



July 21, 2009

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ARDYTH WALKER
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. and Mrs. Vickta Ali
GROWING ANGELS, INC.
13530 SW 267 St.
Homestead, FL 33032

Via First Class Mail and Fax at 305 235-3094

Re: INQ 09-116 Registering as a County Vendor

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ali:

In correspondence to our office on July 20, 2009, you stated that you wish to register a nonprofit corporation, GROWING ANGELS, INC., as a county vendor. Mrs. Tina Ali is the Founder and President of the nonprofit corporation, and Mr. Vickta Ali serves as Vice President.

The facts as we understand them are as follows:

- Vickta Ali is employed by the Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Department as a Supervisor 1.
- GROWING ANGELS, INC., is a nonprofit organization founded and operated by Tina Ali to provide childcare and after school services.
- Tina Ali is not currently receiving compensation for her efforts with GROWING ANGELS, INC., but she anticipates that she will be compensated once adequate funds are obtained. Vickta Ali does not anticipate receiving compensation from the corporation.

It is the opinion of the Ethics Commission staff that GROWING ANGELS, INC., may register to contract with the county as long as Vickta Ali does not appear before any county board or agency, including any committee of county employees, to request funding for GROWING ANGELS, INC.¹

Additionally, Mr. Ali is cautioned that soliciting private contributions on behalf of the nonprofit organization from county employees, vendors, contractors, or those seeking to do business with the county may lead to the appearance of exploiting his official position.

If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 305 350-0601.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO
Staff Attorney

¹ This advice is based on Section 2-11.1(m)(1) of the County Ethics Code and a related ethics opinion requested by the President and CEO of the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization, during the time he sought office as a County Commissioner. See RQO 04-42.