

PERSONAL TESTIMONY FOR MS. ANGELINE SMITH

Whereas neighbors do we begin to explain how wonderful, yet at times how surprised we have been since the arrival of our neighbor Ms. Angeline Smith. (Ms. Angeline as we affectionately call her at home.) Do we begin at the beginning when we first met Ms. Angeline and her very sweet greyhound Ruby coming in from a walk? Or the astonishing way Ms. Angeline can relay both pride and ease by just simply saying “Good Morning, how are you?”. Well, we would like to begin with a story that always warms our hearts, and we hope it warms yours as well.

This story is about Ms. Angeline’s peaceful strength. Now we have all had our share of both strength and fear, especially when it comes to the unknown. When Ms. Angeline first moved into this community, we knew there was something different about her. Something special. Whether that be in her coming and going or finding out she was a self-employed accountant. (Which brought on a considerable amount of reflection and relief.) In a lot of ways, we were both very inspired and proud. Building a foundation in us to hold ourselves responsible for how we wanted to live our lives. That working for yourself is a deliberate reality. How powerful! Therefore, every time we saw her the pride in our hearts for her as well as ourselves began to grow. This growth brought forth a silent strength we never knew existed in ourselves let alone a new neighbor. However, this newfound sense of dignity never got out of hand with Ms. Angeline because she never displayed a drop of smugness or a possible superiority complex. Ms. Angeline’s peaceful strength can be described as firm, fair, and consistent. We can attest to this on occasion of how she treats every person we have saw her encounter. Ms. Angeline is the same if the president of a major corporation came to her door or the dog walker. That type of cool stability (firm, fair, and consistent) is warranted in a leader. Being able to help those around you reflect and relax guarantees a great leader.

Thus, transcending us into the future, which is now the present. Our humble neighbor is consistently on the lookout for new ways to positively bring about change in the community. Whether that be acknowledging those of us that feel disregarded or undertaking the task of staying open-minded enough to learning new training and skills, Ms. Angeline is there. Teaching both of us, that when we can always question our comfort or push boundaries far to see if they truly stretch. For those reasons alone we believe that Ms. Angeline would be a significant addition to Ann Arbor’s City Council as both an outstanding public servant, and respected member of our community.

Sincerely,

Ms. Angeline’s next-door neighbors, Darrius & Erin J. DuBose 😊