

September 14, 2022

To the Application Intake Team for the Inspiring Salon of the year Award,

Prolific Styles of Art Beauty and Barber-A salon birthed to serve, inspire, impact, and create generational wealth for the diversified population of the greater Columbia, South Carolina region.

It is with great confidence and esteemed pleasure to write this letter of recommendation highlighting this salon for their continuous accomplishments in the areas of economic growth, community partnerships and empowerment.

In the African American community, there is an existing unfortunate bias of salons only being a place for socialization, altercations, creative hairstyling that would never be accepted in corporate America, and poor customer service. Imagine entering into a salon mentally broken and leaving out empowered as a result of the faith filled prayers of the styling team or perhaps the positive affirmation found on each wall. What are your thoughts on damaged hair treated and trending healthy due to technique, treatment and education provided to the customer on at home maintenance? Or what about the mother who is in great need of hair service and on a budget, yet walking out with a free service due to the stylist being God led to perform the service at no charge. These are just a few examples of what happens on a day to day basis within the corridors of the salon- effectively serving their internal customers.

As a believer of giving to good causes, I recall partnering with Marquita Briggs on several occasions. Most recently, Marquita hosted a back to school event which impacted an estimate of 100 households. This was her 7th year hosting an event of this type and 2nd year as a business owner. One of my most memorable community partnerships was during the first year her salon opened. She hosted an all-girls summer camp where 15 teenagers were able to learn haircare and styling techniques, self-esteem building, and explore career opportunities. To date, she and her team has successfully mentored 30 girls through this initiative. Not only was this an opportunity to pour into the teenage girls, this salon- funded event served as a tool for placing funding back into the community through small business partnerships.

This salon and their community impact is second to none. I believe Prolific Styles of Art Salon Beauty and Barber are tracking to be the premiere and most sought out salon in Columbia, SC.

In its sophomore year of existence, the resume of this salon is beyond impressive. From classroom sessions, hair restoration, mentorship to young girls, giveaways, adopt a family initiatives, breast cancer awareness activities and the newest endeavor to provide ongoing mentorship to currently enrolled cosmetology students, I cannot think of another salon more deserving than this dynamic team who was also highlighted during a segment of "Soda City Live"- a news segment on WIS TV.

I welcome the opportunity to further discuss the excellence in which this team operates in and the continuous support I will always offer them as they continue to impact the community.

Thank you for your time.

Fanisha Gallon

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