

# **First African Methodist Episcopal Church**

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*"FIRST TO SERVE"*

*2270 South Harvard Boulevard*

*Los Angeles, California 90018*

*(213) 735-1251*

*Dr. Cecil L. Murray MINISTER*

COPY

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Recommendation, Allison Sampson  
471 Hillside Lane  
Santa Monica, CA 90402

**FROM:** Pastor Cecil L. Murray & Congregation

**TO:** Morris & Berger, Executive Search  
201 South Lake Avenue, Suite 700  
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Friends:

Please allow the 10,000 souls of our parish to commend to you with one accord the outstanding merits of Allison Sampson, candidate for Program Director of the creative program for community-based problem solving initiatives.

The candidate is a renaissance 21st century person, at home with any ethnicity, drawing from multipluralism and multiculturalism the genius that best solves the problem at hand. She has the dialogical skills to put conflicting interests at the same table, and to eventuate a common procedure, a common striving. We have seen her do this time and again with community based groups, with economic and/or health development services, with religious divergencies.

With the L.A. Festival Committee, she was required to negotiate from highest to lowest, from at-risk persons to no-risk executives. She succeeded immensely in bringing minority Blacks and Browns into the cycle of activities, engendering excitement in a hitherto restricted environment. On one occasion she stirred 200 black pastors to participation by her presentation.

She is politically astute, knowing personnel and players and procedures that enable her to achieve desired goals. She is familiar with the downtown political corridors as well as the county and state levels. She understands the interlocking of the political/economic/social/education wheels.

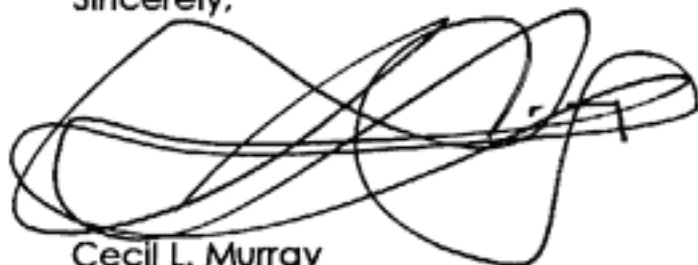
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She knows traditional approaches to problem solving, but is not limited nor compassed by them. She starts with the questions and lets them elicit their own answers. For her the book is always being written.

She is familiar with governmental programs, philanthropic grants, consulting service requirements, and the like, a most competent writer or designer of formats.

Thank you for allowing us this witness to her worth. We shall be happy to supply whatever validation you may further require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the typed name.

Cecil L. Murray  
Senior Minister

CLM:jb