ann Arbor Board of Education ways in which the school system could go about the business of reducing and/or eliminating the effects of racism on minority students and employees in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Niara's contributions as a member of the city wide committee that was charged with the responsibility were invaluable. The results of the work of this committee was and continues to be a landmark for the public schools. The report is now known as the Humaneness In Education Report. Incidentally the report has been used as a model throughout the State of Michigan. In addition to the above, Niara set up and conducted a lecture series for Ann Arbor employees and contributed a tremendous amount of time and expertise toward the development of a Black Studies component of the School District's multi-ethnic studies program. The staff that became involved benefited to no end from this well thought out inservice program.

I am aware that in addition to the above work, Niara has done a great deal in terms of consultation to the Northside teaching staff as well as school staffs within the public school district.

Another outstanding contribution of Niara's that can be used as an example of involvement and participation would be her contribution to the "Summer Adventure in the Black Experience" which was an experiential program for Black students designed to increase their awareness as to ways in which they could come to know

Page 2  
N. Sudarkasan

the history and consequently be in a better position to deal with their future as minorities in America and abroad. Space does not permit me to continue but I feel certain that the kinds of experiences listed above give full testimony to the caliber of production of which this very intelligent and productive young woman is capable.

People of this caliber should be recognized for their contributions whether that recognition comes in the form of salary and or position.

The reader should understand that I am most appreciative of having been given the opportunity to make this statement.